



Cadastral Surveyors Licensing Board
of New Zealand

CSLB Bulletin No 12

December 2025

Contents

Board Membership

Board Statistics

Professional Examinations – Initial Licensing

Licence Renewals

Notices of Significant Failures

A Reminder About Your Certifying Responsibilities

Offences Under the Cadastral Survey Act 2002

Contact Details

Tena koutou katoa,

The Board has recently reached the next stage in the transition from the old professional examinations, including the cadastral law exam, to the new competency assessment framework for graduates seeking an initial licence. This includes a pilot programme involving 5 pilot participants together with their supervising surveyors. A detailed update on the implementation of the new competency assessment framework for an initial licence will be provided in early 2026.

It is now time to reflect on this year and bring you up to date with the main Board activities since the last Bulletin in April 2025.

Board Membership



Back row (left to right) – Laura Becker Coll McLaughlin, Anselm Haanen (Surveyor-General), Craig McInnes, Pengbo Jiang (Lay member), Colin McElwain (Substitute member).

Front row (left to right) - Clare Tolan, Neale Faulkner (Chair), Phil Napper (Secretary)

Absent – Sundeep Daggubati (Substitute Lay member).

The Board members are appointed by the Minister for Land Information for a term of 3 years. Next year (2026) is the end of the current Boards term.

Board Statistics

The Board reports annually to the Minister for Land Information. The following is some information about licensed surveyors that is included in the Annual Report to 30 June 2025.

- The number of licensed cadastral surveyors has been relatively consistent over recent years and at the end of June 2025 was 763, 5 more than last year. The number renewing their annual licence at 1st July this year for 2025-2026 was 734, compared with 726 last year.
- The vast majority of initial licenses issued continue to be to New Zealand survey graduates from the School of Surveying at the University of Otago.
- The age demographic of licensed cadastral surveyors has seen a consistent decrease in numbers over 50 years of age, with a corresponding increase in the younger age groups, particularly in the 20-29 age band (an increase of 16). The largest age group is the 30-39 age band (213) closely followed by the 40-49 age band (193).
- The oldest surveyor was first registered in 1958 and is still completing survey datasets in Landonline at the age of 91.
- Ethnicity has seen increases in both NZ/European (currently 91%) and Māori (Currently 2%) cultures.
- Gender has remained relatively constant compared with recent years with 10% (78) being female.

Professional Examinations – Initial Licenses

The Board congratulates the following people who obtained their initial licence in 2025, together with their supervising surveyors and support people who assisted them.

Joshua Jarvie	Daniel Mutton	Jarrold Attwood
Paul Tarrant	Hayden Bruce	Guillaume Bourdin
Adrian Branesco	Michael Grieder	Yuwei Ye
Taylor Dunn	Finley Deller	Rory Ward
Rhiannon Barnes	Christopher Wylie	Joash Naidoo
David Collins	Liam Bragan	Quentin Doig
Matthew Arnold	Axel Hohneck	Alysha Ward
Jack Cade	Simon Forrest	Alton Gray
Jarreau Haika	Peter Latu	Jahdal Jordan
Alexander McCulloch	Ken Li	Pierce McLeod
Isaac Milne	Glyn Hunt	Thomas Hinder
George Wood	Adam Churchill	John Shimmin
Hamish Taylor	Michael Ellison	Alexander Moss
Michael Vanderpeet	Justin Venables	Fergus McRae
Matheson Hill (2024)	Hamish Ruddenklau (2024)	Nicholas Hill (2024)

These were the last of the people to obtain their initial licence under the old competency assessment system, and consequently was the largest number of candidates in any one year.

Board members attend the professional interviews each year, primarily as observers of the interview techniques employed in each of the disciplines and the overall process being implemented.

Most of the candidates presented and conducted themselves well this year. Their depth of knowledge and understanding was generally very sound, with some real standouts, which is encouraging for the future of the profession.

Licence Renewals

Every year, the Board receives a significant number of licence renewal applications from licensed cadastral surveyors who do not qualify under the '3 CSD provision'. Virtually all of these surveyors seek renewal via the pathway provided by sub clause 14(3)(b) of the Standards for Licensing Cadastral Surveyors 2021. Applicants are required to certify that they have *"maintained their knowledge, understanding and ability by means of private study, attendance at seminars, workshops, or other appropriate means in relation to the competencies."* The competency areas are survey measurement, land tenure systems, boundary definition, land information systems, the statutory planning process, land development engineering principles, professional conduct and communication skills.

In 2024 the Board introduced an online template to support surveyors who need to provide evidence of ongoing competency. Use of this template is encouraged, but applications can also be made by attaching documents, such as CPD records. A CPD record should be supported by an explanation of how the relevant activities relate to each of the 8 competencies under Schedule 1 of the Licensing Standards.

The Board is still receiving some applications that were initially declined because applicants provided little evidence of engagement with the competencies. This can include the reliance on historic work experience as evidence of competence. The Board considers it important that "evidence of competence" shows fresh and recent engagement with each and every competency area.

