

MANAWATU WHANGANUI BRANCH

Chair – Roger Truebridge

Another year has passed and although it has been frantic on the work front, the branch has been very quiet this year with only a couple of meetings. There has been a low turnout at those meetings with on average approximately 7 to 10 members at each. Given the branch membership being between 20 and 30 it is disappointing to see the low numbers.

Our branch has a large geographical spread which may be some of the reason.

This being the case, our branch like most others, has enjoyed what can only be described as a frantic work load over the last couple of years and with regional projects such as the new coastal road up from Wellington and general population growth it, is hard to see the work flow decreasing in the near future.

As a branch we have seen several new graduate members come to the area which is encouraging to see as the regular members age. There have been no bereavements in the past year.

In terms of RPSurv, the branch members were some-what surprised by the intended review and the increased qualification requirements when they were circulated. I am still being asked what it is the institute is doing for its members.

For myself, I have witnessed an increase in resistance by some local authorities to the acceptance of a surveyor as a suitably qualified professional for the preparation of engineering design work for land development. This is of concern to me, and I would imagine others also, as this is an important and necessary roll for a provincial surveyor in a small practice who does not have the luxury of inhouse engineers. As our profession has gradually been squeezed by town planners and urban designers, it is of great concern that we are also being pushed by local authority engineers who often have less expertise than ourselves. This is an issue that needs to be taken up by our respective streams within the institute as I believe it is coming from a lack of understand as to the expertise of a surveyor.

Financially our branch is in good condition with funds on hand.

Access to CPD is good via the internet however it would be good to have more access to the seminar style events also.

As far as I am aware there have been no complaints against any of the branch members.

Overall it has been a very productive year for the members in this branch and we look forward to a continuation in the coming years.