

## Otago Branch Chair Report 2019-2020

Otago branch membership has remained steady throughout the year & the Otago members have been driving hard to gain new memberships.

I would like to thank all our Executive committee teams who have done an outstanding job this year with the subcommittee tasks they had been set and especially the schools committee (which was a new subcommittee set up) who have had a great year promoting our industry along with the Epic Campaign to schools in our region with very promising results. We had however been struggling somewhat with contractor attendance at our general meetings and have been busy working on ways to gain better patronage due to the capture area the Otago Branch has, we opted for running 2 general meetings of the same content at different locations which did improve numbers, we have also been asking contractors what they wanted to hear which also helped.

The Market in our region has remained steady for the most part especially in the Central Otago Queenstown lakes area although has been showing signs of slowing down to a degree, the QLDC 3 Waters program has been a little slow to get underway but will certainly be expecting a move in the next 12 months as projects are released, The DCC have been a little slow with the large 3 waters tenders but keeping busy with repairs and maintenance, civil market has been strong over the past 12 months with new and old sub-divisions. House prices have been increasing and the demand for new family homes is helping to push this along. Building has been slow however the Otago University has continued to develop some of their buildings and redevelopment.

Staffing for our members again has been challenging this year and with some out of the region non-member contractors arriving to work in the area did not help, with some poaching happening, this is a difficult situation for us to be in, a little reminder to all our members of our code of Ethics point 5. I do however appreciate that our members who are working in the region supporting our local teams where they can.

The Otago regional excavator competition had another fantastic turn out this year with 21 contestants competing on the day, the competition was won by Troy Calteaux from Andrew Haulage, this is the 5<sup>th</sup> time Troy has won this competition and he was up against some very stiff competition, again the help that is offered by our members & sponsors to be able to hold this event and is very much appreciated.

Financially the branch continues to stay strong mainly due to our Hynds construction awards night which once again we had an awesome turnout for, over 320 people attended the evening at Warbirds in Wanaka. Celebrating success with our members is a great way so showcase the projects within our region and brings our contractor's together, this event certainly wouldn't be achievable without the continued support of all our sponsors and the hard work of our secretary Raewyn & the awards committee team, This also brings me into the Hirepool young contractor of the year a special thanks to Hirepool & Aaron Chave who do a great job sponsoring is award.

I would especially like to thank Raewyn Murray our branch secretary who has certainly made a refreshing change to how the branch operates and to all our committee members who have made a considerable difference and strong gains for our branch this year, to our sponsors who without their support we would struggle to run the branch effectively and do the things we do.

On a footnote, although the current climate with Covid-19 has not affected us over the past 11 or so months we will no doubt have some challenging times over the next 12 months. Since our lockdown, the branch along with some of our member's help have been working hard with local councils in regards to upcoming projects within our regions with central governments shovel ready projects, I would especially like to thank Paul Horrell, Glen Campbell, Paul Bisset, Colin Calteaux Scott Sutherland & Ollie Turner who have been leading the charge and working tirelessly in the background with the councils over the lockdown period. We need to come together as an industry and work together, if you need any assistance as always, we are here to help where we can and do not hesitate to contact us.