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Land Rights – Will Technology Ever Replace the Human Touch? From the Perspective of Millennials

The Relationship between Technology and People in Land Tenure

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

The authors, Claire Buxton and Melissa Harrington, are Bachelor of Surveying graduates from the University of Otago, New Zealand. Both have received the Bogle Young Surveyor of the Year Award, joining a group of dedicated New Zealand surveyors who volunteer hours of their own time to advocating and supporting the industry.

Melissa is Vice-Chair of the FIG Young Surveyors Network and a respected member of NZIS. In 2012, she became involved in and helped revive the NZIS Young Professionals Group. Nowadays, the group is one of the most proactive in NZIS. Melissa became a voting member of NZIS in November 2015 and gained her licence to conduct cadastral surveys soon after.

Having gained her first four years of postgraduate experience at a private consultancy, Eliot Sinclair, Christchurch, Melissa decided it was time to try something new. In more than six years of postgraduate surveying, Melissa has excelled not only professionally but technically as well. So, with that technical spirit in mind, she joined Trimble Inc in 2016 as part of the Rotational Development Programme. In her role there, she has been involved in some exciting projects and is now working at Trimble SketchUp in Boulder, Colorado. In her 'spare time' besides exploring the great outdoors of Colorado, Melissa has been preparing for her role as Chair of the FIG Young Surveyors Network next year.

Claire is an active participant of the FIG Young Surveyors Network and the Education Representative for the NZIS Young Professionals. After passing her professional entrance exams in November 2016, Claire became a voting member of NZIS and, in February 2017, a licensed cadastral surveyor. A consulting surveyor, Claire spent the first four years of her career working at Beca in Christchurch and in Wellington. Claire now works at Calibre in Wellington.

Having realised her passion was lying in the challenges of land rights at the FIG Working Week 2016, Claire returned to the School of Surveying. She spent the last semester of 2017 studying a part-time paper in Advanced Land Tenure which opened her eyes to what value surveyors can offer. Add to that the advice that Melissa gave Claire when she was deciding whether to do further study. Technology is rapidly taking over Western societies but land tenure issues will never be completely solved without land professionals. Thus, the idea for this paper was sparked.

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