**President’s Report 2022 - 2023**

Kia ora koutou.

This has been my first year as CILT NZ President and it has been an honour to lead the Institute this year. It started with a trip to the CILT International Convention in Perth, Australia last year where I had the pleasure of representing New Zealand and meeting with members from all over the world. Never forget that we are part of a global network of transport and logistics professionals and through our Chartered status know that we are valued for the work we do to keep international trade moving.

For the past few years, we have talked about the impact of Covid, but this year must be the year of Cyclone Gabrelle. For those living in the North Island, especially Northland, Auckland and down the East of the Island from East Cape to the Wairarapa, the impact of the devastation to roading infrastructure, bridges and rail is still being felt today.

But of course it is also a year of hope. This year saw the launch of NZs first national freight and supply chain strategy which hopes to improve the productivity and resilience of the country’s ports, freight and shipping sectors.  The sector has become more aware of its environmental impact and is actively working to reduce emissions and build a resilient and sustainable logistics industry. Automation in warehousing, logistics and transport is improving productivity. We are so lucky to be living in a time of positive change.

As for CILT NZ, this year has seen growth in our corporate membership as more companies recognise what we can offer their people. Training, mentoring, peer support, events and networking help people to strengthen their industry knowledge and connect to others to form mutually beneficial relationships. But none of this would happen if it were not for a few special people who freely give up their time to ensure CILT NZ can provide value to its members. It’s time to thank some very special people.

Firstly, I want to thank my wonderful Vice President Suhail Sequeira who has supported me through this year and brought some fresh thinking as well as his wealth of experience to the National Council. Secondly, I want to acknowledge our immediate past President Keith Robinson for his wise counsel when I started in the role.

I also want to offer special thanks to Fiona Knight for so ably representing CILT NZ internationally. As the International Vice President for Australia and New Zealand, she is our link back to CILT International. As our Chartered Institute evolves, it has been important that our corner of the world has a voice. She is also the Awards Convenor, another time-consuming job which she always does with a smile. Fiona has also been a great mentor for me, teaching me the institutional “ropes”.

Next, I want to thank those who have been the force behind our technology platforms. Chair of the Tech Committee, Cormac McBride continues to support the accounting and database systems and assisting with Mailchimp. He is also our National Membership Chair. Ashu Kedia has also added immense value by starting to upgrade our website. Both have been working away unseen to try and improve our member experience and there is more to come on this in the coming year.

Cormac also supports Keith Robinson, who as well as being Past President is also our National Treasurer. Together they keep an eye on our financial position, ably assisted by our Accounts Manager John Knudsen. John provides regular reporting to the National Council and ensures we meet our financial commitments.

Our longest standing National Council member, Murray King is the powerhouse behind our magazine. Sourcing articles editing and writing, we must never underestimate the time involved in pulling the publication together. This exceptional magazine is something I hope all our members read. Packed full of quality articles, this is another example of the value of membership. Murray is also the Chair of our Grading Panel, ensuring the integrity of a chartered membership.

Another one of our hardworking National Committee is Jean- Paul Thull, who looks after our education portfolio and mentoring. Jean-Paul is passionate about the value of learning, the importance of a diverse membership and the nurturing of up-and-coming talent.

Jean-Paul has also been a great behind the scenes supporter of the awards and this year’s annual Forum and together with Keith Robinson, Rob Mayo and Suhail Sequeira they have put in many hours ensuring that we had a quality Forum for our members in 2023.

I must not forget all our amazing section chairs who are the backbone of CILT NZ. Dan Patrick in Canterbury, Michelle McCormick in Wellington, DaveStewart and more recently Paul Koch in the Bay of Plenty and Rob Mayo in Auckland. They are the people who lead CILT across the motu and together with their section committees organise activities and event. Without their enthusiasm and hard mahi there would be no CILT in Aotearoa.

No list of “thank you’s” is complete without mentioning Chris Gunn. Chris has been our Executive Officer since mid-July 2019 and the National Council owe him a huge debt of gratitude for ensuring that everything behind the scenes has been taken care of. From ensuring that we meet our legal obligations, to being the first point of call when people contact CILT, Chris has been there ensuring things are all in order. He has worked tirelessly with the Chairs to increase our corporate membership, ensure our longstanding members are recognized and follow up when bills are not paid. He has also coordinated our newsletters and improved the setup of our meetings. It is with regret and sadness that Chris has decided to retire this year and whoever follows him will have some big shoes to fill.

I cannot mention everyone who has volunteered their time for CILT NZ this year. Apart from those I have already mentioned there are section committee members, members of other committees such as the grading panel and awards committee, trustees, presenters, writers, speakers – all too numerous to mention individually, but nevertheless all an essential part of the CILT NZ family.

My final thank you goes to all our sponsors, especially our national sponsors in 2023 Dexion and Port of Tauranga, and our 2023 Annual Awards Dinner event sponsor Viewpoint Supply Chain (Napier Port). Without your help we would not be able to serve out membership.

I am looking forward to another year where we can make progress on our 3V strategy - Visibility, Value and Viability. As your National President, I encourage you get involved and make the most of your membership. There’s an exciting year ahead of us.

**Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi engari he toa takitini**. It is not my strength alone, but the strength of many that contribute to my success.

Ngā mihi nui

Diane Edwards, CMILT

National President CILT NZ