

Branch Chair's Annual Report 2019

On behalf of the committee of the Canterbury branch, it is my pleasure to report on the 2019 year. The Institute of Directors in New Zealand began over 40 years ago as a division of the Institute of Directors in the UK. In 1989 the Institute of Directors in New Zealand (Inc) adopted its own constitution and became a separate legal entity. In the intervening decades, our organisation has developed into a mature organisation representing the profession of governance.

Institute of Directors

The Institute of Directors (IoD) is THE professional membership organisation for board members in New Zealand with over 9200 members from across all sectors, organisation types and sizes. We exist for the purpose of driving excellence in governance; and via that single purpose making a strong positive contribution to NZ society. The IoD's **vision** is to be the world class professional body at the heart of New Zealand's governance network. The IoD's **mission** is to inspire and equip people in governance to add value across business and society. These strategic foundations were recently reaffirmed in strategy sessions at both national and local levels.

Nationally, the Institute has worked hard to promote the benefits of membership, particularly Chartered membership. Under the leadership of Kirsten Patterson, significant inroads have been made to ensure that the IoD stays at the forefront of thought leadership and as a beacon of excellence for the governance profession.

Membership

Membership in the Canterbury region continued to grow, measuring 1,250 by year's end. Although growth may be seen as an admirable ambition, growth should not simply be for growth's sake. Our aim has been to ensure that members receive value from being part of the Institute. To that end, the local committee have worked hard to ensure that there is a diversity of speakers, courses and other events. I still maintain that although not everything is for everyone, there is something for everybody.

Membership is easy: pay your subscription and turn up to some events. A sure sign of being serious about practising governance is to be a Chartered member. The Chartered designation offers stakeholders an assurance that directors have met professional standards of knowledge and skill that supports them to carry out their duties as a director. Their knowledge, background, character and experience make them role models for other members, their organisations and the community as a whole. Congratulations to those members promoted during the year. One of the most satisfying jobs as branch chair is to present Chartered certificates to those individuals who have made the investment in terms of time, and money, to demonstrate their commitment to leading excellence in the profession. A total of 24 new Chartered certificates were earned by members in 2019.

Functions

In furtherance of our strategy to achieve engagement, we ran 43 events throughout the year, easily a record for the Canterbury branch. The branch calendar was therefore one that was very full. Already, the current year looks to be on track to continue that trend, with 10 events already this year.

We have strived to keep delivering a wide range of speakers and topics. For 2019, these followed the Institute's national themes of The Future of Work, Globalisation and the Future of Trade, and Governance for the Future. A highlight of the year for me was hosting the nationally webcast panel discussion chaired by Sue Suckling at Tūranga, where members were able to listen to and question expert speakers about New Zealand's place in the world of trade.

The branch has continued its recently established programme of Next Director generation workshops and Directors Deep Dive lunches. These more intimate settings facilitate robust round-table discussions on key issues for directors. We have also delivered two governance workshops to UCE students and thank local members for giving their time to facilitate these sessions. A schedule of national webcasts during the year connected members from across the country giving access to some excellent speakers on very relevant topics. To ensure we meet the needs of our diverse membership, we always welcome feedback about our programme and suggestions for future topics.

Director Development

A total of 16 courses were held in Canterbury during 2019. As well as our popular Essentials of Directorship courses, we introduced courses on Integrated Thinking & Reporting, Ethical Dilemmas in the Boardroom and Sustainability and Long Term Value. Christchurch also hosted the cornerstone Company Directors Course.

Peer Support

My sincere thanks go to colleagues Graham Heenan and Jen Crawford for continuing to provide the Peer Support Service. This enables members to discuss professional or personal issues with a senior director on a completely confidential basis. I appreciate your contribution in supporting and guiding local directors with challenges.

Awards

We are fortunate in Canterbury to offer two sought after Awards – each with an intern placement as part of the award package.

The 2019 Emerging Director Award was presented to two recipients. Cory Bedford is the managing director of Constructure Ltd and has had governance roles with football and in education. Helen Andrews operates a successful farming business alongside her husband and sits on the board of New Zealand Pork. They have each won a place as an intern director, at the boards of Connetics and EA Networks, respectively. Wendy Schmidt, a senior manager at EY and board trustee of the Christchurch Arts Festival, was the winner of the 2019 First Steps in Governance Award, which includes an intern placement with Ronald McDonald House South. We look forward to watching the progress of their governance careers in the future.

We are grateful to Connetics (and its shareholder Orion and ultimately Christchurch City Holdings Limited), EA Networks and Ronald McDonald House South Island for investing in the future of good governance by providing intern opportunities to the directors of the future.

Sponsors

A sincere thanks to our principal branch sponsors: BDO Christchurch, Duncan Cotterill, Secure Strategy and University of Canterbury Centre for Entrepreneurship. Your continued support throughout the year is greatly appreciated, as is your high level of engagement. I also take this opportunity to welcome our new branch sponsor, Nexia New Zealand.

Thanks also to the local staff of our national sponsors ASB Bank and Marsh Limited; to Sheffield Ltd for their support of our Leading Directors lunch; and to our longstanding venue sponsor The George. It is so much more than purely their financial support that we appreciate – it is their energy: interaction with the committee and members, their attendance at events, their hosting of sponsor lunches and their willingness to offer support and advice when needed. Please consider supporting them, their commitment is exemplary.

Our always popular Christmas function is also well supported, with prizes provided by: Castaway Resort Rarotonga, Black Cat Cruises, Christchurch Symphony Orchestra, Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools & Spa, Mitre 10 Ferrymead, Mona Vale Homestead, Scenic Hotel Group, Scorpio Books and The Rockshop.

Branch Committee

The number of functions held by the branch is, alone, sufficient to require a deep level of commitment from the members of the local branch committee. I am very grateful for, and appreciative of, the work that my colleagues have provided throughout the year. It is their hard work and dedication of Vincent Pooch, Nick Carter, Jane Cartwright, Hannah Doney, Mike Killick, Lloyd Mander, Mark Rogers and Ali Wilkinson that has contributed to the success of 2019. Ali resigned part-way through the year to take up a role overseas. A special thanks is due to Vincent, who is stepping down from the committee after 9 years, including two as my immediate predecessor as branch chair. Vincent has been actively involved at National Council and will continue a national role on the board of the commercial arm of IoD. Thank you, Vincent, for your many years of service to the Canterbury branch and all of your advice and support.

All of the committee members are busy people with multiple roles and responsibilities with multiple organisations. Sharynn Johnson is an invaluable support to us all, arranging and attending every one of the many events, as well as managing membership, sponsors and liaison with our national office. Her unwavering dedication to the branch has earned our deep gratitude.

Finally, thank you, members, for your engagement. As I say at each New Members' lunch, what you get out of the Institute of Directors will be directly proportional to what you put in. It has been pleasing to see such high levels of input. This can only be good for the future of the profession of governance.

Geordie Hooft

Canterbury Branch Chair

6 March 2020