

Branch Chair's Annual Report 2024

Tēnā koutou katoa. On behalf of the Institute of Directors Canterbury Branch committee, it is my privilege to report on the 2024 year, my third and final year as chair.

Institute of Directors in New Zealand

The Institute of Directors is *the* professional body for directors. It continues to be at the heart of Aotearoa's governance community. We support and enable directors to add value to their organisations and wider communities, and prepare them to positively transform the future.

The IoD in New Zealand began over 40 years ago as a division of the Institute of Directors in the UK. In 1989, the Institute of Directors in New Zealand (Inc) adopted its own constitution and became a separate legal entity. Today, we have more than 10,500 members connected through our regional branch network and national office.

The governance of the IoD's commercial arm is overseen by an appointed Board who have the responsibility to appoint the CEO and monitor the IoD's affairs.

I'm honoured to represent the Canterbury Branch, alongside other regional representatives from our eight branches, on the IoD's National Council. The Council remains the guardian of the IoD, keeping members' interests at the centre of all that we do.

New Zealand faced economic challenges during 2024 and these also impacted on the activities of the IoD. In contrast to the steady growth experienced in recent years, member growth plateaued. The demand for governance courses also softened. Like many organisations the IoD responded by reviewing offerings to ensure they are fit-for-purpose, prudently controlled costs, and matched the supply of courses to demand. Throughout the year IoD's vision "Leading governance for a strong NZ" guided decision-making and continues to be at the heart of the IoD's national strategy for the next three years.

Canterbury Branch Committee

Branch committees carry the responsibility of connecting the IoD to the interests of local members - providing opportunities for members to participate in governance related activities, facilitating local excellence in governance and education, and providing a network for local support. This is not a responsibility that we take lightly and we ask that you support our accountability by sharing your feedback. At the end of 2024 we asked local members for their speaker and event topic ideas and were thrilled with the quality and diversity of responses received. We look forward to bringing these to life in our 2025 event calendar.

Although the IoD is itself a governance-focused organisation, the role of our Branch Committee volunteers is very much a hands-on one, supporting our exceptional Branch Manager Sharynn Johnson and our Branch Executive Kim Gerard.

After several years of welcome stability during the COVID period, 2024 was a year of renewal of our accomplished Branch committee team. I give my heartfelt thanks to departing committee members Daryn Govender, Geordie Hooft, Mark Rogers and Richard Hegan, in addition to Barry Paterson who resigned to fulfil other commitments during the year.

Established committee members Anna Bolland, Jane Cartwright, John Ruge, Mike Killick and Rex Williams, each made exemplary contributions to our Kaupapa. An extra special mention goes to Deputy Chair Hannah Doney for her active support and strategic insight during my tenure as chair.

In 2024, we welcomed new committee members Carol Bellette, James Pomeroy, Lyn McClelland and Sue Sheldon. Right from the start their energy, commitment, and fresh insights have been instrumental to our activities and initiatives.

Branch Manager Sharynn Johnson is an incredible asset for the branch, arranging and attending our many events, as well as managing membership, awards, sponsors and liaison with our national office. Her unwavering dedication to the branch continues to earn our deep gratitude. Any contribution I have made in the role of chair is greatly enabled and amplified through Sharynn's diligence and guidance.

Our Branch Executive Kim Gerard has been an invaluable support to the branch and our many events and initiatives. She will be a familiar and welcoming face to many of you.

Our Approach

For several years the Canterbury Branch has sought to meet the diverse needs of our local members with a strategy based on a greater variety in our offerings. This continued in 2024.

For our in-person events, this means offering different event styles - from the roundtable discussions of Directors Deep Dives, to learning from governors that have "been there, done that" in Fireside Chats, or the speed mentoring approach for Build Your Governance Capability workshops. We also seek to offer events at different times of the day and different days of the week, in addition to a mixture of larger 'Showcase' and smaller event formats such as coffee catch-ups.

