

President's Column

Our industry is facing an increasing skills shortage at all levels: trades, construction management and consultants. Business is booming, whilst the net number of construction professionals decreases, a situation featured in this issue of Contact. The skills shortage creates opportunities and challenges for CIOB Australasia which is the focus of this article.

To meet the needs of CIOB Australasia members adequately across the region and to position CIOB Australasia as a key player within the dozen different 'construction industries' we cover, the first meeting of the CIOB Australasia Regional Council has decided to embark on the road to a genuine regional structure.

Over the next few months, we plan to establish vibrant and effective Centres in key locations throughout our Region. Each Centre will be responsible for running events, liaising with local Universities, attracting new members and engaging with government and industry within its State or Nation and, within our limited resources, will be appropriately funded.

The role of the Regional Council and our management team will evolve from one of 'hands on' doing the work, to a role of coaching, mentoring and supporting each Centre as it evolves to service CIOB Australasia members and the construction industry in its area. The other key focus of the Regional Council will be the strategic issues of working with CIOB International to adapt services and qualifications to meet the needs of our members and industries.

The first step along the road has been taken. A

NSW Centre has been created as an entity in its own right and a committee is being formed to focus on growing and promoting CIOB Australasia in NSW and the ACT.

Before the year's end I hope to have visited Queensland, New Zealand and Western Australia, in addition to NSW and my home State of Victoria, with a view to meeting members and our volunteer leaders in each of those places to help them kick start the Centre activities.

The challenge facing you as CIOB Australasia members is to get involved and to support your local Centre – you don't need to commit huge amounts of time to make a significant difference. A locally vibrant CIOB Australasia will contribute to the debate and be a part of the solution needed to attract new people to our profession – they are desperately needed. Contact details for Centre Chairs are in this newsletter; I challenge you to become a part of the solution!

The task facing the Regional Manager and Council is to package and simplify processes to help the Centres deliver events and services efficiently and effectively across 1/8th of the globe. We need to ensure maximum benefit is derived from every hour of volunteer effort; and that from your perspective as volunteers you enjoy the experience and find opportunities to network and grow professionally.

One key plank in this process will be the adoption of a new constitution for the region. The final details are being negotiated by our IPP Brian Naylor at the International Board



meeting in Bahrain as I write this article. All members will receive a copy of the constitution, as soon as it is finished, for discussion and comment prior to an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) to be called to vote on its adoption.

Any questions, thoughts or ideas for growing CIOBA generally or in your area will be welcome. You are invited to telephone me on +613 969 8684 or email patw@mosaicprojects.com.au with your input.

Patrick Weaver

President, CIOB Australasia

CBC Schemes

The Chartered Building Company and Consultancy Schemes (CBCs) are a vital part of the CIOB, the industry's leading Professional Institution for construction management. Whilst individual CIOB membership reflects the individual member's professional knowledge and experience, the CBC schemes take the Institute's membership into a business perspective.

Current thinking and initiative in the construction industry encourages the highest standards of quality. An organisation of any size, be it a construction company or consultancy, should demonstrate that it manages its operations efficiently, employing and managing competent, trained staff and sub-contractors. These organisations will comply with industry and safety regulations and 'Best Practice' and, above all, deliver a first class service to their customers.

CBCs aim to offer such excellence. Their status cannot be bought. Rigorous qualification requirements are in place for their executive directors or partners, who are expected to see

to the continuous development of their staff at all levels.

Chartered Building Company.

The Chartered Building Company scheme was set up to allow you, as a client or customer, to recognise a professional construction organisation. Employing a Chartered Building



Company will see your project completed to a high standard, with professionalism, speed and efficiency.

All CBCs are required to sign up to and abide by a Code of Professional Conduct.

Chartered Building Consultancy

The Chartered Building Consultancy scheme consists of respected and responsible



consultancies, managed by professionally qualified and well-trained staff, that offer an expert and economic service. All CBCs sign a Code of Professional Conduct, and this must be adhered to.

It is a little known fact that Lt. John Chard of the Royal Engineers, the commanding officer at the battle of Rorke's Drift (dramatised in the film Zulu) had a Quantity Surveyor with him to help with his work. Early on the morning of Wednesday 22 January, 1879; as the Zulu's were starting to move into position to attack the supply station, Chard asked the QS to estimate the likely number of attackers. The QS promptly replied 20,297 Sir! Chard congratulated the QS on the precision of his estimate and asked how he had arrived at the figure? The QS replied 'Well Sir, I can count 297 of the Zulus on that ridge and I estimate there is another 20,000 in the valley behind!'

CBC Members in Australasia:

SGA Property Consulting.	Chartered Building Surveying Services. Director Stephen Allen. 61 2 9238 0688
Page Kirkland Group	Multi disciplined property consultancy. Director Alan Page. 61 2 9283 7311
Building Knowledge.	Specialist construction consultancy. Principal Philip Sanders. 61 (0) 401 010 202