

Nelson Marlborough Branch of the Institute of Directors

Chair's Report 2025

On behalf of the Nelson Marlborough Branch Committee, I am pleased to present our report for 2025.

I stepped into the role of Branch Chair in June 2025, following Sarah-Jane Weir's tenure, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve our members across Te Taihū. I would like to acknowledge Sarah-Jane for her leadership and contribution to the branch.

It has been a privilege to work alongside a committed and experienced committee whose insight and dedication underpin the strength of our branch. I take the responsibility of this role seriously and am committed to investing my energy in ensuring we continue to deliver value to our members while supporting the growth of our membership.

The role of Branch Chair is also one of connection and collaboration. Over the coming year I will continue to work closely with our committee, members, sponsors, partners and a range of organisations across the region to strengthen our networks and support governance capability across Te Taihū.

A Year of Steady Progress

2025 was a year of steady delivery and strong engagement. Our objectives for the year were to:

- Deliver 26 events across Nelson, Tasman and Marlborough, providing thought leadership, governance insight, professional development and meaningful opportunities for connection.
- Maintain strong collaboration with local stakeholder organisations connected to governance and leadership networks.

I am pleased to report that we achieved these objectives. Attendance and engagement remained strong throughout the year, and member feedback continues to highlight the value placed on both the quality of discussion and the opportunity to connect locally with fellow directors and governance professionals.

Highlights from 2025

Key events and discussions included:

- **Governance in Action:** Exploring governance and decision-making in the banking sector with Reserve Bank of New Zealand Director Jeremy Banks MInstD

- **Leadership in Transition:** Distinguished Professor Paul Spoonley discussed the effects of New Zealand's changing demographics on governance and leadership
- **Women in Governance:** An honest conversation about the realities of women in governance with IoD Chief Executive Kirsten Patterson CMIInstD, independent director Joy Marslin MInstD, and former Emerging Director Award winner Jenna Neame CMIInstD
- **Compliance, Reform and Risk:** Director update for 2025, presented by IoD's Guy Beatson CMIInstD, General Manager – Governance Leadership Centre
- **An Evening with Trish Oakley:** IoD President Trish Oakley CFIInstD shared reflections and insights from her governance journey

Branch Committee

I sincerely thank our Branch Committee for their dedication and insight:

- Gordon Shaw (Deputy Chair – Nelson)
- Tracy Johnson (Marlborough Subcommittee Chair)
- Pip Jamieson
- Matt Sutherland
- Tim Cosgrove
- Yolande Tzinavos
- Justin Carter
- Jacqui Dean
- Matt Stevens

Each member brings experience, perspective and sound governance judgement. They volunteer significant time and energy to ensure our branch remains relevant, responsive and forward-looking.

A special acknowledgement to Justin Carter and Matt Sutherland, who are stepping down this year. Their contribution and commitment throughout 2025 has been invaluable, and we thank them for their service.

Membership

Branch membership remained steady at 363 members, which is a strong endorsement of the value our branch provides locally. We warmly congratulate those who achieved Chartered Member status in 2025, reflecting their commitment to governance excellence and high professional standards.

While our membership remains strong, it is important that we continue to keep our finger on the pulse to ensure we are delivering meaningful value to all our members.

Sponsors and partners

Our branch sponsors played a critical role in our success. We are extremely grateful for the continued support of Duncan Cotterill, Intepeople / Brannigans and Ngāti Kuia. Their financial support, expertise and partnership enabled us to deliver high-quality experience for members.

We also acknowledge our national partners, ASB and Marsh, for their ongoing contribution to the wider IoD community.

National office

Members who attended the AGM in Wellington or the Annual Conference in Auckland will have seen the scale and impact of the work undertaken by the national office. Their advocacy, policy engagement and professional development initiatives strengthen governance capability across Aotearoa New Zealand and support the work we do locally.

I would also like to acknowledge the value of the *One IoD* principle and the close working relationship between the Board, Council and branches. This collaboration has been extremely helpful for our branch and has also enabled us to better understand how we can continue to improve the value we deliver to our members across our region.

Branch Manager

A sincere thank you to our Branch Manager, Melanie Powick, for her professionalism, organisation and commitment throughout 2025. She is an essential link for our members and central to the smooth delivery of our events.

Looking ahead

2025 was a year of steady progress. As we move through 2026, our focus will remain on providing governance insight that is relevant and forward-looking, strengthening local connections, and supporting directors to lead with confidence in an evolving environment. As a branch, we will continue to focus on member retention and strengthening connections across our membership. This includes creating more opportunities for our newer members to learn from and engage with our experienced directors, sharing insights and governance experiences across the network.

We will continue to explore opportunities arising from digital transformation, climate strategy and governance reform, while maintaining our commitment to practical support, networking and professional development. We are also exploring additional ways to connect through a range of events, including breakfast and lunchtime sessions, to make it easier for members to participate. Your engagement remains vital to the success of our branch, and we encourage you to stay connected with our committee and continue sharing your feedback with us.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the Institute of Directors and to governance excellence in Te Taihuhu.

Venus S Guy

Chair, IoD Nelson Marlborough Branch

March 2026