

HAWKES BAY BRANCH

Chair - Alan Martin-Smith

Kia ora koutou katoa,

As I write this, I find it hard to believe another year has passed. Like much of the country the Hawkes Bay is bustling along, and we have managed to fit in a few meetings and a couple of social events throughout the year around all the work being undertaken.

We have a few regulars that attend and there are a few younger members that are now actively participating in these meetings, which is great to see; but as always, it would be great to have a higher level of attendance.

Socially, the branch had a fantastic Christmas gathering and were even able to meet at Bluff Hill to undertake some maintenance on one of the Trig Stations.



Our local branch was grateful to have LINZ representatives (organised by Mark Goodin) visit us to discuss topics that were of relevance to the Local and National surveying scene, which was well received. So much so, that we are currently organising another visit in the coming months. We appreciate their time and it is great to see LINZ staff connecting with (survey) practitioners at a “grass roots” level.

I was also fortunate enough, along with a handful of other local members, to attend the S+SNZ annual conference in Auckland. Having spoken to other members of our branch (and others) the topics and speakers at this 3-day event was considered to be very engaging and beneficial to all those that attended.

Locally, S+SNZ held a workshop outlining the details of NZVD2016 and the implementation of this datum. Local branch member, Guy Panckhurst, was instrumental in organising and presenting this workshop, which was attended by local City and Regional Council employees who will be key

stakeholders in adopting the NZVD2016 Datum who will ultimately need to implement this national height Datum.

A handful of the local branch members also put their heads together to provide feedback on the Cadastral Rules Review, and there were some robustly debated topics with some great ideas/suggestions being made, making it a very valuable forum indeed. It was great to see such passion for the profession of cadastral surveying and it will be interesting to see what comes out of this review as we wait eagerly for the proposed rules to be presented.

In the mix of all of this positive interactions, we have had some losses locally with the passing of Peter Weston, Rowan McNabb and Ralph Winmill – who although not a local member, Ralph had previously worked in the Hawkes Bay and still influenced the shape of the Cadastral scene throughout the country.

To finish on a positive note, it was fantastic to see Colin Shanley reaching 50 years in business and an 80th birthday celebration to back that up. Quite a milestone really, and one that is respected by his local peers.

The Hawkes Bay Branch looks to be in good shape, with strong numbers and positive interactions. I must also take this opportunity to thank Nicole Alexander as our Branch Secretary who does a fantastic job organising our Local Branch events. We look forward to the run into summer and further success for all of our members, both locally and nationally.

Noho ora mai