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# 1. Chair's report

It is my pleasure to present the Chair's report for 2019-20.

The GEN Board manages GEN on behalf of its members. The Board's role is to ensure GEN meets its aims, as set out in its constitution, and its legal obligations as an incorporated society and a registered charity. More information about GEN is provided in section 6.

I would like to acknowledge the contributions of former Board members, Joey Au, who has resigned, and Dr Ed Hearnshaw, who sadly died earlier this year. Our tribute to Ed is at section 5.

The Board has welcomed four new members who were elected to the Board in July 2020: Grant Andrews, Natalia Fareti, Jack Bisset and Nicholas Smith. Section 4 provides details of all Board members.

## ***Governance and membership***

At last year's GEN Annual Meeting members voted to update the constitution. Since then, the Board has improved its systems and processes to reflect these new rules. This includes building a better understanding of GEN members. A distinction has between those who want to be a formal member of GEN, and so have more of a say in how GEN is run, and those who simply want to be on GEN's distribution list to find out about our upcoming events. As at the end of July 2020, GEN had 59 members and around 1500 people on its distribution list. The Board decided not to set a membership fee for 2020.

## ***Financial position***

GEN's financial statements for the 2019-20 financial year are provided in section 2.

GEN made a small loss in the 2019-20 financial year however overall our financial position remains strong. The main source of our income is from training courses, which help cover operating expenses, networking event costs, and bring high-calibre international speakers to the conference.

## ***GEN activities***

Details of GEN's activities for the 2019-20 financial year are provided in section 3.

GEN was not unduly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic during the 2019-20 financial year as this ended in March. One training course was postponed mid-way through its run as New Zealand went into lockdown. GEN suspended all of its events and activities during the lockdown and resumed them in July 2020. This is likely to have some impact on our revenues for the 2020-21 financial year.

## ***Acknowledgements***

I would like to thank the Board Members, training course lecturers, event speakers and supporting government agencies, for their time and effort in helping GEN achieve its aims.

**Mark Lea**  
Chair, GEN Board

## 2. Financial statements

### Statement of income and expenditure

For period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020	31 March 2020 (12 months)
<b>Income</b>	
Conference (note)	45,800
Training and seminar fees	76,600
Other income (interest)	2,632
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>125,032</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Employee related costs	22,164
Costs related to providing goods or services -	
Accounting services fees	6,203
Bank fees	814
Conference organiser fees	9,270
Catering	22,319
Printing & stationary	4,749
Speakers domestic travel	4,066
Speakers international travel	6,511
Training course/seminar fees	28,800
Venue hire	14,356
Website development and hosting	2,399
Others (incl. entertainment)	2,694
Other expenses (incl. audit fee and depreciation and bad debt) -	
Audit fee	2,550
Consultancy fees	1,200
Depreciation	44
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>128,139</b>
<b>Net Surplus/(deficit) to 31 March 2020</b>	<b>(3,107)</b>

### Statement of assets and liabilities

As at 31 March	31 March 2020
<b>Assets</b>	
<i>Current</i>	
Cash	9
Westpac Bank – Current Account	58,354
Westpac Bank – Savings Account	68,460
Westpac Bank – Term Deposit	108,062
Debtors	3,393
Prepayments	560
<i>Non-current</i>	
Laptop	66
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>238,903</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Accounts Payable	4,164
GST payable	5,816
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>9,980</b>
<b>Net Equity 31 March</b>	<b>228,923</b>

Note: This includes \$2,100 receivable carried forward from the 2018 conference.

## 3. GEN activities

### Training courses

Course title	Lecturer	Course dates	Number of attendees
Behavioural Economics	Marcos Pelenur	April 2019	35
Introduction to Labour Markets	Lynn Riggs	May 2019	26
Introduction to Microeconomics	Veronica Jacobsen	August 2019	36
Introduction to Cost Benefit Analysis	Joanne Leung and Kirsten Jensen	September 2019	24
Introductory Macroeconomics	Grant Scobie	November 2019	23
Behavioural Economics	Marcos Pelenur	November 2019	31
Introduction to Cost Benefit Analysis	Joanne Leung and Kirsten Jensen	March 2020*	16

\* Second half of course postponed to July 2020 due to COVID-19.

