

## Newsletter JULY 2003



### 1. Changes to Council

I am pleased to welcome Ric Geisler to Council. Ric came to NZ from the US back in 1996 and is a well-liked and respected Wellington-based actuary. He brings with him knowledge of, and skills in, the general insurance area. While initially reluctant to take on the role of a member of Council due to the idea of simply wanting to do non-work related tasks outside the office, I am please Ric said yes.

Ric has replaced Charles Hett, whose membership of Council goes back to 1999. Charles will be spending time in the UK over the next few months working on a particular project and felt that, as he was bound to miss a number of meetings and generally not be available for any issues arising here in NZ, it was an opportune time to step down. All Council would like to thank Charles for his efforts and recognise the particular skills and approach he brought to discussions at Council meetings. Charles of course also took on the organisation of the Wellington lunches. This will now transfer to Richard Bruynel.

### 2. Committee reports

**Conference Committee.** The location and dates are all agreed and are 14 to 17 November 2004 at the Napier War Memorial, Hawkes Bay with accommodation at the Scenic Circle Hotel. It would have been wonderful to have gone to Queenstown as suggested by some overseas visitors at the last conference but sheer prudence and the importance of ensuring we attract the maximum number of students was an overriding factor. The format of the conference will change with a start on the Sunday afternoon and finishing Wednesday lunch time. The committee appreciated all the feedback on the last conference and have taken this into the planning of the 2004 event.

**Education Committee** As part of the thinking of the need to “move closer to Australia”, Charmaine Green will be liaising with Catherine Beall, Executive Office, Australian Institute to see if we can arrange matters so that new students can limit their communications on exams etc to Australia and not be required to go via the UK. The Committee is also interested in expanding its role to look at CPD.

**Experience Investigation** Linda Page is working on this and looking at opportunities to work more closely with Australia.

**Human Rights** Anne Lord will be sending out a call to all members re joining the committee. The focus of the Committee over the past couple of years has been on developing Guidelines for Health Insurance. These guidelines are now complete and the Committee is now looking to work with the Human Rights Commission as they review the Insurance guidelines, and address other issues from a wider range of areas as they arrive. There are no specific outstanding issues. The main focus will be to develop and maintain relationships with the HRC and industry bodies, and continue to promote awareness within the profession, so we can make a valuable contribution on issues in the future.

**Investment Committee** A submission was made to the Ministry of Economic Development MED on the Disclosures of Interests by Directors and Officers. Peter Lynn has circulated a draft Guidance Note "Treatment of Deferred Tax Liability/Asset for Unrealised Capital Gains/Losses" to all members and asked for comments by 25 July. Follow up meetings with members will be arranged to discuss the draft. This is an area where actuaries are well qualified to have an input as it involves issues of equity and the timing of payments.

**Life Committee** The committee is talking to Richard Clarke, the Law Commissioner re the review of the Life Act 1908. A copy of the terms of reference of the Law Commission review were circulated. Any member with a view to express on the review should send their comments to Herwig Raubal. A submission has also been made to the MED on the reporting format of the Life returns. The review of GN5 is continuing and there are some tricky issues to progress.

**Health Committee** This new committee has met under the chairmanship of Peter Davies. I would like to thank Peter for continuing to play a role in the Society following his time as President.

**Superannuation Committee** The new head of the committee, Bernard Reid, organised the submission to the Periodic Review Group, chaired by Vance Arkinstall. The submission was presented to the PRG recently in Auckland. A copy was circulated to all members. I am hopeful the committee will expand on its submission and put together a paper for release by the Society to coincide with the release of the PRG report. This area remains one of frustration to those members who have an interest in superannuation in that for a long time little progress has been made in the on-going savings for retirement debate. It does appear that the task given to the PRG is difficult and that the energy and hope for resolution that existed around the first Todd Task Force in 1992 has gone. The committee is also working with the IRD on the SSCWT treatment for defined benefit schemes.

**General Insurance Committee** The GI committee is planning a one-day seminar for GI actuaries, students and others with an interest in statistical and actuarial GI work. The aim is to provide an opportunity for practitioners to share ideas and discuss current issues. A questionnaire will be sent to members shortly to assist in finalising the content, timing and venue for this day.

### **3. Professional Complaints**

As members will be aware the last President's report in November 2002 advised that there were 3 complaints pending. As at today none of these has been resolved. The current rules mean that there is no process for reporting formally on their status and accordingly no reports have been made to members. Council is aware of the need to progress the complaints as quickly as possible and always within the constraints of the rules and the need to ensure that the matters are all dealt with in a manner that is required from a professional society.

### **4. Pacific Insurance Conference**

The next PIC is in Hong Kong on 12-15 October 2003.

### **5. Philippines**

On 9 to 12 October the IAA is holding a meeting in Manila. Geoff Rashbrooke will be attending and if any other Fellow would like an invitation to the meeting this may be possible to arrange. Catherine Prime, the ex Australian President, is principally responsible for the conference.

## **6. New Fellows**

I welcome Michael Bartram, Richard Bruynel, Peter Cosseboom, David Chamberlain, Michael Hoare and Tracey Teague as newly qualified Fellows. While it was a long time ago, I can still remember the sheer relief and excitement at the time I qualified.

To all those who are nearing completion of their exams, please always feel free to ask any colleague for advice or contact the Entrants and Education Committee for referral to someone you can talk to about your career or with suggestions for how the Society can assist.

## **7. International Accounting**

Ian Perera is managing the involvement of the Society.

## **8. International Relationships**

For the last few years Murray Hilder has sat on the International Committee of the Australian Society as the NZ representative. I will be taking on this role in the future. My thanks to Murray for his input.

Four Council members, Brian Lenehan, Doune Connett, Herwig Raubal and myself, all attended the Australian conference. In fact there were 12 attendees from NZ. As the NZ President I was invited to the meeting of international presidents which included attendees from USA, Canada, England, Scotland, Ireland, South Africa, and Europe. It is difficult to be specific about the value of such meetings. NZ is a very small cog in a very big world but it was good to be aware that we are good at some of the things we do and that we do need to stay aware of what is happening on the international front. The presidents meet every 6 months and the next one is in South Africa in November. It would be good if the NZ president could perhaps attend at least one meeting each year.

## **9. Need to rethink how we organise the NZ Society**

I am strongly of the view that we need to rethink how we manage our affairs. Essentially, if we are to make a difference we need a resource available; preferably a recently retired actuary, who can devote two days a week to progressing all the opportunities there are and to have input to the formulation of policies and implementation of Government policy.

## **10. New Government Actuary**

David Benison started in his new role in May. The feedback I have to date is that he has made a good start. I am sure that all in the profession wish David well.

## **11. Website**

This is the critical means of communicating to members and we are looking for someone to work with Fran Jenkins the Secretary to manage the site.

## **12. Visit of Chris Lewis, Australian President, Friday 17 October**

We have arranged a dinner in Auckland when Chris Lewis, plus possibly Graham Rogers, the new President, will be guests of the Society. I am hoping that as many members as possible can attend the evening. Chris will talk on issues in Australia and on how we are developing closer relations between the two societies. Any ideas on a venue would be welcome.