

## **Chair's Report**

Tēnā koutou katoa. On behalf of the Institute of Directors Wellington Branch committee, I am delighted to provide a report on the 2025 year.

I'd like to warmly acknowledge all of you as our Wellington Branch members. We are the second largest crew in the country and I'd like to thank you for your support and interest in governance, and the IoD in particular. You are making a difference! Never doubt that.

Your membership endorses what I especially treasure about governance; and that is the notion that none of us are as clever as all of us. Boards are inherently about helping each other, and the organisations we are part of, to be wildly successful and impactful ... to be the very best we can possibly be.

What's not to love about that?!

### **Branch committee**

Branch committees are responsible for connecting the IoD to the interests of local members - providing them with opportunities to participate in governance related activities, facilitating excellence in governance and education and providing networks to grow our members' effectiveness. As I said last year, we love this role and ask you to keep in touch with us to tell us what we are doing well and especially where you see opportunities for improvement. And do let us know if we can ever provide connections for you – to people or resources.

Our aspiration for 2026 is that we continue to deliver a series of kick arse and super engaging events, and this year we want to not just deliver great events but lift our game to market them in an effective and relatable way to our members.

We will achieve this:

- By incorporating the Top 5 issues in our content –
- Governing for growth in a low-productivity economy
- The impact of the geopolitical climate on market access, strategy and risk
- The rise of AI agents of change and the governance of automated decision-making
- The critical role of the chair–CEO dynamic in board effectiveness
- The evolving use of committees and advisory boards, and what good design looks like
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- Through our commitment to grow engagement
  - by drawing on our contacts to bring you wonderful speakers,
  - by continuing to refine our event formats to ensure you feel super welcome and able to meet people
  - by bringing fresh energy to the events and drawing on our Senior Directors experience
- all interactions will be underpinned with a deep empathy for people and the planet
- and we want to ensure we bring a genuine sense of partnership in bringing more affinity and appreciation for te ao Māori
- manaakitanga will continue to be a very conscious way of operating for our committee especially when we are hosting events

Although the IoD is a governance-focused organisation, the role of our Branch Committee volunteers is very much a hands-on one. We are there to support our Branch Manager Jill Dawson and Branch Executive Holly Pears, deliver a wonderful year of events which will challenge, inspire and inform you by providing connections and insights on a range of topics from a diverse spectrum of speakers and panellists. This year we also want to bring more operational governance insights and “how to” sessions to you.

I took on the role of Branch Chair in 2023, and I am so grateful to work with an incredibly accomplished Branch Committee team. My sincerest and warmest thanks to our members –Anne Urlwin, Mike Devonshire, Nives Botica-Redmayne, Rachel Farrant, Jackie Lloyd, Brad Olsen, Pania Gray, , Kenny Tsui, and Murray Sherwin - who have all provided wonderful service and insights during the last year. I’d also like to thank Garth Cowie who resigned from the committee earlier this year due to family commitments, and Herman Visagie who steps down today as he takes on the role of GM, Governance Leadership Centre at IoD. Both committee members have provided a wealth of knowledge, insight and commitment to good governance and we thank them.

### **Wellington Branch update**

Today’s 36th AGM sees your branch in good shape. While we didn’t meet our ambitious national growth target of 1.31% (translating to a total of 2,285 members) we were pleased to largely maintain our membership by the end of a tough 2025 at 2,202 members. A few other statistics are also worth mentioning; 42.3% of our members are female (up by 1.6%) and 13.2% identify as Māori, which is an increase of 1% on last year. Of course, both of these statistics illustrate that there is

some way to go to bring women and Māori to parity in our branch membership with their representation in society. We will continue to work on this.

2025 was a challenging year for many in Wellington and we were pleased our membership levels remain relatively steady – just a 2% decrease. Our strategy for membership levels has been a pull rather than push one. We want our events and reputation to pull members in rather than having to actively recruit, that said we are keen to lift membership this year and would welcome your support in bringing along prospective members to our events and suggesting that they get in touch with us if they'd like to know more.

The Wellington branch delivered 42 events in 2025, up by six on the previous year.

We were delighted to receive positive feedback about the events we did hold. Special highlights for me were our annual dinner and having Tracey Bridges and Stephen Jacobi share some thinking and perspectives about what makes us as New Zealanders uniquely placed to navigate uncertainty and thrive. It was also terrific to have Michael Ahie, Ngā Ruahine, Ngāti Ruanui share his perspectives on how to building trust and shared sense of purpose are key tenets of a high performing chair.

We welcomed a new Distinguished Fellow in our region. Our congratulations to Kevin Atkinson – well deserved. We will present Kevin's award at a Hawke's Bay event in the coming months.

### **Sponsorship**

Our sincere thanks go to our partners and sponsors: ASB, Marsh, Dentons, Wellington Branch sponsor BDO Wellington, and regional event sponsors , BDO Manawatū and PWC Hawke's Bay, along with our event and Governance in Government series sponsor, KPMG. Your continued support throughout the year is enormously appreciated and your level of engagement makes you true partners.

Our warmest thanks ... you rock!

It is so much more than purely our sponsors financial support that we appreciate – it is their energy, interaction with the committee and members, their hosting of events, and their willingness to offer support and advice when needed. Please consider supporting our partners and sponsors, their commitment to good governance is exemplary.

Can I now conclude by seeking your acceptance of my report. Thank you.

[NB: Approver and seconder required].