



Executive Reports

President's Report

Board Chair's Report

Chief Executive's Report

President's Report



It would be impossible to write a review of 2021 without acknowledging the ongoing impact that Covid-19 has had on our lives. Whilst it has presented ongoing challenges – especially in the areas of recruitment and wellbeing - it has also provided us with opportunities. It is hard to imagine that the changes we are living through will not have a lasting impact on the way we work in the future.

Despite the constantly shifting 'normal', I am so proud of what Survey and Spatial New Zealand has achieved in the past year. This is in no small part thanks to the tireless work of the National Office team and the dedication of our members who volunteer their time to help move us all forwards as an organization and profession. My heartfelt thanks to all of you who have contributed this year. There were some highlights for me.

Firstly, the Annual Conference in Auckland. I am immensely grateful that we managed to have the conference in a window of opportunity before the lockdown which allowed us to gather for one of the best attended conferences we have had in a long time. It was almost surreal to be able to meet and talk again in person and network with colleagues and old friends. The awards dinner was a standout – with the revamped awards recognizing and celebrating some of the truly exceptional people we have in our industry in the manner they deserve.

I'm also proud of the progress that has been made in advancing our Certification Program. It has been long overdue and is clearly needed. The certification program work is being staged in order to address our priorities in a pragmatic way - with our areas of immediate need being addressed first. We are looking to pilot the first certification streams early in 2022, with the next tranche poised to be developed soon after that. We will be presenting an overview of the program at the Stakeholder Forum prior to AGM. Again, there has been a huge amount of time put in by National Office and volunteers to support this progress – a legacy that will raise our profile, provide us with external relevance, and offer professional development pathways for our members into the future.

Also of note has been the ongoing work to develop our Resilience Volunteer Network, which has included liaison with LINZ to support their Emergency Response team; the support for the Space, Spatial and Surveying Inclusion@Work Index survey in partnership with the Diversity Council Australia; the commitment to holding the NZ regional round of the Spatial Excellence Awards (APSEA); the ongoing engagement with LINZ and their STEP program development; and the initiative to develop the S+SNZ Emerging Leaders Program – a great avenue for our future leaders.

There have certainly been some challenges this year, but we have a great team of people working to keep us moving ahead. I'd like to acknowledge and thank the Council for your work and contributions this year – it's an absolute pleasure to know and work with you all. A huge thanks to Ashley and our National Office team; to the Committees, Streams, Divisions and Branches that do such important and valued work; and to the Board for keeping us in check. In particular, I'd like to reflect our appreciation to the outgoing Board Chair, Daniel Williams, for his 8+ years of dedicated service to S+SNZ – a massive contribution of time and effort to the organization.

I sincerely hope that the annual report next year will contain a narrative that has moved past Covid disruptions and challenges and on to more positive change! But - in the interim - I wish you all a healthy and happy end to 2021.

Ngā mihi nui, Dr Kat Salm.

Board Chair's Report



As I write this report from Auckland's level 3 lockdown it strikes me that not a lot is different this year from last year, well at least not in a physical sense. Our members have been impacted to varying degrees by lockdowns and there is frustration at not being able to tackle the mountain of work that many of us in front of us.

The saving grace has been that we have been through this last year and that the lessons we learnt last year have been applied and there is not the sense of impending doom that prevailed last year!

It is against this backdrop we have seen the team at National Office adapt to an ever-changing environment and step up to meet the challenge. We have had some personal changes through the year, but National Office under Ashley Church has been restructured into a format that is starting to deliver outstanding results for the organisation and its members.

As a Board, we have focussed on supporting Ashley deliver on the Letter of Expectation that the Council would like to see delivered as well as managing risk associated with lockdowns and the potential impacts that could have arisen with running what subsequently was a very successful conference.

As can be seen from the annual accounts S+SNZ has operated in a very fiscally prudent manner. Whilst income remained roughly the same, we have savings in our expenditure which has resulted in a surplus this year of approximately \$107 500. On the surface, this is a great result although some of these savings were a result of not being able to deliver services to our members.

The Board this year has approved a budget with a break-even model but the surplus from the last year will be used to support the delivery of the Council's Letter of Expectation.

Membership fees alone do not support the activities of S+SNZ and I would like to acknowledge the continuing support that we receive from our commercial partners. Without this support, we would not be in a position to fund many of the activities that we do.

One of the highlights of the year has been the successful running of the conference. The Board would like to acknowledge all of the people involved in running and supporting this year's event which has been a highlight for many.