### Conference

The 2019 GEN conference was held on 6 December and had 160 participants. The theme for the conference was 'The role of regional and urban development in lifting living standards' and brought together two overseas speakers, Associate Professor Victor Bennett (Duke University, USA) and Professor David Levinson (University of Sydney) and a range of speakers from New Zealand academia, consultancies and local and central government.

### Networking events

Event	Date	Topic/Speaker
Networking Event	13 August 2019	Eric Crampton, New Zealand Initiative
Lunchtime Session	7 October 2019	<i>Better and fairer measures of school quality</i> , Joel Hernandez, New Zealand Initiative
GEN and GAN Networking Event	30 October 2019	<i>Who's going to win the RWC2019? What does the data say and why does it matter?</i> Dr Niven Winchester, Motu

## 4. Board members

### Current Board members (as at end July 2020)

Board members are either elected by GEN members for a two year term (sections 12.7 and 12.8 of the constitution), appointed by the Board on a temporary basis until it next holds Board elections (section 12.14) or co-opted by the Board for a fixed term (section 12.2).

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date elected or appointed</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Government agency</b>
1	Mark Lea	6 December 2019	Chair	Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
2	Adam Richardson	9 November 2018	Deputy Chair	Reserve Bank of NZ
3	Joanne Leung	9 November 2018	Treasurer	Ministry of Transport
4	Tamara Linnhoff	9 November 2018	Conference Committee Chair	Electricity Authority
5	Phillip Mellor	9 November 2018	Training Committee Chair	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
6	Daniel Griffiths	6 December 2019	Events Committee Chair	Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
7	Polly Vowles	9 November 2018	Training Committee	Ministry of Social Development
8	Diana Cook	6 December 2019		NZ Treasury
9	Philip Stevens	9 November 2018		Ministry of Education
10	Grant Andrews	24 July 2020	Conference Committee	Ministry of Primary Industries
11	Nicholas Smith	24 July 2020	Conference Committee	Ministry for the Environment
12	Natalia Fareti	24 July 2020		Reserve Bank of NZ
13	Jack Bisset	24 July 2020		Ministry for the Environment
14	Vacant			

### Board member resignations (since 2019 Annual Meeting)

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date resigned</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Government agency</b>
Joey Au	24 July 2020	Events Committee	Electricity Authority
Dr Ed Hearnshaw (died)	June 2020	Conference Committee	Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment

### Co-opted Board members

None.

## 5. Dr Ed Hearnshaw



Ed will be remembered with appreciation and admiration for the pioneering approach he took to applying economics to the biggest environmental challenges of our time, across his work at the Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment (PCE), Ministry for the Environment (MfE) and on the Tax Working Group's Secretariat.

Ed was a dear friend to many across the economics and policy community here in Wellington. He had a thirst for knowledge and a passion for applying economics to lift the effectiveness of environmental policy, most recently leading the PCE's commentary on the fossil fuels ban, and playing a major role in

MfE's economic analysis to support the Zero Carbon Bill. Ed could be relied on for a rigorous, evidence-based approach, but in a calm and often understated way. Softly spoken, but with a formidable brain and staunch in his convictions, Ed was also generous with his time and attention, mentoring many more junior colleagues.

Ed had joined the GEN Board earlier this year and was closely involved in organising the upcoming GEN conference. He had plenty of ideas – which will help shape the next conference. Several GEN Board members also had the privilege of working closely with Ed at the MfE, and will remember fondly his huge sense of fun, including that time he set an economics teaching session to an MC Hammer theme.

Ed extended friendships first made at work into life, in particular roping in others to join him in clearing gorse and replanting a section of town belt. A memorial bench will be installed for Ed, amongst his native plantings. For anyone wishing to visit, the bench site is about 15 metres into the town belt, across the road from 23 Finnimore Terrace, Vogelstown.

Ed will be missed and our sympathies go out to his family, friends and colleagues.

## 6. About GEN

The Government Economics Network (known as GEN) provides a professional forum for learning, development and networking.

GEN has a vision to improve policy through better economic analysis and advice. We achieve this by:

- strengthening economic capability,
- utilising economists more effectively, and
- encouraging the use of economics at a broader level.

GEN caters to economists and non-economists in both the public and private sectors.

GEN runs a range of seminars, training, conferences and social events throughout the year to encourage the use of economics in public policy decision making and to stimulate debate and discussion on economic and public policy research.

GEN was established in 2011 and has operated independently of government since 2013.

GEN is an incorporated society and registered charity.

Membership is free.

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