



Institute of Cadastral Surveying (Inc)

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR THE 2017 - 2018 YEAR

It is my pleasure to present this 17th annual President's report.

Welcome to the ICS AGM, and our annual workshop. For the first time, it is being held in Taranaki, and for the first time outside Christchurch. This signals a broadening geographic range of our membership, as well as being a good reason to leave your busy practices behind for a few days. Our membership is slightly up on last year (48), but I would encourage you to invite your friends and colleagues to consider membership. Our finances are robust.

I wish to start by acknowledging the substantial contribution of Simon Jenkin and Bruce Speirs over many years. Simon as our past President, and as a founding member, has continued to play an active role in the Institute since its inception but has now decided to bow out. Bruce has been the "heartbeat" of the organisation, as Secretary for 16 years, and continues to play a very active part on our Committee. Bruce has said to me, that since giving up Secretarial duties, he has an extra day a week which he tries to fill in with some tramping. The Institute is indebted to the work and time they have both put in, over the years. Thankyou.

The early part of the year involved moving the Secretariat from Timaru to Christchurch, and I too know, that the time Bruce now has spare, Brent (George) and Alex (Liggett) do not. I would also like to thank them particularly, and along with Mark (Geddes), Bruce and Simon for their huge commitment this last year, in support of Institute activities.

The Institute continues to "box above its weight" in advocating on cadastral matters. Its advantage is that it is focussed, small and agile, but with passionate cadastral surveyors who "know their stuff". This allows us to address day to day issues in a timely manner, as well as advocate with considered longer term submissions and projects.

Our role as Cadastral Surveyors is largely influenced and interwoven with that of LINZ – from searching records, asking for dispensations, complying with rules and navigating the plan examination process.

This year we have tried to "shake off" our perceived adversarial role with LINZ, to try and enable us to have greater influence on decisions which affect us, and the public. That does not mean that we will not continue to be "frank", nor does it mean it will be successful. Neither is it helped by the lack of continuity which is the "revolving chair" of Ministers and top executives – those people whose decision making affects us perhaps most. However, we will continue to try.

We had an initial meeting in Wellington in April with Deputy Chief Executives Aaron Jordan (Strategy and Stewardship) and Kathy Mansell (Property Rights), where we gave a brief introduction of the Institute and outlined a number of concerns going forward. That has resulted in Mike Morris (Principal Cadastral Surveyor – Operations), and the (now) Acting Surveyor-General (ASG - Anselm Haanen), being our designated contacts with LINZ. We have since formulated a broad list of issues or projects, and an ICS structure (subcommittees) which will form the basis of what we hope will be the focus of ongoing meetings with LINZ at frequent intervals, and also future ICS work.

The survey rules review work continues. We have met with the SG in Dunedin in September 2017, at the commencement of the project. We have provided a comprehensive submission on the initial "Issues and Opportunities Paper". We have provided feedback to him regarding the "Terms of Reference" for the Reference Group to test the new rules. We still have reservations about the process, and continue to agitate for reintroduction of a "Good Survey Practice" rule. Bruce has spearheaded creation of a document to define what "Good Survey Practice" is, which we hope to finalise in the next few weeks. Today we hope to address some of the issues currently being consulted on, and I urge you to leave here, and submit personally. The "Rules" are largely our "reason for being".

This time last year, we were liaising with the SG regarding allowing SO Boundary Marking Datasets for boundaries deformed by earthquakes, without updating title dimensions. We disagree with this policy, in Christchurch or elsewhere in NZ. Whilst we have been unsuccessful in convincing him at this time, we will pursue this through the Rules review.

We have also had a skype meeting with LINZ ASaTS reps, who have explained the status of the project, which we have forwarded to the wider membership. You may note that "As a Service" delivery is gone and it will involve a new "Build". We have tried to encapsulate some of our concerns, including use of 3rd party fees in ASaTS development. You will have a chance to also have your say today.

Speaking of fees, we have also questioned the current plan lodgement fees on the basis of significant over-recovery, and eliminating requisition and search fees. We have responded to a consultation document on fees under the new Land Transfer Act 2017, and also to a similar document on Secondary Legislation under that Act.

At a more operation level, we have identified and ensured a large number of firms overcharged for plan searches have been refunded, and followed up on recent escalation in plan approval times.

In March, Dick Brittan our founding President, was conferred with the first honorary membership of the Institute at a small function in Christchurch, under the rules amended at the last AGM. Julian Thom was awarded the ICS Prize for Cadastral Surveying 3, at Otago University.

We continue to work on a number of issues in our Strategic Plan, and recently undertook a limited membership drive. I am firmly of the belief that membership growth is closely aligned to activity that can be demonstrated, and there is no shortage of that.

We have also recognised that we should ensure our wider membership is aware of our actions and other current topics, and we hope introduction of the "ICS Express" helps in this regard. This is a monthly Christchurch production – thankyou Alex and Brent.

The Cadastral Index remains popular and currently has 44 licensees. Bruce still does the technical administration for this out of Timaru. Our website and on-line forum are well visited and continue to grow.

I am proud of the work and activities that have been conducted by the Institute over the year.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you as President.

Pat Sole
President ICS
24 August 2018