



# Branch Reports

## AUCKLAND

Firstly, I would like to thank our Executive Committee who have assisted over the last year in progressing the Branches activities:

- Michael Lister - Secretary
- Bruce Frith - Treasurer
- Katie Anson - Young Professionals Rep
- Rebecca Sinclair – Digital Co-ordinator
- Andrew Blackman
- Ann-Maree Gladding
- Noel Armstrong
- Claire Valkenborg
- Gareth Mitchell
- Amanda Crawford

The 2020/2021 year has, in many ways, been an improvement on the previous year, it has also been fraught with more COVID lockdowns, disrupting our members work along with our S+SNZ Branch activities. This year also saw the Branch expanding our viewership by live-streaming our events to members. Nonetheless, the Branch has still managed to enjoy meetings with the following themes and speakers:

### Meetings:

#### **28<sup>th</sup> September 2020: Auckland Branch AGM & General Meeting:**

Ashley Church, CEO of S+SNZ gave a strategy presentation on S+SNZ.

#### **November 2020: General Meeting & Branch Christmas Function: Epsom Bowling Club**

The Branch enjoyed a social evening of bowling, beers & pizza.

#### **9<sup>th</sup> March 2021: General Meeting:**

*Neale Faulkner updated the Branch on the CSLB and the (at the time) proposed new Standards. This included information on membership, functions, licensing pathways and complaint types,*

*procedures and suggestions should you ever have to deal with one, including some examples of what can go wrong and learnings.*

### **17<sup>th</sup> June 2021: David Seymour**

Mr David Seymour, Member for Epsom and Leader of the Act Party joined us to illuminate on current politic topics and policy.

Again, this year has seen a good level of attendance at meetings, with 50-ish attendants or more at the majority of meetings, with a similar amount joining us via the live-stream link.

#### **Other Events:**

This year has seen a considerable level of advocacy by the Branch, including the creation of quarterly Branch and Auckland Council 'Collaboration & Catch-up Meetings'.

Other involvement by the Branch:

- Traffic Management Requirements
- Cadastral Boundaries around Terrace Houses
- Auckland Council's 223 processing times
- Auckland Council As-built Requirements
- Auckland Council Integrated Development Policy Reinterpretation.
- RoVE review

#### **Study Sessions for Cadastral Law Exam:**

From April to June 2020, the Branch's Young Professionals rep, Katie Anson, organised a series of study sessions to assist approximately 30 candidates to prepare for the exam. Katie did an amazing job organising these.

Thank you to those experienced surveyors that gave their time to tutor the group and assist them in understanding the practical application of the written legislation.

#### **Recruitment to the Profession:**

In May 2021, the Branch, National Office and Unitec collaborated to attract secondary school students from the Auckland region, attending the Careers Expo for School Students at the Epsom Showgrounds. Over the three days of the expo, various members, predominantly our young professionals engaged with school students, greatly increasing the visibility of the profession.

Thanks to Global Survey who provided banners and videos, Unitec who provided a large TV screen and banners, and various Woods staff who prepared videos, posters and interactive displays.

#### **Looking Forward:**

In the coming year we expect to see some changes in our Executive Committee with Katie Ansen stepping down from her YP Representative Role and moving into a more general role. I have also completed my 2-year term as Chair and will not be seeking re-election. We have recently brought a few new members onto our Executive, with another few interested in joining, I am looking forward to future contributions of these members.



Kendall Reid  
Auckland Branch Chair

## **CANTERBURY**

Firstly, I would like to thank those specifically who have been involved in the S+SNZ Canterbury Branch Committee in 2021:

- Brent Toms
- Craig Hurford
- Ben Maynard
- Riki Cambridge
- John Cochran
- Liam Jagvik

With many of those on the Branch Committee having been involved for a number of years now, we are hoping to bring on a few fresh faces over the next year.

It has been an extremely busy year for surveyors in Canterbury, with the housing and construction boom having big part to play. Densification of the housing stock is happening at a rapid pace, with townhouse developments being constructed on all available central city sections. It has been a relatively quiet year from the branch, however, there were still several branch activities and wider S+SNZ activities held in Christchurch over the course of the year which have been well attended by branch members.

We were lucky enough to be able to meet and celebrate for pizza and drinks at Kaisa Brew Bar for our end of year celebration after what was a long and difficult 2020.

In May, Ashley Church visit and give an update from head office and introduce himself to the wider group. The feedback from this session was positive, with many members excited about what Ashley is going to bring to the role.

In June the Presentation of Field information seminar, run by S+SNZ, was held run in Christchurch. This was very well attended with the room at the Novotel packed. This was very encouraging and demonstrates that events can be held outside of our biggest city!

We look forward to the AGM being held in October for another opportunity for our members to get together. We will also be having our annual Christmas function, so watch this space!

All the best for the next year.

Dave Robinson, Branch Chair.

## **COASTAL OTAGO**

The understatement of this report will be that it has been an interesting year.

It started with us all having made it through lockdown and returning to our usual working environment as we moved down the alert levels. Everyone had got used to working online and being in their trackies and only needing to put on a formal shirt when a Zoom meeting

was scheduled, but we all returned to our offices and waited to see the downturn to the economy happen that 95 out of 96 economist had forecast. Only the 96<sup>th</sup> economist, Shamubeel Eaqub, didn't forecast a downturn because he doesn't make predictions anymore. Some firms quietly hoped that a small downturn might occur so that they could catch up on their workload.

