



Branch Reports

AUCKLAND

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

- Andrew Blackman - Secretary
- Bruce Frith - Treasurer
- Katie Anson - Young Professionals Rep
- Jeanette Ma
- Ann-Maree Gladding
- Noel Armstrong
- Rebecca Sinclair
- Claire Valkenborg

Meetings

The 2020 year has been wrought with difficulties due to limitations in gathering sizes during the various COVID-19 levels. Nonetheless, the Branch has still managed to enjoy meetings with the following themes and speakers:

1st October 2019 - AGM: Declan Stubbing from Discovery Marine Ltd: overview of some recent Hydrographic Surveying projects around Auckland and NZ and the technology used to deliver them.

10th December 2019 - CSNZ/YP Event: Owning a Survey Company, pro's, con's & options available.

24th Feb 2020: Introduction to S+SNZ Executive Members: Dr Kat Salm, new President, Daniel Williams, Board Chair and Ashley Church, new Chief Executive Officer.

15th July 2020: Presentation 1: Elise Freeman, Traffic Management Plans and CoPTTM. Presentation 2: David Snowdon and Trevor Cullen (Council Subdivision Team Leaders) and Kerstin Strauss (Council Subdivision Specialist) on the Council Subdivision Team's roles, responsibilities, and future endeavours.

Again, this year has seen a good level of attendance at meetings, with 50 to 60 or more coming along and I commend members for continuing to get involved.

Other Events

This year has seen a considerable level of advocacy by the Branch, including involvement in the following:

- Traffic Management Requirements
- Cadastral Boundaries around Terrace Houses
- Auckland Council's 223 processing times
- Use of Hydraulic Modelling to Determine Stream Width
- 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 and transferring them onto an online platform during COVID level 4.

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 August 2020, the Branch and National Office 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.

Thank you to all those that assisted, especially to Sharleen Cole-Swami from Allterra, who aside from volunteering her time over the 3 days, also provided equipment to showcase on the stand, 84 Recruitment who provided custom made posters, Global Survey who provided banners and videos, Unitec who provided a large TV screen, and various Woods staff who prepared videos, posters and interactive displays.

Looking Forward

Next year the Executive committee will remain largely the same, but we are hoping to bring on a few more people to ensure continuity in the future.

Kendall Reid, Chair.

CANTERBURY

It has been a strange year indeed; I think we can all agree we are looking forward to whenprecedented times return! With the challenges of 2020 it was difficult to hold S+SNZ events, however, the LINZ Draft Cadastral Survey Rules Presentation was able to be held before lockdown. Once we had emerged from isolation, we were fortunate to be able to get together and share a beer and our lockdown stories at the Pegasus Arms. Mike Blackburn

presented to our members on the state of residential construction and development in Canterbury. Outlining who our most prolific developers are, where development is occurring, and how typical residential developments in Christchurch are changing.

The Canterbury market continues to be challenging, however the influx of Kiwis returning home is keeping the housing market strong. The city continues to develop, with the Riverside Market attracting thousands of people daily, adding to the atmosphere of the Terraces and Avon River Precinct. The Christchurch Convention Centre is only a few months away from its grand opening and the Metro Sports Facility is now out of the ground and growing at pace. Excitement is also building around the confirmation of a new Sports Stadium in the central city, the last anchor project to be delivered for Cantabrians. Canterbury Branch Committee.

CENTRAL OTAGO

2019/2020 has been an interesting time for the Central Otago Branch, as I'm sure it has been for branches nationwide in the wake of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Many consultancies were expecting and preparing for a large drop in workloads, but thankfully this has not eventuated. It appears that major projects in the region are continuing and other workflows have remained somewhat constant.

On the regulatory front, the Queenstown Lakes District Council Engineering Department released their draft Code of Practice for Land Development which contained specific exclusions regarding Registered Professional Surveyors and Licensed Cadastral Surveyors and the design and certification of engineering works. The branch submitted on this and encouraged individual consultancies/members to submit on this, and the branch has been in discussion with head office around the best way to handle this issue, as it has been occurring in other branch/councils as well. The issue is as yet unresolved.

