

Russell Walsh - Member since 1992

Russell started work at the **Post Office** Motor Workshops in Thorndon Quay in January 1965. He completed his apprenticeship as a motor mechanic in March 1969. He qualified as an A Grade motor mechanic and certified as a heavy vehicle mechanic and automotive electrician.

As a result of the splitting up of the Post Office in 1987 in March 1988 Russell was transferred to NZ Post and was Wellington Transport Manager for two years before taking responsibility for the entire fleet of NZ Post vehicles based at Post Office headquarters.

Russell had total responsibility for the NZ Post fleet (some 1100 vehicles). This included negotiating the purchase of vehicles for the fleet directly with suppliers in New Zealand and overseas on an almost daily basis. (Annual budget of \$7 million).



Russell introduced third party management of vehicle servicing and maintenance requirements and electronic transfer of vehicle information and set up the required processes. He negotiated and implemented national fuel and tyre purchase arrangements and reduced reported vehicle crash costs by \$300,000 in the first year. He also reviewed other fleet management systems effectively making himself redundant - he took severance in 1995. For the next ten years he was self employed as a contractor on vehicle related things for several organisations:

- Contracted to Capital Coast Health to review transport operation, manage transition to new operation, review overall fleet use
- Developed a number of training and assessment resources for training providers
- National Moderator for the NZ Road Transport Industry Training Organisation (now the Motor Industry Training Organisation (MITO))
- Set up and contract managed a Private Training Organisation for the NZ Road Transport Association
- Contracted services to LTSA assisting in the development and auditing of approved driver licensing courses
- Motor vehicle crash analysis for a number of Government Departments and agencies
- Developed and contract managed workplace training scheme trial for Land Transport New Zealand
- Technical advisor to HFA and MOH for the design, building and commissioning of 11 mobile breast screening clinics

In December 2006 Russell was employed full time by the NZTA before resigning in June 2014 to take up a position with the Energy Efficiency Conservation Authority (EECA). He was made redundant from EECA in November 2016.

Russell holds National certificates in Audit Education and Training and First Line Management. He served as a Justice of the Peace for 15 years.

Russell joined IRTENZ in 1992 and served as President from 2002 - 2004 - he was awarded life membership in 2019. Russell is a contributor to our Tech Topics on the IRTENZ web site.

We thank Russell for his many years of service to IRTENZ and the Transport Industry
Kate Bucknell, Executive Secretary

