



NZIS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – 1 May 2018

Dear Members

It has been a busy and productive year so far, with NZIS Council and Board meetings, the first round of Professional Examinations in mid-April, and the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council meeting also in April. The pace is certainly not slowing, with our upcoming conference just around the corner and several new initiatives planned to take us into next year. Here are some of the highlights from the recent Board and Council meetings as well as updates on other matters.

NZIS Strategic and Marketing Plans

We have reviewed and are looking to simplify the Strategic Plan. Our vision remains “A Vibrant Surveying and Spatial Sector” and the new thinking maintains, but expresses more cogently, our core values and focusses on four aims – Growth, Advocacy, Relationships and Diversity. The Strategic Plan will be finalised shortly to guide the 2018/19 business planning and budgeting process.

An innovative marketing plan for growing and engaging with our membership has also been endorsed by the Board. However, this may not be rolled out for a few months as we go through the governance review.

Certification

Feedback on Professor John Hannah's report from stream, branch and division chairs as well some other key stakeholders has been collated and considered. The next step is to use a focus group to give us a better view and direction on how to achieve flexibility through having multiple pathways to *RPSurv*. This additional work will likely mean a staged roll-out (beginning around 1 July 2018) once the new requirements have been agreed. At this stage, cadastral looks to be the first 'cab off the rank', followed by engineering surveying and hydrography. The Council and the Board have agreed to the Spatial Stream seeking views from the wider spatial industry in order to understand whether spatial professionals actually want or need a certification programme.

Governance Review

A review of NZIS governance (our structure, rules and processes) has commenced and is being led by Dr Bruce Anderson. This is a timely review as it has now been four years since we introduced the new governance model and constitution developed under the 'The Way Forward 2013'. The Panel considers that the present structure is working well but is proposing some rule changes to enhance the governance arrangements, to move the membership categories into a policy document, and to change our external facing name. In order for this organisation to fully reflect the broad skill sets within our sector, and to distinguish ourselves more definitely from other bodies with the same or similar acronyms, the time has come to rebrand (whilst still retaining our legal identity as NZIS). Consultation on these proposals with a smaller group of governance-trained NZIS members will take place before Bruce reports back to Council in mid-June. Further consultation on the proposed changes and name will take place shortly with branches. It is anticipated any proposed changes to the rules will be presented to members for consideration by the end of September to allow for voting at the AGM on 15 November.

Workforce Strategy

Work done by the Hydrography Stream on the state of hydrographic training in Australasia and

resources currently available in New Zealand has highlighted a need for NZIS to urgently and authoritatively characterise the state of our workforce across all streams. This will involve identifying the nature, extent and implications of shortages on the New Zealand economy; and how they might be addressed. We will use the results to get in front of relevant Ministers to advocate how a fully-resourced surveying and spatial sector is essential to the success of NZ Inc. We need to better communicate, for example, how our sector is a critical partner in helping deal with the “housing crisis”.

International Engagement

Attending a meeting of the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council (PGSC) in Tonga to complete the sign-off of a memorandum of understanding between NZIS and PGSC was an enlightening experience for me. This work started several years ago and has since been supported by a small number of very passionate NZIS members. The actions arising will enhance capacity and professional support in the Pacific Islands and support efforts to implement the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#).

We are supporting the great work of our Young Professionals to progress a ‘Surveyors Beyond Borders’ initiative following FIG’s release of its Volunteering Surveyors Community Programme. A workshop will be held in September to assist spatial and surveying professionals apply their skills overseas to aid projects funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, United Nations Habitat, and other organisations.

Mark Allan is leading the 12-member New Zealand delegation to next month’s FIG Congress in Istanbul, Turkey, where we will be supporting Brian Coutts’ bid for FIG Council President. If Brian is successful, it will be the first time that a surveyor from a small, non-European country has held this prestigious and internationally focused position.

We’ve also had the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade meet with us to discuss our international connections, particularly with Australia and Britain as New Zealand prepares for free trade agreements with post-Brexit Britain. We hope that will provide opportunities for surveyors and spatial professionals both in New Zealand and Britain.

Closer to Home – Branches and Streams

Branch visits are a key focus item for the Council, Board and CEO this year and a schedule has been drafted to ensure that we connect with each branch and visit as many as possible over the coming year.

Conference 2018

I’m looking forward to this year’s conference! The top-drawer conference programme is now just a few weeks away from lift-off and, so far, we have over 200 registrations with more expected in the final stages. We are introducing new technology which will make the conference experience more interactive with no more post-conference feedback forms – it will all be done before you leave with the help of our *Slido* tool. This web app will enable you to use your smart phone to ask questions, answer the polls and look at conference resources. Take a sneak preview at <https://www.nzisconference.org.nz/slido>.

Please encourage your colleagues and especially your young professionals to attend the 129th NZIS Conference 2018. I look forward to personally catching up with many of you in Nelson.

Warmest regards

Rebecca Strang, NZIS President.