Basic Income is not the solution to all our problems but it makes solving most of them a lot easier.

We have had in interesting year. Te Rangikaheke volunteered to take over the chair for six months after the resignation of our previous chairperson. Andrew took over the position for the rest of the year. We also welcomed Bella Moke onto the committee in the course of the year.

In that year we organised and held a meeting in Napier to re-establish contact with BINZ members there and we were updated with the latest poll figures on Basic Income in New Zealand by Graeme Coleman which showed a high level of acceptance in the country for the concept.

We received a grant from Te Muka Rau Charitable Trust for which we are very grateful.
On the other hand the application to the McKenzie Trust by the Massey University team was unsuccessful and the project to hold a Basic Income trial in New Zealand was abandoned for the time being.

We tried to overcome the problems caused by geographic distances. A Slack instance was created but failed to gain traction however Zoom streamed video meetings for the committee are a great success and is a great improvement to just using emails.

Two major projects were launched. A petition to call on the government to call for a Children’s Basic Income and a hikoi to parliament. Both are on hold awaiting the outcome of the Welfare Budget and will be discussed by the new committee.

We have made contact with the National Council of Women and met the board in Wellington after they passed a motion to support basic Income and have been looking for other organisations that want to support the idea of a Basic Income in New Zealand. At the same time we contacted Gail Duncan, who is here today, to discuss her paper in Scoop. A meeting to discuss Basic Income with the Mexican ambassador was cancelled due to a change of government in the country.

 We submitted our annual report to BIEN (Basic Income Earth Network) Showing a membership of about 50 people and reporting some of what has been outlined above.

We have decided to change our web site to another provider using word-press instead of wix so that we have more people contributing and have generic emails using the basicincomenz.net URL. This is ongoing.

We established an account with Scoop.co.nz with the hope of being able to provide news for and through the site but it has not been successful so far. It will be up to the next committee to decide whether to continue. However, we managed to keep up a steady stream of letters to the press, politicians and were represented at various community meetings by members.

The finial act for the committee was to prepare today’s seminar and AGM.

The Chair would like to heartily thank the members of the committee for their sterling work and also the BINZ members who found the opportunity to contribute in various ways throughout the year. Special thanks go to committee member Melissa Selwyn and Secretary Michael Kane who have stepped down after providing great Service. The committee would like to recognise the many hours put in by Michael over the years with a gift.