



GIB BRANCH OF THE YEAR AWARD:

The Branch award is considered by the BOINZ Board each year based on participation, innovation and member value at a local level.

The Institute's Branch network is the arterial vein that ensures members are engaged and informed on a local level. There are 9 branches across the country and their successes are very much linked to their leadership.

Each year our branches are faced with different issues, and it is the leadership teams that need to respond and co-ordinate appropriate responses ensuring seamless member interaction.

Sometimes these issues are significant. In the case of this branch, it had traditionally utilised a single large venue, at very high monthly cost, which over the years had been offset by generous sponsors contributions in return for addressing our member audience. A win-win in terms of knowledge exchange.

These monthly meetings regularly exceeded 100 plus member attendees.

The challenge to the Branch leadership team was a significant rise in venue charges, coupled with pressure from an exponential rise in building consents in the branch area.

With members were working longer hours, the impact was on both work and personal time and getting time to attend these valued learning events. The situation was further complicated by multiple COVID outbreaks in the area. **Face to Face** meetings became an increasingly difficult proposition, and attendances started to drop. And don't even start on travel times.

It was time for a rethink. *"How do we engage and make it easy for members to attend our meetings"*.

There is a song – "Along come John, big talking John..." – but in this case, it was "Along comes Richard, and his side-kick Hasan". And of course, let's not forget the others on the Branch Executive!

This Executive team saw gains to be made in smaller sized meetings, given in the current environment – moving from big monthly events to **hybrid events** where members could choose and benefit from either **face to face** meetings to listen to presenters or **sign-in on with their computer**.

Also, for the first time in many a year, this approach allowed for the organisation of **special boutique site visits** not a task for the faint hearted in the past trying to convince an organisation to host between 100-150 members. By downsizing site visit number expectations, doors opened with host organisations, as they often saw a better health and safety option. Members missing out, could retrospectively catch up via Branch Minutes and the marvels of cell phone photography.

This big change in format, while a function of necessity, and an administrative challenge, is a credit to the Branch leadership. Technically there were traumatic moments – but they got there. Importantly Auckland Branch members reacted positively and now have choices previously not available to them.



GOLD PARTNER



Ladies and gentlemen, please help me welcome all the members of the,

“AUCKLAND BRANCH”

up to the podium to accept the **2021**

“GIB BRANCH OF THE YEAR AWARD”



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