Catering for such different needs and interests is entirely reliant on the commitment of not just of our Branch Committee but also the mahi and generosity of local members and guests. They also volunteer their time to support our offerings through sharing their perspectives, engaging their networks, and mentoring others. The increased variety in engagement opportunities continues to provide scope for both different types of involvement, and levels of commitment, from these contributors.

Partners and Sponsors

Taking over from Richard Hegan, Mike Killick ably led our Partners and Sponsors subcommittee in 2024.

A sincere thanks to our principal branch sponsors: Nexia New Zealand, Pivot & Pace and University of Canterbury Business School. Your support throughout the year is greatly appreciated, and your level of engagement makes you true *partners*.

In 2024 we welcomed a new branch sponsor, the IoD's national legal partner, Denton's. Their engagement with local events and connection to speakers from outside of Waitaha Canterbury was greatly appreciated.

A substantial thanks also goes to the local staff of our established national sponsorship partners ASB Bank, Kordia and Marsh Limited, and to our longstanding venue sponsor The George.

It is so much more than purely their financial support that we value – it is their energy, interaction with the committee and members, their hosting of events, and their willingness to offer support and advice when needed.

Please consider supporting our partners and sponsors, their commitment to good governance is exemplary.

Inclusion

John Ruge continued to led and champion our Inclusion subcommittee in 2024. The subcommittee has focused on supporting our events and other offerings to be more inclusive. This covers a wide scope from cultural considerations such as developing our Branch Committee’s cultural competency in te ao Māori, to ensuring that our events are accessible for disabled people. One practical initiative released at the end of the year was an updated presenter’s guide to support content, structure and delivery that makes content fit-for-purpose for members. Ngā mihi nui John for your enthusiasm and insight.

Peer Support

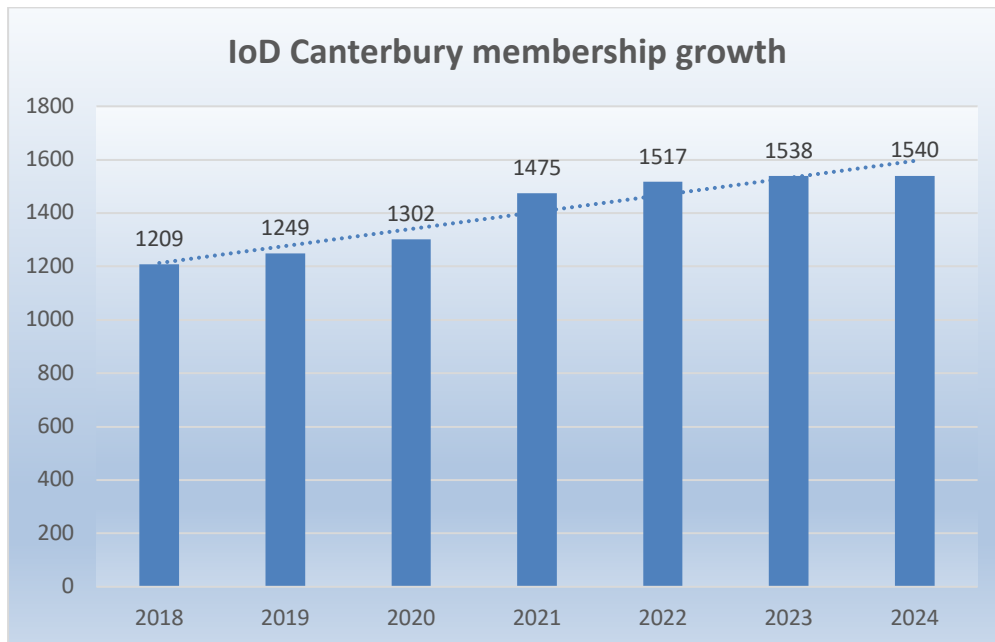
I am proud that through our events and activities many new connections are formed. This interaction regularly leads to members offering advice and support to each other on an informal basis.

