



Institute of Cadastral Surveying (Inc)

PO Box 12226, Beckenham, Christchurch, 8242

Ph. (03) 686 9400

Email: sec@ics.org.nz

Web: www.ics.org.nz

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR THE 2019 - 2020 YEAR

It is my pleasure to present this 19th annual President's report.

The past twelve months with the uncertainty created by coronavirus in lockdowns, economic activity and travel have made 2020 an unusual year. However, the Institute has continued to function irrespective, and this is testament to our voluntary structure. Many other organisations with paid staff and high overheads, have not fared nearly so well in the current circumstances. Thank you to Phil Conway who developed a number of Covid-19 control plans and documents which he allowed to be distributed to our membership.

Our membership at around 50 remains similar to last year. We are lucky to have a broad geographic spread and some experienced practitioners, as well as a number of student members. Again, I would encourage you all to continue to invite your friends and colleagues to consider membership.

Our continued focus this year has been on submission and further input into the new Rules for Cadastral Survey. Despite our resolve that practitioners have urgently needed these rules, we are disappointed that it appears unlikely that they will be in force before the middle of next year.

The Institute sponsored a well attended workshop in Christchurch on 14 March, to discuss the draft rules and prepare a comprehensive submission. As well as many minor suggested amendments, the submission gave feedback about our five main areas of concern. Those areas are: the lack of inclusion of a "Good Survey Practice" rule and opposition to introduction of water centreline boundaries, the right-lining of former water/irregular boundaries, lodgement of SO datasets where there is conflict with title dimensions and the ground movement provisions in the draft rules. Thanks go to Bruce Speirs who facilitated the day, and to Brent George who prepared a comprehensive submission.

On behalf of the Institute, I attended a LINZ 3rd Party Fees Review Stakeholder Engagement workshop in Wellington in early February. I tried to articulate the removal of requisition/resubmission fees, and the need to spread costs amongst all users – not just cadastral users – of the survey system. A second workshop was cancelled due to Covid-19, but I expect work is continuing by LINZ in the background on this project.

Stephen Koning is participating in a joint CSNZ, S+SNZ and ICS project which seeks to develop and prepare a generic QA tool for cadastral surveys and datasets which can be used prior to lodgement.

Our "Good Survey Practice" high level document has been finalised and work continues on a lower level practice guideline. Brent is coordinating this, and coaxing input from as many people as possible. Thankyou to all those who have written sections of the document and we welcome offers of further help.

We continue to provide feedback on such matters as "Landonline terms and Conditions, and Privacy Statement", "In-fill addressing guidelines", "Accretion and Erosion Guidelines". We also keep a watching eye on developments such as STEP which affect cadastral surveyors and progress initiatives like case studies/survey plan examples as time permits.

We have had two face to face meetings with the Surveyor-General and Principal Cadastral Surveyor, the latest yesterday, where we continue to address concerns or points of interest to our members. Both are speaking here today, an advantage of holding the workshop here in Wellington. We also met yesterday with S+SNZ.

Last years workshop in Christchurch was our most successful ever. Thanks must go to Alex Liggett for his organisation of the event, and along with help from Paul Durkin, our workshop here today.

The ICS Express continues to be of a high standard and published on a monthly basis. Topical articles are regularly posted on our website. Brent (with Alex' help) does a great job with these publications.

The "ICS:Chris Hoodsteden Memorial Prize" for the best results in Cadastral Survey 3 at Otago University, was this year awarded to Liam Bragan.

The Cadastral Index has been upgraded in September 2019 to a new improved version this year and has 49 subscribers. This incorporates changes from user feedback and minor bug fixes, as well as working better on modern computers. It continues to supplement our finances.

Our finances are robust, and this has allowed us this year to waive a workshop registration fee and contribute to travel expenses for participants at the Rules workshop and other "special purpose" meetings to represent the Institute. Our growing financial reserves put us in good stead to fund more projects in future.

Your committee has met four times via phone conference and zoom, to discuss administrative matter and other initiatives. I thank them for the many hours that they have put in, but again especially Brent who you will all know, does the heavy lifting for the Institute.

And finally, we have today made Bruce Speirs an Honorary Member of the ICS, for his founding of this organisation, and his work and dedication to making it the successful organisation it is today.

Pat Sole
President ICS
30 August 2019

