

## **Chair's Report**

Tēnā koutou katoa. On behalf of the Institute of Directors Wellington Branch committee, I am delighted to provide a report on the 2024 year.

I'd like to warmly acknowledge all of you as our Wellington Branch members. We are the second largest crew in the country and I'd thank you for your support and interest in governance, and the IoD in particular. You are making a difference! Never doubt that.

Your membership endorses what I especially treasure about governance; and that is the notion that none of us are as clever as all of us. Boards are inherently about helping each other, and the organisations we are part of, to be wildly successful and impactful ... to be the very best we can possibly be.

What's not to love about that?!

### **Branch committee**

Branch committees are responsible for connecting the IoD to the interests of local members - providing them with opportunities to participate in governance related activities, facilitating excellence in governance and education and providing networks to grow our members' effectiveness. As I said last year, we love this role and ask you to keep in touch with us to tell us what we are doing well and especially where you see opportunities for improvement. And do let us know if we can ever provide connections for you – to people or resources.

Our aspiration for 2025 is that we continue to deliver a series of kick arse and super engaging events, and this year we want to not just deliver great events but lift our game to market them in an effective and relatable way to our members.

We will achieve this:

- By incorporating the Top 5 issues in our content – return on capital / governance reform / climate as a competitive edge / quantum leaps ahead / the high-performing Chair.
- Through our commitment to grow engagement
  - by drawing on our contacts to bring you wonderful speakers,
  - by continuing to refine our event formats to ensure you feel super welcome and able to meet people

- by bringing fresh energy to the events and drawing on our Senior Directors experience
- all interactions will be underpinned with a deep empathy for people and the planet
- and we want to ensure we bring a genuine sense of partnership in bringing more affinity and appreciation for te ao Māori
- manaakitanga will continue to be a very conscious way of operating for our committee especially when we are hosting events

Although the IoD is a governance-focused organisation, the role of our Branch Committee volunteers is very much a hands-on one. We are there to support our Branch Manager Jill Dawson and new Branch Executive Holly Pears, deliver a wonderful year of events which will challenge, inspire and inform you by providing connections and insights on a range of topics from a diverse spectrum of speakers and panellists. This year we also want to bring more operational governance insights and “how to” sessions to you.

I took on the role of Branch Chair in 2023, and I am so grateful to work with an incredibly accomplished Branch Committee team. My sincerest and warmest thanks to our members –Anne Urlwin, Mike Devonshire, Nives Botica-Redmayne, Rachel Farrant, Jackie Lloyd, Brad Olsen, Pania Gray, Herman Visagie, Kenny Tsui, Garth Cowie and Murray Sherwin and - who have all provided wonderful service and insights during the last year.

### **Wellington Branch update**

Today’s 35th AGM sees your branch in good shape. While we didn’t meet our ambitious national growth target of 1.55% (translating to a total of 2,321 members) we were pleased to largely maintain our membership by the end of a tough 2024 at 2,255 members. A few other statistics are also worth mentioning; 40.7% of our members are female (up by 1.7%) and 12.2% identify as Māori, which is an increase of 0.6% on last year. Of course, both of these statistics illustrate that there is some way to go to bring women and Māori to parity in our branch membership with their representation in society. We will continue to work on this.

The Wellington branch delivered 36 events in 2024, the same number as in 2023. This number was down on our target of 41, as we cancelled five events toward the end of 2024 due to declining registrations. This was a phenomenon across the motū in 2024, but particularly evident in Wellington as we navigated a tough end to the year for so many.

Although we didn't hit our event target we were delighted to receive positive feedback about those we did hold. A special highlight for me was our annual dinner where Brad Olsen interviewed Sonya Williams from Sharesies and Jessie Wong from Yu Mei. Sonya and Jessie spoke with such passion about their businesses, the role of governance and their hopes for the future.

We welcomed four new Distinguished Fellows in our region. Our congratulations to Sam Robinson, Rodney Wong, Dame Fran Wilde and Dame Diana Crossan – well deserved. We will present Fran and Diana's awards at the conclusion of this year's AGM.

### **Sponsorship**

Our sincere thanks go to our partners and sponsors: ASB, Dentons, Brannigans, Intepeople, BDO Manawatū and PWC Hawke's Bay along with our event and Governance in Government series sponsor, KPMG. Your continued support throughout the year is enormously appreciated and your level of engagement makes you true partners.

Our warmest thanks ... you rock!

It is so much more than purely our sponsors financial support that we appreciate – 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.

Can I now conclude by seeking your acceptance of my report. Thank you.

[NB: Approver and seconder required].