Our branch also has a well-established [Peer Support Service](#). This enables members to discuss professional or personal issues with a senior director on a completely confidential basis. My sincere thanks goes to IoD Chartered Fellows Peter Young and Jane Cartwright for continuing to provide this support throughout 2024. We appreciate each of your commitments to supporting and guiding local directors with the inevitable personal and professional challenges they face.

Our Performance

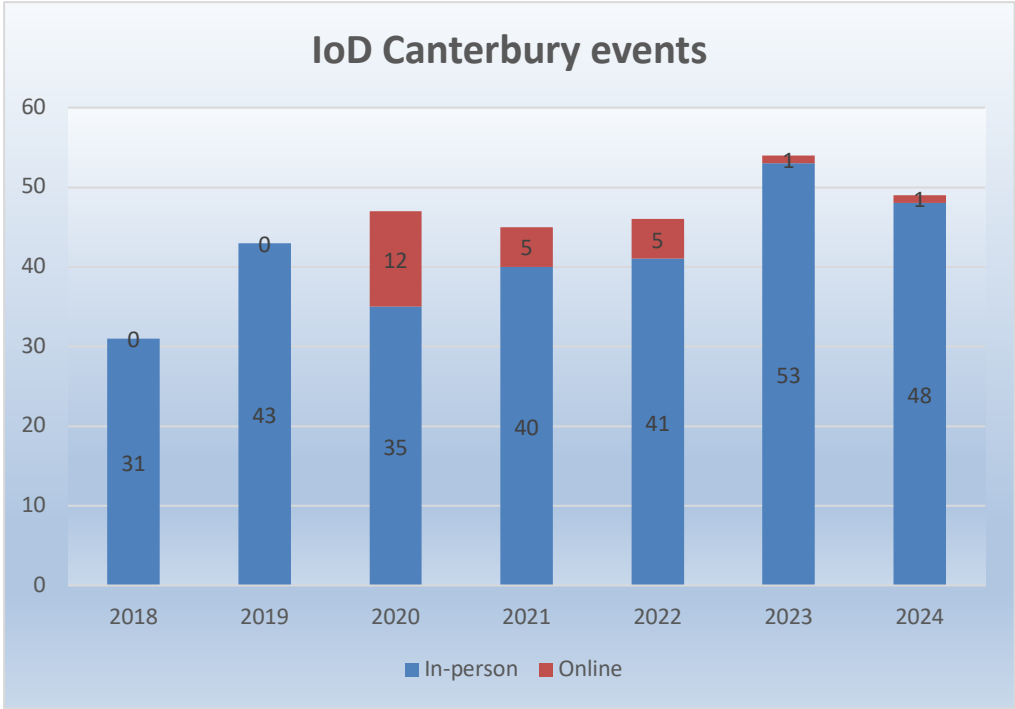
The Canterbury Committee considers our branch’s performance using both activity and quality metrics, in the context of previous comparable periods and current results from across the IoD branch network.

The total number of Canterbury Branch members remained stable.



