

## **HFESNZ AGM 2014**

**Mercure Hotel, Auckland**

### **Report of the President**

An unusual year in a number of ways.

I believe this is the first time that the Society has had the same person holding the position of President twice. I have to admit that I was reluctant to set that precedent when we found ourselves needing a replacement at the last AGM, and my reservations remain. On the whole, I believe, it is better for the Society that we continue to have new ideas and new faces.

However, this is also an unusual year in that we have a real watershed I suspect in the story of the NZES-HFESNZ. I have been more closely involved in international matters in the last ten years, and I sense a number of divergences. There is definitely a North v Shore dialogue brewing (see IEA Report), but there are also marked differences in the relative health of the IEA Federated Societies. Most have struggled for numbers, and to hang onto HFE courses, and I would include us in that group.

This month though we hear from the Institute of Ergonomics and Human Factors (IEHF) in the UK they are poised to receive their long-sought Royal Charter. So, there will be Chartered Ergonomists taking their place alongside other professional bodies to achieve this status. The IEHF member numbers have also grown – not shrunk. And Dave O'Neill the retiring Chief Executive and his team have achieved this within the same recessionary context that has seen course closures and redundancies.

There are other pockets of dramatic success, Chile being one.

I personally find this hugely encouraging. It is also a challenge to us though as they have achieved these gains through practising what we in HFE preach. I could list these practices, but this is one setting where I know that is not needed.

It feels to me like a time for an examination from first principles of what we collectively seek to do, and how we can best do it. The electronic newsletter from Nic was the first step of many I suspect.

If there was no HFESNZ and we were an assembly of like-minded people gathered for the first time and excited about what we could do – how would we use our days from this point on?

That to me is our starting point.

Dave Moore

President. July 2014