



Institute of Cadastral Surveying (Inc)

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR THE 2018 - 2019 YEAR

It is my pleasure to present this 18th annual President's report.

Welcome to the ICS AGM and our annual workshop, again back in Christchurch. Having had a successful workshop in New Plymouth last year, it is great to be returning to the "geographic home" of our membership.

I hope that today's programme is informative and enjoyable. The intention (as is always the case) is for it to be as informal as possible to encourage participation, so please feel free to ask as many questions or tell as many stories as you wish.

Our membership shows a modest increase on last year (and stands at 50) but I would encourage you to continue to invite your friends and colleagues to consider membership. We have attracted also several student members from the University this year. Our finances are in good shape. The Cadastral Index remains popular and currently has 56 licensees. Our website and on-line forum are well visited and continue to grow.

Our best advertisement for the Institute is the level of activity we can sustain. As a small focussed "Cadastral" Institute, with members actively practising and with often a great depth of experience, it does allow us to engage quickly and effectively, both with our membership and other bodies. This has certainly been the case this year.

We have made submissions on behalf of the Institute covering a wide subject matter including: Factsheet on the new Land Transfer Act (Qualified Titles), Review of the Walking Access Act 2008, Accretion and Erosion Guidelines, Proposed changes to Landonline terms and conditions, Review of the Otago School of Surveying, Addressing for Infill Developments and Storing Landonline Data in an offshore public cloud. Some of these submissions have been requested, whilst others we have sought to seek clarification or raise issues of importance to cadastral surveyors or the public.

LINZ is embarking on a significant "Cost Recovery Review" with Survey Fees being at the top of the list. We have continued a dialogue with LINZ officials in this regard and have provided a weighty submission on our thoughts. It is generally not well known that 3rd party survey and title fees that our client's pay, fund almost all expenditure by LINZ. With increased digital use of cadastral data there are however becoming a large number of other users who are not required to contribute. This inequity we are actively pursuing along with a fair fees schedule, reduction or elimination of search fees and the abolition of the resubmission/requisition fee. Fees cannot also be viewed in isolation from the regulatory regime which imposes further compliance costs on surveyors and land owners.

Revision of the Rules for Cadastral Survey continues. We have made lengthy submissions on both parts of the Stage 2 consultation and received some good feedback individually from members and via a Survey Monkey questionnaire. My thanks go to all who contributed, but especially to Bruce and Brent who knocked our submissions (which often included a range of views) into shape. Lyndon Telfer will bring us up to date today with this project. I note that in Simon Jenkin's 2013/14 President's Report, he was questioning whether we would have new rules available in 2015. Hopefully 2020 will provide us with that long overdue opportunity to have Rules which are more meaningful and understandable.

You will be aware that the Landonline Rebuild is now underway. This is now called STEP (Survey and Title Enhancement Project), and is to be undertaken in 4 tranches. The first tranche largely involves search functionality and has Government approval to proceed. You will be aware that ultimately this initiative involves a 3D cadastre, with possible elimination of the traditional "survey plan" or requirement to use only 3rd party software to populate Landonline. As an Institute, we have expressed a view to officials that particularly where significant change is involved, we need to see and have the clear benefits evaluated and demonstrated prior to any proposed change.

I, Brent and Alex have had face-to-face meetings with newly appointed Surveyor-General, Anselm Haanen and Principal Cadastral Surveyor, Mike Morris (as LINZ's designated contacts) twice over the past year. As well as discussing current initiatives like the Rules and STEP, we have had frank discussions on a host of relevant topics. This provides the Institute with direct access to officials, albeit that they are often not in a position to institute change themselves. It does however provide a direct opportunity for us to air our alternate views. These discussions have been reasonably informal and recognise a new evolving relationship, but I do see a need to identify more specific requested actions going forward.

One of those topics firmly discussed has been Good Survey Practice. In our view, reintroduction of a Good Survey Practice rule is the single biggest positive change that the new Rules could contain, and signals to all (LINZ, the Courts, practitioners and the public) that Good Survey Practice not only exists, but it's status is reflected in secondary legislation. It appears that we have been unsuccessful in that endeavour to date. However, Bruce produced an overview "high level" Good Survey Practice document last year which has been widely distributed. This has received comprehensive feedback from a variety of sources across our profession, which are now incorporated into the document. We are currently in the early phases of producing a more in depth document (with topic headings largely decided) and co-opting contributors, hopefully in conjunction with the Cadastral Stream of S+SNZ.

Immediately after last year's workshop, Simon Jenkin was presented with his Service Award in Dunedin. We renamed the prize for the best Cadastral 3 project at Survey School, to the "ICS: Chris Hoogsteden Memorial Prize" and increased its value. We have nominated Craig McInnes for the Cadastral Surveyors Licensing Board. A "skills matrix" has been circulated so that if members, or members of the public have subject specific queries, we can refer them to subject matter experts. Alex has represented the Institute recently in Wellington, at a workshop entitled "Perspectives on the future of New Zealand's Property System". A number of us have also had meetings with Stuart Day from LINZ, undertaking an assessment of the Property Rights regulatory system. Ian Gillespie has recently provided a template for a cadastral "case study", which we hope illicit contributions to and expand on, so it becomes a useful resource for members.

The Christchurch duo of Brent and Alex continue to put their energies also into the monthly ICS Express, which I think is an excellent production. Brent has also devoted time to organising an inaugural "Branch" meeting of the Institute here in Christchurch to discuss local and topical issues. Alex has largely organised today's workshop programme and I am pleased it is well attended.

On a sad note, Ralph Winmill's passing means we have lost a friend and active member of this Institute, and a well-respected, senior member of the profession. The large number of surveyors from across the country at his funeral, was testament to the high regard with which he was held.

Your committee has met five times by phone conference over the year to discuss administrative matters, and other initiatives. I thank them all for the many hours that they have put in, but particularly Brent and Alex who have a considerable workload and go about promoting "Cadastral Surveying" and this Institute at every opportunity.

This coming year (assuming no-one else would like the job today) will be my final year as President. Thank you for the privilege of serving you in this role.

Pat Sole
President ICS
30 August 2019