In terms of events we missed the opportunity for a branch Christmas function last year, but have early plans in place this year to make up for this. We had a successful branch meeting recently in Cromwell with great presentations by Charlie Latchford from 12d regarding the use of 12d for the import of asset data into Council GIS systems, and by Alex Huizenga from QLDC regarding their requirements for asset data.

We have an upcoming AGM in Wanaka where we will have a presentation by a leading surveying software and hardware company regarding the latest in their systems and technologies.

Thanks for all your hard effort through the difficult lockdown period, and for your attendance at branch events and meetings and have a great rest of 2020.

Anthony Field, Chair

GISBORNE

Once again this has been a very quiet year for the branch, offset somewhat by a very busy economic climate, which got even busier after the Covid 19 lockdown ended. I have voiced my concern in recent years about the health of the branch and that we were in danger of

disappearing if we weren't careful. I made suggestions on how this might be improved, but have failed miserably in implementing anything to improve our present state. Clearly, we need a chairman who has the time and inclination to inject some life into our branch. I have canvassed some of my colleagues in other branches, and we are not alone in suffering from some apathy in this regard. Mark Stenning has recently resigned as he didn't feel he was getting anything out of being a member.

In June I attended a zoom meeting of most of the Branch Chairs, which was hosted by our CEO Ashley Church. He does impress me as a man who has a better affinity for our profession than the previous CEO. There were quite a few hard-hitting comments like "what do we get for our money?", and a young lady who had recently been through licensing and was close to tears about the undue difficulty it presented her. I understand these zoom meetings are to continue on a 3 month basis.

I also recently had a zoom meeting with Jayne Albiston, who is a private contractor employed by Survey & Spatial NZ as a Professional Development Contractor. She is presently reviewing the performance of the various streams. I had quite a long discussion with her about RPS, and although I can't remember the exact statistics, the amount of up and coming surveyors who have achieved this status since its inception in 2002 is very low, far exceeded by the registered surveyors who obtained the title under the grandfather clause. Although there was a bit of a hiss and roar when it first came out, there is no doubt that any profile we might have had in the community has faded badly. There is also concern around the country with some TA's refusing to accept land development engineering plans from anyone who is not a Chartered Professional Engineer.

I also voiced my concern about what is a serious lack of clarity in what candidates preparing for their professional exams are expected to produce.

So, we are at what you could say the cross roads as a branch, and I do hope that we manage to hold it together, but I have to say that every time I come to pay the bill for my staff, I wonder as to its value for money.

After reading the above, you could be excused for thinking I am a doom and gloom merchant. On the positive side, I have always found members of our profession to be a bunch of real good sorts, grounded and practical, and trying to hold out against a wave of disconnected bureaucrats. We need to stand our ground, and the wheel may yet turn full circle.

All the best for the next year.

Paul Ericson, Chair

HONG KONG

The membership of the HK Branch has increased in a very encouraging manner. We now have 8 members, with at least two additional applications in hand.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused many social-economic activities to be postponed if not cancelled. However, in Hong Kong the construction industry has been in good, though not perfect shape, and our members are able to survive with a job.

Though the survey methods and procedures remain unchanged, the process of context capture, data processing, evaluation, documentation and maintenance are changing very fast due to technological advancement. Today we all talk about Big Data or Dataset, which includes not only traditional geodetic horizontal and vertical surveying networks, and land information of man-made or original ground features, but also dataset of design, construction, and as constructed records of the as-built environment, both above, on the ground surface, and underground.

The surveyors role has changed, and must change to face up to new challenges to adapt and move forward.

Surveyors involved in the civil and construction industries need to broaden their knowledge and expertise, and be conversant with the process of BIM Modeling and requirements of BIM Standards. They must also be familiar with not only the operation and requirement of the traditional/existing Engineering Contract, but also that of the New Engineering Contract (NEC).

