



Richard Geisler
President

NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2005



Linda Page
Vice President

Council Notes

The AGM will be held at 4:30pm on 29 November, at the Bruce Mason Centre, Takapuna, Auckland. In addition to the AGM business agenda, two important draft documents will be discussed:

Proposed Professional Standards Process
and Content Template
Revised Professional Code of Conduct

These two committees under *Doune Connett* and *Charlie Cahn* will be offering their initial recommendations for comment in these very important aspects of governance of actuaries in New Zealand. It is Council's intent to demonstrate the Society's ability and commitment to remain self-regulating under any revised laws governing the financial service industry.

We are hoping for a good turnout as it follows the Life Forum at the same venue (see the Life Committee report). So for those attending the forum, please plan to stay a bit longer and take part in the meeting.

Nominations sought

Voting members should have received nomination forms along with the Notice of the AGM. Nominations are sought for 4 council seats and for the President. So many opportunities to serve. I encourage you to consider becoming a candidate. If you have any questions, please contact any Council member. Nomination close 5pm on 21 October.



Brian Lenehan
Secretary



Peter Cosseboom
Council Member



Mark Weaver
Past President



Peter Brown
Council Member



Herwig Raubal
Treasurer

Web site under construction

I know the site needs a face-lift and Council has now taken steps to get some design and technical help. It is on a fast-track for completion and will include a members' only page containing the rules of the Society and member contact information (if you gave permission requested on the last invoice).

Appointments

The Professional Conduct Committee under *Murray Hilder* has been increased in size from 3 to 5 members as a result of the revised disciplinary process. I am pleased to report that *Ed Robinson* has agreed to serve a 3 year term on that committee.

Council also welcomes *Scott Lewis* to the Conference Committee replacing *Daniel Mussett* who has moved to Zurich.

Student's View – Actuarial Studies by Benjy Trollip

At the end of my sixth form year I was at a loss. I had no idea where I wanted to go in life – what career to pursue. I toyed with law, teaching, accountancy, policing, and even hotel management, but nothing really jumped out at me. Maths was my strength but where were the rewards?

One day our class completed a computerized questionnaire on our skills and interests which spat out our "ideal" career choices. Top of my list was actuary followed closely by conductor (musical, not trains). I did

some light research on actuaries on the internet and liked what I saw, although I must confess I still did not have a very good idea of the work involved.

When you have a goal things tend to fall into place. A few days after doing the quiz I found out that my friend's father was an actuary. I spent an hour with him one afternoon and he gave me valuable insight into the profession. I made up my mind and enrolled in a Bachelor of Science at the University of Auckland. In what was to be my final year at university I decided to try and get a foot in the door and sent my CV to several actuarial firms around the city soliciting summer work. I planned to go back to complete an Honours year or perhaps a Masters but in truth I was growing tired of my studies which rarely had an application in the real world. So when Melville Jessup Weaver offered me full-time employment, I jumped at the opportunity.

I began work in November 2004 in MJW's Auckland office and almost immediately ordered my materials for the April '05 exams. For someone who has never tried it, correspondence study was very challenging. Thankfully, although the content was intimidating, I found the study material excellent. There were ample practice questions and assignments to be attempted under exam conditions. I got the yearned for P's for both my April exams and that was a huge boost.

I've accepted that this will be a long tough journey but I relish the challenge and am reminded:

The greater the difficulty the more glory in surmounting it. Skillful pilots gain their reputation from storms and tempests. Epicurus (Greek philosopher, BC 341-270)

Benjy Trollip joined NZSA in March 2004, and is currently studying for part one.

MED Review

As reported by **David Benison** in our June Newsletter, the Government announced it was undertaking a review of the regulation of financial products and providers. The key objective for the review is to develop an effective and consistent framework for the regulation of non-bank financial institutions, financial intermediaries and financial products.

The paper to the Minister of Commerce (see their website <http://www.med.govt.nz>) gives an insight into the leanings the MED may have towards the outcomes. In particular, regarding the regulation of insurers, they see expansion of the central regulator rather than policyholder agent as the answer. They mention "approved actuarial standards" but give no indication that actuaries would not be self regulated. It is an interesting read, and I am sure you will see more issues/concerns when you go through it.

UK Profession Strategy Review

The Presidents of the Faculty and Institute have released a paper titled "The Actuarial Profession Strategy Review" (see their website). I found it very easy to follow and it will be interesting to see what the submissions are on their three generic strategies. As the paper is addressed to members of the Faculty and Institute, any responses to this paper should come from individual actuaries, rather than the NZSA Council.

Fine Dining in Wellington and Auckland

I want to thank **Mark Weaver** for organising the Auckland dinner and to Council for supporting both Wellington and Auckland events. Both were great fun and very successful by all accounts. We had interesting guests who I think also enjoyed getting to know the profession a bit better. I think Auckland beat Wellington in numbers

this year but both were better than last year so we are on a good trend line. It was good to see some of the newer members at each event along with us veterans. We thank our special guests, Andrew Gale, President of the IAAus, Barbara Chapman, CEO Sovereign and husband Steve, Peter Hall, ASB Risk Management and wife Debra, Neville Harris, Deputy Secretary, MED and his wife Carol.

Brian Lenehan in print

A future issue of The Actuary Australia will include Brian's article on the New Zealand political scene. We have been invited to contribute quarterly to their publication and the next issue could have your name in it. No need to be an IAAus member, here's your chance to have your say.

CPD opportunities

Richard Bruynel's presentation of his paper on Optimal Investment Strategies was so well received in Sydney and Melbourne it was repeated here in Wellington and may come to a venue near you in Auckland next month. Providing CPD opportunities to members in New Zealand is one of the more difficult tasks for the Council and we appreciate Richard's willingness to present. Any other willing members out there should call me or *Charmaine Green*, chair of the education committee.

The General Insurance seminar was a great opportunity to broaden understanding of general insurance matters from dynamic financial analysis to risk margins, data mining, statistical case estimate modelling and health insurance pricing. It was a sell-out crowd with excellent participation and feedback from the participants.

Committee Reports

Conference Committee

Remember to book the conference into your diary if you haven't already – 26-29

November 2006, Millennium Hotel, Queenstown. More detailed planning of the 2006 conference has begun so if you have any thoughts or ideas, please pass them on to one of the committee.

Life Committee

The programme for the Life Forum includes a wide variety of interesting and topical issues for discussion. The forum will be held on Tuesday 29 November at the Bruce Mason Centre in sunny Takapuna and will be immediately followed by the AGM. Pre-Registration forms will be sent within two weeks with further details.

The Life Committee would like to thank everyone who completed the questionnaire that was sent out earlier. The feedback was extremely helpful to the committee in identifying specific areas of interest to members and their preferences for location and format of the workshop.

New Members

Ordinary

Wilbert van der Heijden
Kelvin Sim
Jialu He

Obituary

Allan Archer sadly passed away earlier in September. Allan was the New Zealand Government Actuary from 1987 to 1989 during which time he was heavily involved in managing the implications for superannuation schemes announced by Roger Douglas in December 1987. While his stay in New Zealand was relatively brief, he built up the reputation of the GA's office and was an excellent communicator to scheme trustees.

Christchurch visit

Did you know the population of Society members in Christchurch has increased two-

fold in the last few months? I had the opportunity to have a lunch with all our members last week just to catch up. My thanks to *Richard Beauchamp* for making the arrangements.

Last Quarterly Report

As this is my last Newsletter as President, I will say again...

Keep in touch

Richard Geisler
President