



Hi S+SNZ

In the 7 weeks since I've been with Survey and Spatial NZ the world has been completely turned on its head and the simple things that I took for granted, just a few short weeks ago, are now treats to be looked forward to once this surreal experience eventually ends. Fortunately, most of us have adapted to our changed circumstances and made the best of the situation – and some businesses have even thrived by using the time to reinvent themselves.

At Survey and Spatial NZ we've been doing a bit of both. My team have gone above and beyond to ensure that (as much as possible) it's been business-as-usual in the delivery of the services which we offer to our members. We've continued to offer regular updates on how Covid-19 affects you and your business, continued to host a full range of Webinar topics which many of you have participated in - and our recent Professional Examinations went ahead, in spite of the lock-down, with five of our members achieving a pass on the day.

Meanwhile, I've also been using the time to complete my review of where we're 'at' as an organisation and have now presented the findings of that review to the Board, which has endorsed them. Essentially, that presentation proposed a range of changes to our organisation – most of which are designed to prepare us for the challenges that are facing our sector. Now that these have been endorsed, we're moving into the implementation stage which means that you'll start seeing some changes to the way we do things over the next six months. Some of these changes will be behind the scenes and won't be immediately obvious – while others will be noticeable quite quickly. All of them, in one way or another, will be about modernising the way that we do things, broadening the way we communicate to meet the needs of all of our members (current and future), expanding the range of services that we offer, and providing greater certainty around who we are and why we're here.

All of this is designed to make our services more relevant and valuable to you – so as you see change starting to take place, I'd love your feedback. Tell me what you like, tell me

what you don't – and tell me how you would do things differently. I can't promise that I'll always adopt your ideas – but I can promise that I'll always listen with an open mind.

My email is ashley@surveyspatialnz.org and I'd love to hear from you.

Keeping yourself and your family healthy

We all need to work together if we want to slow the spread of COVID-19. Unite against the virus now.



Be kind. Check-in on the elderly or vulnerable



Washing and drying your hands kills the virus



Cough or sneeze into your elbow



Stay home if you are sick

From messages I've been getting, the third week is the most difficult and we need to continue hunkering down into our 'bubbles' regardless of the improvements shown by statistics. For some, the walls may be

getting closer, the home office smaller and a lot lonelier. If you're wondering why you're feeling so tired working from home, here's a great article from *forbes.com* on why - after transporting your normal business routine to a home-office - routine can be so exhausting: [Why Working From Home Is So Exhausting - And How to Reinvigorate.](#)

For those who may be still feeling anxious or isolated there continues to be a wealth of good information about keeping healthy and safe during the lock-down. Here are some useful links:

- [Mentemia](#) - Sir John Kirwan's mental health blog and downloadable app.
- The [Ministry of Health](#) provides advice on caring for yourself and others who have, or may have, COVID-19.
- The [NZ Mental Health Foundation](#) and [Wellplace.nz](#) offer good resources on how to protect your mental health and well-being.
- [Health Anxiety Fact Sheet](#) (compiled by Benestar).

Thought-Leadership and Working During Level 3

We have been asked by several firms to provide some guidance for surveyors working at Level 3. Unfortunately, we're still awaiting clearer guidelines regarding what will, and won't, be permissible at Level 3. We will communicate these to members as soon as the information is available.

In the meantime, we're convening a *Thought-Leadership* meeting with other industry organisations (tomorrow, Thursday 23 April) to compare best-practice approaches and identify issues so that we can keep members as fully informed as possible.

CPD and Events

It's a great time for everyone to up-skill and although the CPD programme has been impacted by COVID-19, we are continuing with our scheduled webinars to help you maintain your CPD points. Keep a watch on the [Tickets and Events](#) webpage as webinars coming up will be posted and can be booked here.

We have a great series to help you build-up your soft-business skills such as good communication. These skills, which are critical for successful businesses, sometimes get overlooked. The first of this webinar series, *Developing Leadership Skills through Public Speaking* starts this Friday 17 April. This session will give you a new perspective on what public speaking is and will provide you with ideas on how to be more persuasive in your interactions and provide tools for facilitating difficult discussions.

Along with some sessions still in the planning pipeline we have the following scheduled:

- **17 April – Developing Leadership Skills through Public Speaking**
[Register here.](#)
- **22 April - GNSS Control Surveys - Graduate Refresher for Licensing and beyond.** [Register here.](#)
- **15 May - Property Law Tools in Subdivisions**
[Register here.](#)
- **3 July - Speaking in Meetings**
[Register here.](#)
- **4 September - Networking**
[Register here.](#)

Support for Surveyors and Spatial Professionals

We've received generous offers of help and support for members who may be struggling in this challenging environment. If it would help you to talk through your issues and challenges please get in touch with us directly, admin@surveysptailnz.org and we'll put you in contact with a firm as near to you as possible.

The science of numbers – and why we need the lock-down

Professor Shaun Hendy of the University of Auckland's *Centre of Excellence in Complex Systems and Data Analytics* talks to TVNZ about the lock-down and data modelling:

<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/level-4-lockdown-needs-done-once-and-right-stamp-covid-19-expert-urges>

See the spread in this [Coronavirus Map](#) developed by John Hopkins Centre for Systems Science and Engineering.



[S+SNZ COVID-19 information page.](#)

Please stay safe and well.

Regards

Ashley Church, CE.