



# Estate and Taxation Planning Council New Zealand Inc

March 2009

## Welcome to 2009

On behalf of the Executive I wish all of our members a belated Happy New Year and a warm welcome to 2009.

Last year was a difficult year for the Council in terms of seminars and member attendances. It was with huge disappointment that we were forced to cancel the Christmas seminar but with less than 20 attendees, proceeding with the seminar was not a viable option.

As it turns out, our market conditions are still similar if not worse than that of December and your Executive has therefore elected to retain the same topic for its first seminar for 2009. Accordingly, I am pleased to advise that Mark Lister of ABN-Amro Craigs will present to our members on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April at Romfords. Mark is a senior research analyst at ABN-Amro Craigs specialising primarily in property and small company research. He is a regular speaker of topics covering local and overseas equities, property and listed funds. The Executive is hopeful of a strong attendance and turn out for this presentation.

A good question was raised at last year's AGM as to what the Executive intended to do with its surplus funds. At the time, there was no definitive answer to this question but the Executive has now determined that some of this money should be used to investigate the future, relevance and benefit of the Council to its members moving forward. To this extent, the Executive is in the process of appointing an external marketing professional to survey our members and to research the suitability of the Council and the benefits it offers to members. I will write to you again further to update you on the progress being made.

## AGM

The 2009 AGM has been scheduled for Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> June at Romfords following a seminar. Please note your diaries of this date. We will issue papers in May 2009.

## Summary

As we commence the year, I would like to thank the rest of my Executive Committee members for their continued support and hard work, namely Jeff Matthews (Past President), Robert Knox (Treasurer), Sandra Macaulay (Secretary), Gary Morgan (Executive) and Geoff Pownall (Executive) I would also like to thank BDO Spicers who have kindly provided a venue for the regular Executive Committee meetings.

As with any organisation we need to ask ourselves, how can we do things better? How can we add more value to members? How do we attract new members? This year our focus will be attracting and retaining new members. We are looking for new members, but not just to increase our financial base, we are looking for members who will be active members and attend our Council functions.

Currently we have around 75 members. This year's goal remains the same as last year, which is to increase the Council membership back over 100 active members, and to add a further 20 to 25 new members in the following couple of years.

I'm sure I speak for all on the Executive Committee when I say that we once again look forward to the challenge of meeting the needs of members, and the objectives of the Council over the coming 12 months.

Gary Fitzpatrick  
President

## Next Function

Our next breakfast seminar is: **A Perspective on Current Markets – Mark Lister of ABN-Amro Craigs**

Date    Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009  
Time    7:15am for a 7.30am breakfast at  
Venue   Romfords, Tamaki Drive, Auckland