This is my last act as Board Chair and member of the S+SNZ Board. When I was elected to the Board eight years ago, I never envisaged that I would be a member of Board or Council for this long. I would like to acknowledge all of the previous Board members that I have had the privilege to work with along with the current members, Thomas Gibbon, Mike Benning, Michelle Bain, Elaine McAlistair and Adam Musa. I have learnt so much from all of these people and the experience gained over the last eight years has been invaluable from both a personal and business perspective.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank all of the Council members that I have worked with, past presidents and the current president Kat Salm. It has been a challenge at times but what a great group of people contributing to the success of S+SNZ.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge National Office led by Ashley Church. The real engine room of S+SNZ whose work often goes unacknowledged. Thank you for all of the support that you have provided me over the years.

My final comment is to our members, I encourage you all to support S+SNZ in the efforts to get certification operational, as well as becoming active members of S+SNZ. There is much work to be done and if the collective "we" do not get behind S+SNZ in all areas we run the risk of becoming more marginalised as an organisation. Too often the work of raising our profile, supporting committees, being members of external groups is left to a small number of our members. We are very quick to complain about what hasn't been done but I don't see a similar number of people asking if they can contribute. Exciting times are ahead of us as a sector but we all need to support S+SNZ if we want to truly benefit from those times.

Daniel Williams, Board Chair

Chief Executive's Report



If you were at one of the Branch or Zoom presentations that I made in early 2020 you'll probably remember the enthusiasm with which I faced the task ahead. Certainly, there were challenges facing Survey and Spatial as an organisation, and the surveying profession in general, but nothing which couldn't be addressed with some time-honoured strategies and a bit of hard grit.

Then Covid hit.

I don't need to recount the impact of the first lockdown to anybody reading this. We all know how fundamentally the pandemic has changed our lives, our society, and the way in which business is

conducted – and our organisation wasn't immune. We faced the prospect of declining membership, reduced activities and services, uncertainty around our ability to run face-to-face events and, most importantly, a significant hit to the livelihood of our members.

But then we all emerged from the first lockdown and found, to our surprise, that it wasn't as bad as we all expected. Parts of the economy – including the built environment – boomed. Business confidence stayed stubbornly high. We even started using phrases like 'building back better' underlying a stubborn tenacity and a determination not to be bowed by Covid.

And, like other parts of the economy, Survey and Spatial flourished. We reconfigured our National Office, bringing in new people with substantial experience in the industry and redefining their roles to better reflect a modern organisation with an eye to the future. I owe an enormous debt of gratitude to my amazing team – Jan, Jenny, Loren, Tara and Libby (and David, who was only with us for a few months but tidied up our approach to our finances).

Through the hard work of these incredible people we've ticked off many of the goals we had set for ourselves in early 2020. We redesigned our communications – a process which is ongoing, and which will soon see a new, more modern, website added to fresher and more targeted comms and social media. We hosted packed out live and virtual events catering to the needs and aspirations of our membership. We hosted record numbers of candidates in professional examinations around the country. And while all this was happening, we maintained our membership and actually improved our financial position.

Of course, we didn't get it all right. After making the decision to reduce our lobbying and advocacy activities in 2020, we've now recognised that this was a mistake, and we are in the process of significantly improving both our strategic approach and our visibility in this important area. Branches and Streams are looking for policy leadership at local and national level and we are determined to provide it.

So, (almost) two years on, I'm proud of what we've achieved but eager to complete the task. In that regard there are two initiatives underway which, in my view, will fundamentally change who we are as an organisation.

The first of these is the Emerging Leaders Program which is being launched for the first time this year. This program will embed young members at every level of our organisation and, over time, will influence change and better reflect the changing professional landscape.

The other initiative is the move to a formal professional Certification program, the first peek of which members will receive at the Novembers Members meeting. This program, when fully implemented, will revolutionise the way our that Stream professions demonstrate their expertise and competence and has the potential to place our members at the forefront of professionals in our country. It's an initiative for which I'm enormously excited and I look forward to seeing the fruits of the hard work which has gone into it, over the past year, in the years ahead.

In closing, I'd like to extend my personal thanks to the two people who have most impacted my time in this role.

Council President, Kat Salm and I have developed an extremely productive working relationship and I am in awe of her energy, her tenacity, and her unwavering commitment to our professions. I am absolutely delighted that she has agreed to remain in the role for a further year and look forward to continuing to build on our tangible achievements over that time.

And finally, I offer my sincere thanks and admiration to outgoing Board Chair Daniel Williams. Daniel has been my confidante and mentor for a big part of my time with Survey and Spatial and his knowledge, calm wisdom and encouragement have been to ballast which has repeatedly steadied

the ship. His eight years as Chair of the Board have served the organisation well and, by me in particular, he will be sorely missed.

Ashley Church, Chief Executive.