

NEWSLETTER June 2002

Introduction

Thanks for the responses to the first newsletter and my apologies for taking longer than I intended to get around to the second one.

A colleague pointed out the importance of ensuring I involved all the Council in all the activities I strive to get up to as President and said a quick list of all councillors members would be important. They are:

- Charles Hett,
- Anne Lord,
- Christine Ormrod,
- Brian Lenehan, and
- Herwig Raubal.

So here is what I have to report this time.

1. Work of the different committees

Below I have concentrated on providing a series of reports on the work of each committee. If you have any questions please contact either myself or the chairman of the committee concerned.

Investment Committee – (Membership: Peter Lynn, Brian Lenehan, Greg Lee, Craig Ansley and Mark Weaver). Peter has sent out a note to all members asking for any views on risk free rate of return proposal. The Society is to make a submission on this.

General Insurance Committee – (Membership: Peter Brown, Peter Davies, Janet Lockett, John Melville, Paul Rhodes, Richard Beauchamp, Robert Cole, David Hughes, Stephen Jeffery, Tim Spicer). Peter has circulated a note to all members inviting nominations for the Injury Surveillance Ministerial Advisory Panel. This follows an invitation from the Associate Minister of Accident Insurance, Ruth Dyson, inviting the Society to make a nomination.

Life Committee – (Membership: Herwig Raubal, Linda Caradus, Doune Connett, John Errington, Eric Judd, Linda Page, Ian Perera). The submission re Life Office Tax was completed and circulated to all members. There is expected to be some follow on work for the committee in this area. A review of the Life Act is proposed this year, which will require a submission from the committee.

Superannuation Committee – (Membership: Christine Ormrod, Craig Ansley, Mike Robinson, Bobby Schoonraad, Mark Weaver). Work is continuing on a revision to PS2.

Conference – (Membership: Peter Brown, Neil Christie, Anton Gardiner). Reminding everyone again the dates are 13 14 15 November and the location is Rotorua.

Human Rights – (Membership: Anne Lord, Murray Hilder, John Melville). Discussions are on-going with the Human Rights Commissioner on reviewing and updating the current Insurance Guidelines.

There has been some publicity on a recent case on whether or not a person with a history of depression could have this excluded from their insurance cover. Apparently discussions on this are continuing and Anne has an involvement.

Mortality Investigation – Progress is continuing and the results will be available in a paper presented at the Conference in November.

Education Committee – (Membership: Keith Woolnough, Peter Davies, Paul Rhodes, Steve Taylor, Peter Yeates). First my apologies to Keith Woolnough on missing out the report on his committee last time. Unfortunately Keith is leaving for overseas so will be stepping down from the Committee. Keith has headed up the committee for some time and completed the role in a quiet, efficient manner. Thanks Keith. Charles has taken on the role of finding a successor and also working with the committee on what are the New Zealand views on the new U.K. exam format. I understand Jonathon Turner is to join the committee.

2. Other topics

Lunches – Both Wellington and Auckland are going well. In Wellington it is hoped to use these occasion to build more links with Government by inviting various appropriate speakers along.

Mid-winter functions – Linda Caradus has fixed a dinner on Saturday 22 June in Wellington. Peter Davies may be fixing an Auckland function.

Property (Relationship) Act – I have yet to hear back from Bernie Higgins who is working on a draft for guidelines for the new Act but am confident they will be ready soon.

Sessional meetings – We have 2 sessional meetings fixed:

- Hamish Farrar and Richard Johnson are presenting a session entitled "A review and discussion of the material covered at the most recent Australian professional course." The purpose of the session is firstly to provide information on what is covered on a professionalism course, and secondly to generate discussion on NZ professional standards. The initial presentation is on Thursday 13 June, 5.00 p.m. at the Wellington Club, with a meeting in Auckland planned for July.
- Ben Coulter is presenting a session on "Genetic Testing and Insurance". The session will be based on the "Genetics in Society 2001" paper presented to the IAA 2001 convention. Starting with some background information on genes and genetic testing, Ben will then look at the implications of genetic testing for the insurance industry. Lastly Ben will look at what NZ and other countries have done to date on the issue and discuss where we go from here.

NZSA Website – the Website is now up and can be visited at www.actuaries.org.nz Although there is a lot of information there already, it is not totally complete, especially the Publications Section which will include all our Professional Standards and Guidance Notes. There is no Members Only Section at the moment but this is something being considered for the future. Feedback on the website would be appreciated, especially broken links or incorrect information. If some of the information under "Actuarial Career" is considered to be out of date – a volunteer to re-write would be much appreciated! Please send feedback to society.actuaries@clear.net.nz

Papers published on the Treasury Website - Bernard Reid and Mike Swanton are reviewing the paper "The economic of population ageing". The comments will be presented to Treasury. There are a number of interesting papers published on the Treasury site and we will be making regular comments on all those of actuarial interest.

Relationships with Australian Institute – I am keen to see the New Zealand Society develop a closer relationship with Australia. For a start we have a large number of members who qualified under the

Australian rules and a large number of students working on the Australian exams. But what type of relationship do we want with our Australian colleagues? I feel that as a Society we need a position on this and welcome all comments from members.

Nina Herries - Nina has won the Charles M Stern award for the best 300/400 exam performance of any overseas student finishing their exams this year. We have had some successes with Kiwi's winning awards in the past but this one is a major success.

Overseas Professional Standards - Members of the UK Institute practising in New Zealand should note that, with effect from 1 June, the exemption from the UK professional standards will cease, for example they will need to comply with GN9 for actuarial reports on superannuation schemes. The Society is looking at which standards are likely to apply to members of the New Zealand Society practising in New Zealand, but individual members of the UK Institute will need to consider how this change affects the work they are undertaking.

3. Council's 2002 strategies and objectives

I have set out again the Council's strategies and objectives for 2002.

Strategies to be achieved over 2/3 years:

- A. Gain recognition as a credible profession with Government.
- B. Achieve clarity in relations with overseas organisations.
- C. Ability to easily communicate with all members.
- D. Facilitate members' development.
- E. To gain wider recognition for actuarial thinking and practice.

Objectives for current year and how they relate to above strategies:

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 1. Establish Guidelines for Government submissions. | (A, C,E) |
| 2. Achieve vibrant conference. | (C, D) |
| 3. Set up Society website. | (A, B, C, D) |
| 4. Provide support for a strong Government Actuary's Office. | (A, B,E) |
| 5. Produce a recognised submission on Life Office tax. | (A) |
| 6. Complete Human Rights guidelines. | (A, D) |
| 7. Review PS2. | (A, D) |
| 8. Hold more sessional meetings | (D) |
| 9. Participate in work on international accounting standards | (B,E) |

We are making progress on some but by no means all of these.

Mark Weaver
President
June 2002