

NZIS YOUNG PROFESSIONALS!



NZIS Young Professionals Executive at FIG Working Week 2016 (Robert Mears, Jono Renwick, Melissa O'Brien, Claire Buxton and Taryn Martin)

Giving Back and Making Connections

*Melissa O'Brien, Chair NZIS Young Professionals & Vice Chair FIG Young Surveyors
Taryn Martin, NZIS Young Professionals Executive Member*

*"We make a living by what we do. We make a life by what we give."
(Winston Churchill)*

THE FIRST PART OF THIS QUOTE NEEDS NO EXPLANATION. WE WORK, WE MAKE MONEY, AND WE USE THAT FOR OUR EVERYDAY LIFE. HOWEVER, OUR IDENTITY IS IN THE VALUES AND MORALS THAT WE STAND FOR AND THE ACTIONS THAT WE TAKE.

Volunteers are key to the success of many professional bodies within New Zealand and around the world, and NZIS is no exception. Local branch-

es, Streams, Divisions, Council and Board are all made up of volunteers, taking their own time to give back to the industry. It is admirable how

much time and effort these volunteers give and if you ever ask any of them “why?” you will get a similar answer: “You give a little to gain a lot”.

Melissa O’Brien, Chair of the NZIS Young Professionals and Vice Chair of FIG Young Surveyors Group, and Taryn Martin, NZIS Young Professionals Executive Member, share their thoughts on volunteering for NZIS and the associated benefits.

Benefits of Volunteering

1. Helping Others

NZIS promotes growth, innovation and excellence in all facets of surveying and spatial in New Zealand. Volunteering your time and energy to NZIS is about helping the industry and the people they serve. Volunteering exposes you to the work of an organisation in a deeper way than becoming a member. You develop a new appreciation for those who give their time to help others, not only within NZIS but also in employment and everyday life.

“Teamwork makes the dream work. You are part of a team helping and encouraging each other and the resulting outcome serves the industry and more.” – Taryn

2. Learn new and transferable skills

Volunteering helps you develop new skills as well as apply current skills in different ways. New skills are developed by being exposed to others working in the industry at different stages of their career. You can learn from and be energised by anyone and everyone. Teamwork, goal setting, group dynamics, planning and implementation are all key skills that can be transferred to other areas of life.

“Being the NZIS Young Professionals Representative to Council has helped me develop my leadership skills. The Council consists of well-respected leaders from each Stream and Division of NZIS. By watching those people, you can identify qualities of leadership that you admire and develop those qualities yourself.” – Melissa

3. Expand Personal and Professional Networks

Volunteering gives you visibility. It exposes you to a wide range of people and provides you with the opportunity to network. It is a quick and easy way to meet new people, and be introduced to others who have similar backgrounds or that have taken similar (or completely different) career paths. It also exposes you to trends and best practices within your profession. It offers you the world regarding learning and professional development.

“Being involved with NZIS has seen my personal and professional network expand. It’s an amazing thing to say that I have colleagues from every region of the world.” – Taryn

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Personal Experiences



Melissa O'Brien

*Chair of the NZIS Young Professionals
and Vice Chair of FIG Young Surveyors Group.*

I am passionate about the surveying industry, the people within it, and the people we help. My involvement with NZIS has seen this passion and energy grow and flow on to my career and life.

Volunteering for the profession has allowed me to travel the world, develop networks, learn new skills and help others. Highlights have included my first NZIS Conference in Invercargill, a SSSI Conference in Melbourne, FIG Congress 2014 in Kuala Lumpur, and FIG Working Week in Helsinki, Finland. All of which have involved a large amount of my own time preparing presentations, and organising events and conference programmes. I have no regrets, all the effort you put in is worth it. The people you meet, the cultures you experience, and the knowledge you gain is invaluable.

Following my involvement with NZIS as Chair of the Young Professionals Group and my involvement with FIG Working Week 2016, I have taken the opportunity to represent Young Professionals at an international level as Vice Chair of the FIG Young Surveyors Group. I am looking forward to learning more about FIG, expanding the Young Surveyors Network and inspiring others to be part of something bigger.

Volunteering for my profession has also opened up doors for my career that I never thought possible and provided me with a world of opportunity. Overall, it has been a very rewarding experience and I am excited about what the future will bring.



Taryn Martin

*NZIS Young Professionals Executive Member,
NZIS Conference Committee
and previously Secretary of NZIS Taranaki Branch.*

Contributing my time to NZIS and the industry has resulted in my career climbing at a faster rate than expected. It has taught me valuable skills to better myself for the profession and opened up windows I did not know existed.

Involvement at national and international surveying events has allowed me to understand the dynamic changes to the industry on national and global scales and how to embrace these changes moving forward, something the company I work for appreciates immensely.

Networking has been a large reward for my time involved with NZIS. What initially started out being additional contacts and mentors locally grew into having a mentor outside my province and opportunities globally.

During recent overseas adventures I re-connected with delegates I met at the FIG Working Week 2016. I saw myself eating 'Dal Bhat' in Nepal with Ganesh Bhatta from the Survey Department, Government of Nepal, and his family. He showed me around the streets of Nepal and shared how the Nepalese cadastre works and their optimum direction forward for Land Titles. I got to share a drink on the edge of the Danube in Vienna, Austria with Eva-Maria Unger (Chair of the FIG Young Surveyors Network) and attended a local event with Eva-Maria and her friends. This opportunity also allowed me to get tips about the best places to explore within their country and what to see 'off the beaten track'.

I also connected a fellow NZ surveying friend with other delegates from the FIG event. My friend was in Italy on a 'work-away' holiday, and the landowner requested some assistance in understanding the boundaries of his property. Using my connections through the Young Surveyors network, I was able to connect my friend with local surveyors where he assisted with a boundary definition. The above experiences would not have been possible without having an interest in the industry, growing my network and giving my time at these events.

4. Career exploration

Volunteering allows you to try different roles and be exposed to different issues and perspectives, without changing jobs. It can help you discover new skills or interests that you were unaware of and is also great for professional experience on your CV. Volunteering gives you visibility and opens the door to a number of career opportunities.

"My involvement in NZIS has seen me exposed to opportunities and role models that have helped shaped my professional career."
– Melissa

5. Be part of something bigger

When you volunteer your time, you are giving back and making a difference. NZIS is involved locally, nationally, and internationally advocating for the industry and helping others. When you volunteer and become involved you can make an impact and become part of something rewarding.

"If you have strong opinions and want to see action, get involved and be the driving force. A little can go a long way." – Taryn

"My involvement with FIG has highlighted that we are often so caught up in our day to day lives we forget about the bigger global issues. Surveyors have a unique skill set and everyone has something different to offer – by working together at all scales we can change the world." – Melissa

NZIS Young Professionals

The NZIS Young Professionals Group aims to inspire the future of the surveying and spatial industry within New Zealand, providing opportunities for networking and professional development in accordance with the vision and values of NZIS. The Group has a large, active and visible membership base throughout New Zealand, networking with other young professional groups such as Young Planners, Engineers and Architects, as well as volunteering for initiatives such as Future in Tech.

If you would like to find out more, please contact yp@surveyors.org.nz or check out our Facebook Page [@NZISYP](https://www.facebook.com/NZISYP)