Most of our Branch members who are working in the civil and construction industries have had proper training and have earned qualifications in the above-mentioned subjects.

Other members are working in private practice as Authorised Land Surveyors, and in the land information, mapping and environmental sector as professional experts and advisors.

TN Wong, Chair

NELSON/MARLBOROUGH

This is my first report as branch chair, having been appointed to this role, along with Andrew Stanger as secretary/treasurer, at our branch AGM 12 months ago. We take over the role from Steve Neal and Matt Straker who did a fine job during their tenure on behalf of our Marlborough members. As a branch that covers two distinct geographic regions, we swap branch governance responsibilities between Marlborough and Nelson/Tasman every couple of years.

We have had three meetings since the last chair report with attendance ranging from 11 to 20 members. Sharleen Cole-Swami from Allterra presented at our August 2019 meeting at Rai Valley Tavern. We had our end-of-year meeting at Rotoiti Lodge in St Arnaud, followed by a very good meal where we were joined by our partners. Our first meeting of 2020 was disrupted by a thing called COVID-19, delaying our meeting to July. Richard Harrison and Lennon Bradford of Global Survey joined us at Rai Tavern to demonstrate some of the latest positioning technologies available to our profession. Our AGM is coming up in September.

For the top-of-the-south, the high of seeing the Mako winning the Rugby Premiership for the first time in November 2019 seems like a distant memory when thinking about all that has happened since. The nationwide lockdown coincided with the annual grape harvest and extraordinary measures were needed to ensure that this could carry on under Level 4 restrictions, including hiring campervans (which were readily available) to create bubbles for harvest crews.

Our members generally report that a backlog of work going into lockdown meant that they were able to keep staff occupied (and employed) through this difficult time. Coming out of lock-down there has been a cautious optimism due to the level of work available, particularly in land development. This is seen clearly in the Richmond West subdivision in Tasman that has shown no signs of slowing down. In fact, the demand for new sections across the region appears to have grown stronger.

Looking forward it's difficult to know just how deeply the COVID-19 pandemic will affect our members locally. In the mean-time we are making the most of the work available and hoping that it will last.

Ephraim Jacobsen, Chair.

SOUTH CANTERBURY

BRANCH/STREAM/GROUP	Survey and Spatial New Zealand – South Canterbury Branch
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Branch Chair: Matthew Kerse Branch Manager/Secretary: Sam Elliotte Branch Treasurer: Andrew Rabbidge
Meetings held 2019 -2020 (list by dates)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Meeting – 2nd September 2020: Branch focus • Annual General Meeting – 2nd September 2020: Branch AGM
Branch financial details if relevant to your Branch (turnover, profit etc)	The branch again made a humble profit on the back of limited expenditure.
What was the key focus for your branch in 2018-2019?	Branch meetings were not as regular as intended. Heavy workloads and the disruptions caused by Covid-19 have impacted the ability to hold events.
What will be your focus for 2020-2021?	Improving benefit for our branch members when we hold branch events. Quality of events (over quantity) will be a focus going forward. Looking for ways to benefit/collaborate with the neighbouring branches and other entities. We will continue to utilise the online CPD platforms.
Are there any particular points of interest you 'd like to report on?	

SOUTHLAND

It has been a relatively quiet year for the Branch with a handful of meetings which have been well attended.

The members have agreed that we would like to see some more social events and with that in mind we have appointed a Social Rep. to look at organising something in the new year.

The main issues that we have faced locally have related to the day to day dealings with Invercargill City and Southland District Councils and delegations from the Branch have

attended meetings with relevant Council staff in an effort to improve matters. This looks to be an ongoing issue that we will pursue in the new year as to date we seem to have gained little traction.

Workloads in Southland remain high due to considerable commercial development in Invercargill and housing in Te Anau, Invercargill and Southland in general. There remains a significant housing shortage in Invercargill and so I have no reason to expect a downturn in the foreseeable future.

Don Moir, Chair.