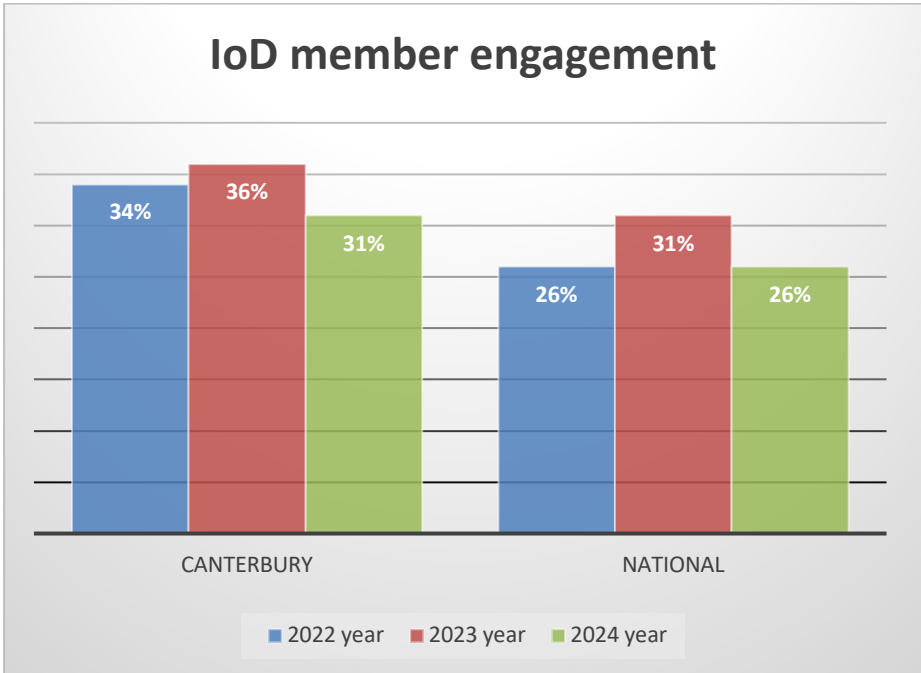
Number of Canterbury Branch members

In May 2024, the IoD held our national [Leadership Conference](#) in Ōtautahi Christchurch. This was the first time the conference had been held outside of Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland. The conference was a great success and strong supported by local members, which resulted in record attendance. Planning around the conference and other scheduling considerations resulted in fewer events being held than 2023.



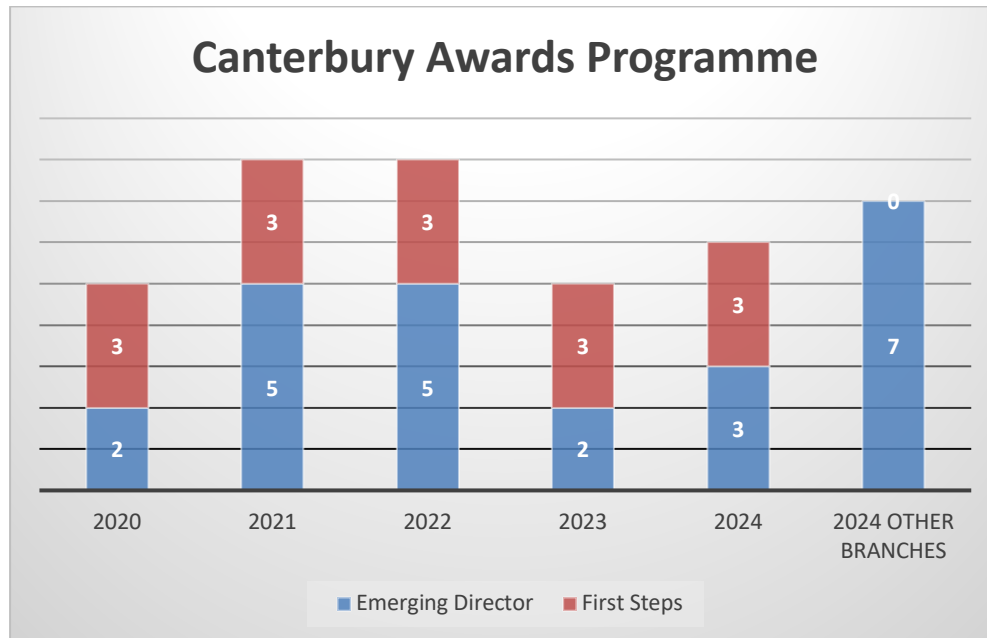
Canterbury Branch events

Similar to national trends, attendance and engagement was lower in 2024. Whilst the local hosting of the national Leadership Conference is likely to have caused some substitution away from our other events, the Committee has also determined that the execution of our event strategy can be further improved. For example, ensuring that our larger format ‘Showcase’ events have both a speaker and topic that are significant drawcards. We are focused on improving our performance for this metric in 2025.