Most applicants provided good evidence of continuing professional development and a real commitment to meaningfully maintaining and improving their skills. It was great to see applicants taking the CPD opportunities provided by S+SNZ, ICS, and LINZ but also seeking out training elsewhere from unexpected but relevant sources. It is pleasing to see some workplaces offering robust and innovative in-house training being developed and shared across the country.

The Board continues to receive some late or incomplete evidential information which creates additional administration and involves considerable Board time. Also, missing or incorrect name and/or invoice number references are sometimes provided when payments are made.

Importantly, annual licence renewal is dependent on the application and fee payment being received no later than 30th June. Otherwise, LINZ are advised that these surveyors are no longer licensed. LINZ are advised shortly after 30th June each year of all surveyors who have renewed their licenses for the following year.

Notices of Significant Failures

The Board continues to receive significant failure notices from the Surveyor-General under s7(1)(d) Cadastral Survey Act 2002, which sometimes result in the requirement to correct the error under s52 of the Act.

To date, the Board has received 9 significant notices to comply with the Rules for cadastral survey which is a significant increase in numbers compared with last year.

The following is a summary of the types of errors that had significant impacts on the cadastre:

- Incorrect adoption of an old bearing not clearly depicted on the source plan resulting in errors.
- Bearing correction not properly applied, resulting in erroneous boundary peg placements.
- Incorrect reduction of GNSS vectors, resulting in erroneous recording of non-boundary vectors.
- Incorrect adoption of old bearings, resulting in erroneous boundary marking.
- Several cases of boundary marks outside rule tolerance accuracy standards using GNSS.

Such cases usually come to the attention of LINZ through various sources including subsequent surveys, LINZ investigation, field audits and landowner enquiries.

Essentially all errors are preventable and should be identified by appropriate quality control procedures being followed during the survey and prior to submitting the CSD for approval by LINZ.

A Reminder about your Certifying Responsibilities

The Board has identified through recent 'significant failure' reporting from the Surveyor-General, the growing use of coordinates and pre-calculations as the basis for boundary definition. Physical boundary marks, and measurements to them, are the primary evidence for boundary definition in the NZ cadastre. Coordinates, while valuable for helping to locate marks, should not be used to define existing boundary points.

This distinction is important as it balances legal certainty with technological precision. As the cadastral system continues to evolve along with positioning technology, the role of coordinates is extremely valuable. However, coordinates must not override original, undisturbed marks as the primary evidence of boundary position – in accordance with the law. Ultimately, both marks and coordinates work together to ensure the integrity, reliability, and usability of the cadastre.

And in keeping with this theme, the Board also counsels careful consideration in the application of GNSS technologies in cadastral surveying. Observed positions cannot always be made confidently where GNSS technology is constrained by environmental factors that reduce its effectiveness. The Surveyor-General notes frequent failures found through the cadastral audit regime, where inexperienced staff are using GNSS in places with obstructed horizons, such as under trees and close to structures.

As the certifier of a cadastral dataset, the Licensed Cadastral Surveyor has the responsibility to ensure that measurements and determinations of position accurately represent positions on the ground. You should have a very high level of confidence in the methods used to ensure compliance with the accuracy standards of the Cadastral Survey Rules. This is a friendly reminder for surveyors to familiarise themselves with the criteria for professional misconduct under Schedule 2 of the Cadastral Survey Act 2002.

Offences Under the Cadastral Survey Act 2002

The Board is aware of previously licensed cadastral surveyors still using terms implying they are a licensed cadastral surveyor on company websites, potentially in breach of s58 of the Cadastral Survey Act 2002.

Please note, no longer being a licensed cadastral surveyor means you should not use, or allow others to use, any terms to cause anyone to believe you are licensed or qualified to act as a licensed cadastral surveyor. This includes identification on a company website.

The Board is also aware of unlicensed persons, not acting under the direction of a licensed cadastral surveyor, who carry out work for the purposes of a cadastral survey. This is an offence under s57 of the Cadastral Survey Act 2002.

Contact Details

As always, it is vitally important that all licensed cadastral surveyors keep their contact details up to date. Member details can be updated following login at <https://www.cslb.org.nz/signin.php>. Should there be a problem logging in follow the prompt or contact the Secretary.

Not only is it a legislative requirement to keep contact details up to date, but it ensures that every licensed cadastral surveyor receives the annual invitations for licence renewal which are sent out by email between April and June each year. All applications, as well as the fee, are required by 30 June each year to ensure licenses do not lapse.

The best way to contact the Board is by email to Phil Napper secretary@cslb.org.nz

Enquiries from graduates and their supervisors about the new competency assessment framework should be sent to Kirsten Flett examinations.coordinator@cslb.org.nz

Have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.



Neale Faulkner

Chair, Cadastral Surveyors Licensing Board