An interesting fact about economists and forecasting is that they are almost always wrong and they were all true to form this time as well; in our sphere of interest anyhow. Every surveyor and firm that I have talked with is busier than ever, are looking to employ more qualified staff if they can find any and are having to schedule significant delays into the starting date of new jobs. Some are even having to turn away work because they do not have the capacity to complete the work at the moment. We are possibly the busiest that we have ever been with many significant projects and developments being undertaken across our entire region.

At the Branch level, the work pressures that many surveyors are under has meant a reduction in member participation at meetings. We are still well served by the executive committee and other members and have been able to advocate on behalf of the Branch on both local and national issues. Submissions continue to be made on behalf of the Branch through creating sub-committees or shoulder tapping specific members who have skills and expertise or interests in the relevant areas. However, I do believe that we are missing opportunities to discuss some issues that are important to our members and to learn from the experiences of others. We are fortunate though to have the School of Surveying as part of our membership and greatly benefit from many of our members' technical expertise when we issues do arise. We are also well represented at the national level by the involvement of some of our members in the Institute streams.

The Branch's over-riding aim remains to support its members by providing opportunities for continued professional development and getting together for social events. One key area associated with this aim was identified as being the number of graduate surveyors that have been employed in the region over the last few years. We now have a significant cohort of surveyors who qualify as Young Professionals so a steering committee has been formed with the objective to develop how we will engage with these YPs and encourage them to become members of Survey + Spatial NZ and participate in the Branch activities. Initial discussions suggests that we will need to appeal to their social side first.

Moving forward, we see a bright and busy future across all area our members are involved in. Of particular interest will be how land development projects will provide for the increased demand for residential allotments and how the new hospital build ramps up; currently only at the demolition phase but a massive workload to come for a lot of industries. Hopefully the Branch will be able to encourage all of its members to engage with the technical and social aspects that it will offer in the next year.

Fraser Jopson, Branch Chair

## **GISBORNE**

It has been a very busy year for branch members with Gisborne going through a bit of a boom. Property prices have reached ridiculous levels causing a huge demand for land

development. I remember an Auckland friend of mine visiting Gisborne some years ago and commenting on how nice it is attending a bbq where the main conversation piece isn't land values or rent prices, unfortunately that isn't the case anymore! There have also been some significant commercial projects completed in the region keeping us busy as well. With branch members dealing with a backlog of survey work it has been another quiet year on the Survey and Spatial NZ front.

Long standing member Allan Radcliffe has retired his membership from the branch. Alan has been surveying for 58 years and has made significant contributions to the regions survey network serving as Chief Surveyor and with his continued work in the region. We wish him all the best.

We were due to have our AGM and general meeting this month but this got delayed for obvious reasons. We are hopeful of holding the meeting and some social events in the coming months.

Tim Ronke, Branch Chair.

## **NELSON/MARLBOROUGH**

Bragging rights first; this year brought a consecutive rugby NPC premiership win for the Tasman Mako. Something else that our region is proud of is that we are leading the nationwide Covid-19 vaccination charge.

The Top of the South region has experienced a year of strong growth as particularly evidenced by the ever-increasing demand for residential sections. Our local Councils have been actively pursuing funding via the Government's Infrastructure Acceleration Fund which will hopefully allow developments to come on stream quicker. Richmond in particular continues to grow much quicker than previously anticipated.

We have had quarterly branch meetings at Rai Valley, located roughly half-way between Nelson and Blenheim. The local tavern has been recently renovated and is an ideal venue for our meetings. In the past twelve months we have had great presentations by Trimble/Allterra and Global Survey demonstrating some of the latest spatial measurement technologies. A highlight of the year was a brilliant presentation by Professor Emeritus John Hannah entitled "Reflections: Some lessons learned in 50 years of professional life". We have successfully live streamed our last two meetings and it has been encouraging to see our attendance numbers increase as a result.

Our AGM was delayed due to the latest lockdown, but this is now rescheduled for the end of September and will include the voting in of a new committee to replace Andrew Stanger and myself. We wish the new committee all the best for their tenure.

Ephraim Jacobsen, Branch Chair.

## **SOUTHLAND**

The Southland Branch met several times during the year with between 5 and 10 members in attendance.

The main purpose behind most of our meetings has been to plan a joint strategy in dealing with local Council planning issues.

We have met with the Southland District Council but so far gained little traction in resolving what are now long-standing issues of concern in respect to subdivision consent conditions. We intend to pursue the matter further at a political level.

We will shortly be meeting with the Invercargill City Council to pursue resolution of similar issues we are having with that Council.

It has been an extremely busy year and regrettably we have not met socially as often as we would have liked and that is certainly something I would like to work on.

Urban and lifestyle development is continuing at a hectic pace with all the local firms stretched well beyond capacity.

The membership chose to re-elect all Branch Officers and so it seems they are stuck with me as Chairman for another year.

I enjoyed attending the Auckland conference along with two other Branch members and I'm grateful it wasn't a week or two later.

The main thing for most of us going forward is to try and keep up with the work demand and we wait with anticipation to see how the restrictions placed upon us by Covid play out in the new year.

Don Moir, Branch Chair.