

## Gisborne

At last year's AGM I expressed my concern that we were in danger of disappearing as a branch if we weren't careful. One suggestion to revitalise meetings was to invite guest speakers and have the odd social gathering. Unfortunately, we didn't invite any guest speakers in the past year, but I think we should make that a goal for this year.

Fortunately, this year we were very pleased to welcome two young members in Tim Ronke and Patrick Pierard. We have now gone from 5 to 7 members and the input of youth is vital in keeping the branch refreshed and encouraging the input of fresh and new ideas.

Tim became a Licensed Cadastral Surveyor in March this year, the first surveyor to gain this locally since some time in the 1990's. Patrick sat his laws and regs exam in June this year, one more step on the path to becoming licensed. These are positive signs for the future of our profession and the Institute locally.

I attended the NZIS Stakeholders' Workshop and AGM in Wellington in November last year and I have prepared a separate report on that.

In August last year the Institute asked us "What are the **three** issues or priorities that you would like to be addressed in 2017/2018 with regards to NZIS? I replied

- a. There needs to be a concerted effort by NZIS to clarify the requirements for young surveyors to become licensed cadastral surveyors. The present situation and confusion is a mess, and quite frankly embarrassing to the profession.
- b. We would like to see an effort by the president or senior member of the NZIS to visit regional branches like ours on a more regular basis.
- c. We would like to see the Institute formulate a generic letter to all local authorities highlighting our longstanding and specific skills in resource consent applications, subdivisions and land development engineering. I am sure we are not the only branch that have seen the acknowledgement of our skills being steadily degraded by a changing culture in local authorities.

Hadyn Smith replied that these sentiments were "consistent with other branches and the NZIS Council has similar frustrations".

There has not as yet been any material movement on 'a – c' as far as I can see.

You will also be more than aware that we have struggled with Landonline disconnect issues for some time, which have been very disruptive and expensive to our businesses. We used the NZIS forum to notify these concerns and there was a lot of feedback from other members with similar frustrations. It was heartening that NZIS nationally took up the issue and wrote to LINZ with our collective concerns. Possibly as a result of that, Landonline appears to be operating with far less glitches which is a huge relief for anyone trying to use the system.

In May the NZIS Council unanimously recommended that we use a trading name and that it becomes part of the rules. Council suggested that Rule 1.1 changes to (the bold writing is the only change):

- The name of the organisation is the “New Zealand Institute of Surveyors Incorporated” (NZIS). **NZIS will trade as Survey and Spatial New Zealand (S+SNZ).**

A Surveymonkey questionnaire was included in an email on 18 July from Rebecca Strang for members to vote for or against. The ballot closed 24 July.

On the social front, a good muster of members and their wives convened at the Works Restaurant in December last year to gather socially and catch up over the years events. The Hawkes Bay Branch hosted a return joint branch get together in February this year which was attended by Paul and Peggy, Adrian and Heather, Tim and Cate and Kevin and Diane. It was extremely well organised. We started with coffee at the Red Bridge Café, where we caught up Phil Winters who some of you will remember was a registered surveyor for Lands and Survey many moons ago. We then congregated at Ocean Beach, where we were taken on a guided tour of the Cape Sanctuary. This is a fascinating area between Ocean Beach and Cape Kidnappers owned and funded privately and contains many native fauna including Takahe and Tuatara. There is an ongoing pest management programme in place.

At the end of the day we drove back to town and met at the Bare Knuckle BBQ venue, which gave us a chance to catch up with a few more members and round off a very successful weekend.

I appreciate the support and interest the members have shown over the year, but I believe we all could put more into the Institute at a branch level, so let's make that our goal for the next year.

Paul Ericson, Chair