Member attendance of at least one IoD event

This year the Canterbury Branch offered a similar number of awards compared to the prior period and continued to offer substantially more awards than other individual IoD branches.



Number of awards offered in Canterbury and the total for all other branches

Awards

We were grateful for Rex Williams’s leadership of our Awards subcommittee in 2024. Our awards programme continues to offer not just more awards but a more comprehensive package of support for awardees than other branches. My sincere thanks to the full Awards subcommittee, which included Anna Bolland and James Pomeroy. Your commitment and diligence is much appreciated.

We were very proud of the high calibre of applications for both of the two sought after Awards. Congratulations to our worthy 2024 Emerging Director Award and First Steps in Governance Award winners.

Also a special thank you to our host boards and mentors for investing in the future of good governance by supporting these intern opportunities for the directors of the future.

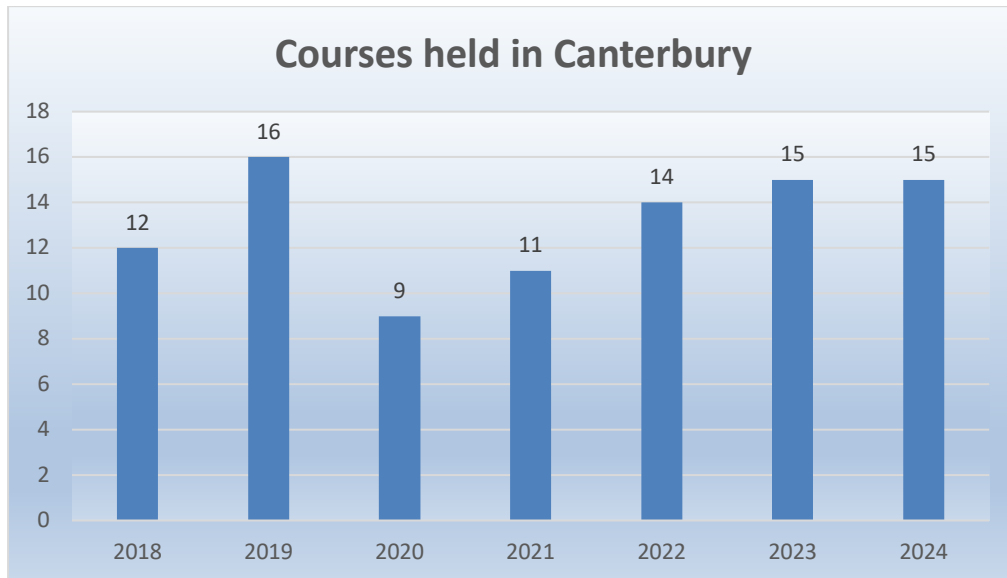
Emerging Director Award:

Recipient	Host board	Mentor
Sam Cullimore CMIInstD	Ashburton Contracting Ltd	Graham Kennedy DistFIInstD
Sophie South MIInstD	Canterbury Scientific	Brian Wood DistFIInstD
Chris Selbie MIInstD	The Christchurch Foundation	Mark Jordan CFInstD

First Steps in Governance Award:

Recipient	Host board (if offered)	Mentor
Andrew Gray MIInstD	Brackenridge Services Ltd	Catherine McMillian CMIInstD
Penny Kibblewhite MIInstD	Bone Marrow Cancer Trust	Steve Wakefield CFInstD
Becs Dondertman		Grant Adams CFInstD

Director development is a critical part of our support of good governance. We were pleased that we have been able to maintain a high number of locally accessible courses for members in 2024 including the outstanding residential Company Directors’ Course.

