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PRESIDENTS REPORT FOR THE 2014– 2015 YEAR

It is my pleasure to present this 14th annual President's report.

Welcome to the ICS AGM, this is the new 'Virtual' format for the President's Report, so here we go:

2014 and so far in 2015 the Institute and the Exec have been very busy, there have been some interesting and challenging changes initiated by LINZ and changes encouraged by the ICS through our correspondence and visits and meetings with LINZ, including an informal and frank meeting with the new SG, Mark Dyer a month ago, more on that later.

LINZ has acknowledged the value of the input from stakeholders at Policy level, i.e., at the time when the structure and 'basis' and intent of any new legislation is mapped. LINZ has opened the door to the ICS in this regard, inviting us to be involved at that level in the build up to the new RCS. The years of insisting that the Rules must be in accord with the Statute is paying off. Thank you Bruce.

The biggest item in the last 12 months has been the 'fall-out' from the Christchurch earthquake, specifically the apparent inadequacy of the skills and knowledge of a number of parties involved in the spatial definition of the earthquake affected land. This has manifested as significant definition conflicts, resulting in costly (in every sense) actions and claims, and resulting in frustrations for all parties. This is despite NZ being a geologically active country (velocity corrections to coordinates has been with us for more than 10 year), however, the legislation and the RCS did not envisage the extent and complexity of the Christchurch earthquake land disturbance. Unfortunately it has taken 3 years for the inadequacies to become apparent, and more unfortunate that the resultant immediate effect was to draw all LINZ's cadastral expertise away from the National picture to focus on the definition of Christchurch. This has had two impacts, first the blow-out on approval times for Datasets of Cadastral Survey, particularly for the CHCH area, which has had Nationwide effects. This is only now (literally in the last week) starting to return to an acceptable time frame. And second, the Feb 2015 notification of proposed new rulings on definition methodology for earthquake affected land, to be effective immediately. These new rulings were however unworkable and were subsequently withdrawn. We still do not have any clear direction from LINZ, and the conflicts and frustrations continue. The Canterbury working group (with all stake holders represented) has been appropriately forthright in its recommendations to LINZ and the Crown, the current position is that the fundamental legal question "what is the holder of an ordinary title entitled to" is being debated in the appropriate chambers, the answer is likely to appear in the form of new/amended statute, THEN the SG can make some specific decisions regarding how earthquake affected land should be defined.

The ICS is doing what it can to facilitate a solution, we have made formal and informal presentations on the matter, but it will take time, the solution will not be in the short term. It is only gradually that LCSs outside CHCH are starting to appreciate the definition challenges, and I think it appropriate at this point to express our thanks on behalf of the Institute to all the LCSs in Christchurch, you are the new pioneers and you are literally defining the future.

Which brings me to our recent meeting with the SG, in brief, Mark stated his intent very clearly, he is looking at a 10 year plan, and he is sorting his priorities: in particular, the CHCH definition is currently the one and only LINZ focus, ASATS is parked, the review of the LT Act is parked, and progress has slowed on the new RCS. At that meeting some 'lines in the sand' were drawn with regard to stance and expectations, and we made it very clear that the ICS has the same goals as LINZ in terms of the best possible system to manage and maintain the Cadastre. There is, however, room for debate on the route to that outcome.

Mark made it clear that he wanted the ICS too be involved in the early work for the new RCS, it was good to have his reassurance that he was prepared to continue with the level of mutual support and recognition that your Exec had established with the immediate past SG, Don Grant.

We will of course, as a body representing Surveyors, be involved in the formal Consultation required once the proposed new RCS are published.

Closer to home, our institute membership continues to grow, and we continue to gain stronger recognition that we are all actually looking in the same direction, there are huge benefits in a robust legislative and regulatory environment that clearly and fairly allows all parties to work together. Your executive is in regular contact, we make a point of informing all members of progress and issues, and we are always looking for ways to add value to the institute.

There has been lively debate with LINZ on the prospect of access to the post 300000 plans, as an addition to the Cadastral Index, which is still the best thing since EDMs. There is also a real question that the Index, as it is, may become outdated by Microsofts apparent need to be continuously out of date. This is work in progress.

It is appropriate that I remind everybody that your institute only exists because of a team effort, the members are the #1 members of that team, and our Institute's purpose has not diminished, in fact as the systems and requirements become ever more complicated, the importance of recognition, detailed understanding and representation is more and more vital.

Thank you to my exec members, Bruce for his unfailing enthusiasm, Brent for his ability to see the problem from all sides and to Mark for his willingness to comment and get involved. We are essentially volunteers, the hours committed are not always rewarded with the desired outcome, but they are never wasted.

Finally, the matter of succession at executive level, the time has come for me to fire at least one member, I wish to formally announce that I will not be accepting nomination for the position of President next year, hence my 2015/2016 term as president will be my last. You have 12 months

to consider the presidential possibilities, and I can assure you that I will be offering my full support during the 2016/2017 year.

Thank you for your ear,

Simon Jenkin
President ICS