

President's Address

To say the least, my two years as President has been interesting.

My intention was to use my term to settle the administrative framework for the Region and to a large extent we have been successful but the work is not complete.

The Region has evolved successfully into a 'centre centric' organisation with centre committees established in Auckland, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney and the capacity to grow. Events are also now semi-regular occurrence in Christchurch, Newcastle and Wellington.

The centre chairs and their committees are the first group of people I would like to thank for their support over the last two years. I also want to encourage their continued enthusiasm because in a region the size of Australasia it is absolutely critical the Centres develop into the 'face' of CIOB in their respective communities for us to be successful as an institution for good in the construction industry.

The development of the Region's professional office staff has been the greatest innovation and continues apace. Elizabeth remains our manager and now has two part time staff and a 'proper office'.

Robyn has joined the team this year and has the primary task of helping people through the route to membership. The efficient processing of membership enquiries and providing meaningful help to people along the different routes to full corporate membership is critical if we are to continue to grow. Membership did not reach my personal target of 500 (we are currently at 400) but we are growing and with Robyn in place there is a simple point of connection from identifying an interested person to starting them on the route to membership to their joining CIOB.

Jodi has been wonderful – she is the lead person for the organising of events across our whole region and has become increasingly skilled in finding presenters and arranging the events. This takes a significant load off of the centre committees and allows the committees to focus on developing their community. Certainly the professional members of CIOB should take a lead in identifying potential speakers and topics of interest but knowing the administration of the events is then in capable hands is great. Certainly our experience to date suggests the key driver for membership in the region has been the quality of events we run in our centres, frequently in collaboration with other associations and institutions.

The other key focus for growth has been developing our links with the Universities. This is a multi faceted process managed by our Education Committee, supported by Liz, helped by Jodie:

- Most universities have a CIOB member acting as liaison, usually someone from the Centre committee
- We have distributed framed certificates recognising the Universities that have AIB endorsed courses – the final presentations will occur over the next few months. This recognition will continue for at least another three years.
- Our Education Committee under Patrick Zou has been instrumental in awarding building students and issuing research grants. We are definitely making a useful contribution in this area and several of CIOB's international awards have been won by local students. I thank the members of the Education Committee for the efforts and wish them every success in the future.

Finally Elizabeth. She has been at the forefront of developing our region, not to mention CIOB Internationals budgeting processes (we were one of the early

adopters), establishing office systems that work, establishing a 'proper office', training her staff and helping grow CIOB across the region. Our partnership has been central to the successes achieved to date and I know Liz's knowledge and experience will make the work of our incoming President and Council as easy and effective as possible. There is a fine balance between the role and responsibilities of the Region's Council and the professional staff. It is a partnership and I feel we are very close to the optimum balance for the long term success of our region.

I certainly wish to place on record my appreciation and thanks to all three ladies for a job well done and wish them every success in the future. We would not be where we are without them.

Our staff do not work in isolation, they are a part of the international team, led by Michael Brown, Director International, and managed by Fabio Casula, Head of International. The way 'international' has developed over the last two years has been great and the support I have received from our CEO Chris Blythe, Michael and Fabio has been fantastic.

Last but not least, the Vice Presidents and Council members must be acknowledged. The Region cannot function without a Treasurer, our 'glue' is the Contact newsletter published for the last time this month by Gerald di Corpo – Gerald has shaped the newsletter into a really effective tool for the Region and has been its editor since the Region started. The Vice Presidents have been influential in many ways and our retiring IPP Brian Naylor has been a key part of the now completed International Board. Thank you all for your support and guidance.

Now onto unfinished business.

The drafting of our new regional constitution has been delayed, I was hoping this election would be based on the new constitution but the work needed to evolve CIOB's overall governance structure is taking longer than expected. This important step will occur later this year.

The CIOB governance structure is evolving to a well defined plan. We have just elected a new set of trustees, key committees being formed and importantly a new body, the 'Members Forum' has been created. This body will meet regularly and bring together the leadership of all of CIOBs components to provide an effective forum for the formulation of ideas and to ensure members input to CIOB decision making processes. I am pleased to have had an influential role in shaping this body and hope it will grow to become the centre of thought and discussion within CIOB and our profession.

Finally we have much work to do to build a constructive relationship with all of the professional associations in and around our industry. CIOB's council decided a few weeks ago that it could not continue with the existing agreement with AIB based on joint recognition of membership. There were problems that AIB appeared unwilling to act to address. However, we are now in the position where we can develop new ways of working together to benefit our industry and CIOB must always be prepared to work for the common good and collaborate with all professional associations.

The last two years have been a wonderful experience and I certainly look forward to the next couple as IPP and also as Gerald's replacement as the editor of Contact.

Thank you all.