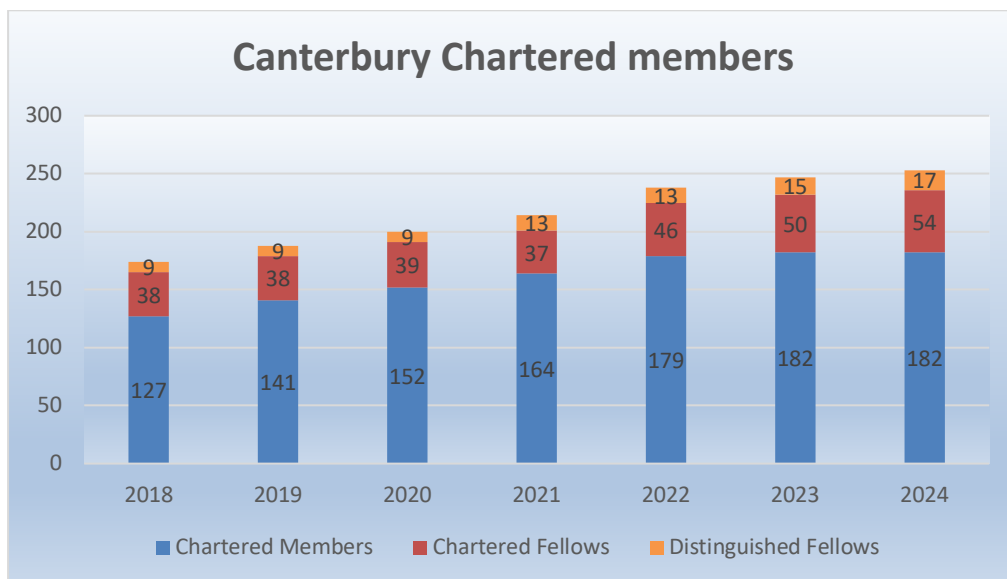


Number of Canterbury courses

Finally, an objective for those who are serious about practising governance is to become a Chartered member. The Chartered designation offers stakeholders an assurance that directors have met professional standards of knowledge and skill that supports them to carry out their duties as a director. Their knowledge, background, character and experience make them role models for other members, their organisations and the community as a whole.

Congratulations to those members who were promoted during the year. One of the most fulfilling jobs as branch chair is to present Chartered certificates to those individuals who have made the investment in terms of time, and money, to demonstrate their commitment to leading excellence in the profession.

It was a special privilege to acknowledge our newest Distinguished Fellow, Sue Suckling.



Number of Canterbury Branch Chartered Members, Chartered Fellows and Distinguished Fellow

Membership promotions

Ali Wilkinson	Chartered Member
Alison O'Connell	Chartered Fellow
Carol Bellette	Chartered Fellow
Christopher Boyle	Chartered Fellow
David Mills	Chartered Member
Declan Smiddy	Chartered Member
Edie Moke	Chartered Fellow
Geordie Hooft	Chartered Fellow
Gerry Brownlee	Chartered Member
Grant Adams	Chartered Fellow
Jim Lee	Chartered Member
Kerian Horne	Chartered Fellow
Leighton Evans	Chartered Member
Maria O'Halloran	Chartered Member
Mark Bowman	Chartered Fellow
Michael Lay	Chartered Fellow
Natasha Rodley	Chartered Member
Nic Hill	Chartered Member
Richie Smith	Chartered Fellow
Ryan Jones	Chartered Member
Sam Cullimore	Chartered Member
Saxon Connor	Chartered Member
Sue Suckling	Distinguished Fellow
Tiffany Scott	Chartered Member

Looking ahead

The Branch Committee's priorities for the year ahead include:

- Transitioning to a new branch chair
- Delivering truly world-class 'showcase' style events that will tackle big topics and create broader networking opportunities
- Continuing to refine the value and effectiveness of our awards programme
- Launching our new mentoring and capability development programme: 'Governance in Action'

On behalf of the committee of the Canterbury Branch of the Institute of Directors, I thank all those who have supported us during 2024. We recognise that our success as a committee is entirely based on working effectively together to achieve the greatest impact.

Iti te matakahi, pangāia
Ki te tōtara pakaru ai

The wedge may be small
But it will split the greatest tōtara



Lloyd Mander
Canterbury Branch Chair
13 February 2025