

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Annual Report 2010/11

It is a year that has been shaped by events. The market conditions have continued to cause uncertainty and change for many members and the Christchurch earthquake has impacted on us all and of course, in particular, many of our Southern members. These events have shaped our year and our priorities.

Early in the year a decision was made to increase the resources at the National Office with a view to providing increased assistance to membership services. This enabled a review of the membership database and a raised level of debt management. A decision was made by Council to take a firmer approach to overdue subscriptions and the additional resources enabled a more intensive debt management exercise to take place.

This resulted in a number of resignations, many of them from those who had not paid or participated in activities for some years. It also addressed the members in our system who were 'gone no address' and students who had not continued with their membership once charges came into effect, as well as some 'perpetual' students in the database. Removing these from the database has given a more accurate picture of our active paying membership. We were also able to talk to members who were committed to the institute but due to the difficulties within the industry were contemplating resigning. The one on one personal approach worked well to resolve some of these cases.

The increased resource more than justified itself with the Institute collecting more in membership fees in 2010/11 than in any previous year. Unfortunately, at the end of this programme of work being completed the staff member left to start a new life in Australia. It was felt prudent to review the reappointing of this position until the 2011/12 financial year.

Student membership still remains strong with recruiting as part of the student orientation programmes taking place each year. There has also been an increase in student involvement at the Chapter Board level with more than one Institute represented on some Boards. Students have also taken the initiative to set up a NZIOB Facebook page to better enable communications within the student body.

The Institute had budgeted for a deficit in 2010/11 but efforts over the year to increase revenue and reduce expenditure have improved the position and the annual audited accounts presented at this AGM reflect a better result than anticipated. I would also like to thank here, our National Honorary Treasurer, Grant Ewen, for the considerable effort he extends on the Institute's behalf. It is much appreciated.

The NZIOB newsletter, Building Networks, was relaunched as a monthly e-newsletter compiled by our Administrative Assistant Brigitte Taudien who gathers items of news, event bulletins and articles submitted by our members and ensures this goes out every month. My thanks go to Brigitte and our members who contribute to our in-house newsletter. Brigitte also updates our other face to the world, our website.

Our third communications platform, the NZIOB magazine Progressive Building, gained a new editor in 2010. The magazine has gone from strength to strength with outgoing editor Mark Longley at the helm and our thanks go to Mark Longley and the team at AGM for their vision and making this publication such a relevant and readable success. We look forward to working with new editor Jazial Crossley and continuing the high standards the magazine has set.

The highlight of the Institute's social calendar remains, of course, the NZIOB Awards for Excellence in the Building Professions. The 2010 Awards were held at the Rendezvous, Auckland in August, with over 500 people attending the function. It was also a record year for award entries and saw the introduction of a new award for Sustainability. Special thanks to GIB, our partner, and the award category sponsors who make this event possible.

Last year we welcomed in a new President Elect, Samir Govind, formerly President of the Southern Chapter. Samir had his first official overseas visit to our Australian counterparts curtailed by the first earthquake in September. His second visit to meet our AIB colleagues was due to take place a day or so after the February quake. Following the first earthquake we immediately introduced a support package for our members and their families and are very aware of the long hours and efforts our Canterbury members have had to endure over much of the year.

Our relationship with the AIB and its CEO, Robert Hunt remains excellent and we hope to reinforce the ties we have and join them in their 60th Anniversary celebrations over the coming year.

Finally, I would like to thank President, Martin Fahey and President Elect, Samir Govind, for their support and advice over the last year. I would also like to extend my thanks to our other National Councillors, members of the Chapter Boards, the AIB, Construction Industry Council, and our partners and sponsors. We look forward to a challenging year ahead.

Rick Mason
Chief Executive
NZIOB