

## Nelson Marlborough Branch of the Institute of Directors

### 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

To all members of the Nelson Marlborough Branch of the Institute of Directors in New Zealand (Inc):

On behalf of the Nelson Marlborough branch committee, it is my pleasure to report on the 2020 year – a year in which we, like all other businesses and organisations worldwide, faced the sudden, unexpected impact of COVID19. This brought with it many challenges but also some great opportunities and achievements for our branch.

Some of our key objectives for 2020 were;

- Deliver at least 10 events in Nelson and five in Blenheim that provide thought leadership, inspiration, governance tools, continuing professional development and networking opportunities
- Evolve our biennial Emerging Director Awards
- Maintain collaboration with other local organisations that have an interest in or connection to governance networks
- Review and promote the branch's Peer Support Programme

During the course of 2020 we delivered eight face-to-face events in Nelson, four face-to-face events in Blenheim, two webcast events and two small select-group events. The April/May lockdown and further restrictions in August forced the cancellation, postponement or significant alteration to the format of branch events. We held two webcasts in April and May on COVID-related governance topics. These attracted a joint audience of 83 people including members from outside our region. We were fortunate to be able to draw on the talent and expertise within our own branch membership to deliver events in the following months with Sarah Smith, Ross Butler, Paul Zealand and Jaydene Buckley all giving presentations. Our thanks to these members and others who also shared their experiences of governing through COVID-19 in the Governance Snapshot series that we shared in our branch newsletter and online during lockdown.

#### Emerging Director Award

We were delighted to be able to deliver our biennial Emerging Director Award with our judging panel of John Palmer, Annette Milligan and Dave Johnson deciding on Zoe Dryden as a very deserving winner of this year's award. Due to COVID restrictions, we held a very small presentation lunch for Zoe and received positive coverage of her award in the Nelson Mail. The previous winner, Manoli Aerakis, completed his internship this year on the Appleby Farms board. We look forward to holding the award again in 2022.

#### Membership

Overall branch membership at the time of writing this report is 322 – slightly behind last year's total of 336. New applications are down on last year (as they are nationally) but our branch has the highest retention rate of all New Zealand IoD branch at 92% compared to the national average of 88%. We also have above average engagement rates for our members attending branch events, training and newsletter readership. Our congratulations to Paul Steere, Al Dunn and Murray King who were all recognized as Chartered Fellows this year, and also to Rachel Sanson who has become a Chartered Member. Two of our members, Jennifer Moxon and Venus S Guy, were selected on the IoD's Mentoring for Diversity programme.

#### Collaborations

Our collaboration with the Marlborough Chamber of Commerce, and also our presence in the Mahitahi Colab in Nelson have been two highly successful new developments this year. Our events in Blenheim have increased audiences with chamber and IoD members regularly joining together whilst the Mahitahi Colab has given us a presence and base amongst Nelson's business community which is proving useful for meetings, events and general visibility in the business sector. We are looking to continue and build on both these initiatives next year.

#### National Office

2020 has not been without its challenges for our National Office, particularly given the impact that lockdown has had on the ability to run training courses which contribute significantly to IoD's revenue streams. Restructuring has taken place, resulting in several redundancies, and greater emphasis has been put into making training and events available online. This has provided our members with greater access to a wider range of programmes than they have had previously.

### **Branch Sponsors**

Our strong stable of branch sponsors has continued their support with all the sponsorship agreements that have expired in the last 12 months having been renewed. We sincerely thank Duncan Cotterill, Findex, Intepeople, New Zealand King Salmon, Port Nelson – and also national sponsors ASB and Marsh – for their loyalty and contribution which has enabled our branch to deliver a strong line up of events throughout the year and provide increased value to members. We are on track to end the year with a modest surplus.

### **Branch Committee**

I wish to acknowledge the work of our branch committee – Leeson Baldey, Ru Collin, Joe Ferraby, Olivia Hall, Pip Jamieson, Tracy Johnson, Darren Mark, Euan McIntosh, Andy Rowe and Venus S Guy. So much change in one year creates a lot of work which is duplicated across the multiple organisations and workplaces that people serve. We are very grateful for their continued (voluntary) input on your behalf to ensure our branch is reflective of Te Taihupū's evolving governance landscape and needs. On behalf of the committee, I also wish to express our sincere thanks for the commitment, thoughtfulness and aptitude with which our branch manager, Karen Goodger, approaches her role. We are indeed fortunate to have her at our branch. The year has certainly held its challenges for her but she has approached them all with good humour and always with you, the members, at the core of what she does.

### **Concluding comments**

2020 have delivered us a great opportunity to step away from some of our more traditional ways and trial new formats and delivery methods. We are more conscious than ever of the need to deliver value to members whilst also being responsive to the changing world in which we now live. This will become a key focus for our branch in 2021. We thank you for your membership and look forward to building on the lessons of this year in our continued evolution as Te Taihupū's leading governance thought leadership, support and networking organisation.

Sarah-Jane Weir  
Chair, Nelson Marlborough Branch