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There is no doubt about the challenges in taking on this important role. The isolation/separation of working from a home office, has been a big one for me and although I found getting out and talking with the membership during the recent Roadshow invigorating, the three week long block of travel was certainly at the other end of the scale.

However, a better balance is on the horizon as we execute one of our more important advocacy projects, talking with and building relationships with TA's nationally. The opportunity to attend and speak at the recent BOINZ conference has begun to open these doors and I look forward to speaking/training/educating their inspectors, and consenting officers on some of the important points of our industry. I've been asked to submit a presentation for the next BOINZ conference in August in Wellington.

One of the tougher challenges has been responding to the pull from each of our seven technical committees. With the rolling out of a new purpose around our committee meetings, re-organizing meetings to include focused workshops, I'm excited about the opportunity to deliver/publish more work. Thus, raising not only our visibility, but also responding to the members views that our committees are ineffectual.

The strength of our current relationship with BRANZ is bringing positive results. Specifically, with the on-going revisions to Standards and Codes, but they're now approaching us before updating their bulletins and have assisted with some joint concerns we've had with Standards NZ who have refused to interact with us to date.

Working on the maze/minefield that is MBIE is next...

I think our greatest opportunity looking into the next twelve months is the opportunity to demonstrate the value we provide to the members in terms of tech support. Our industry is ever shifting array of rules and regulations constantly threatened by below par imports. For a small or even medium size business keeping abreast of the changes is incredibly difficult, changes that potentially impact on their business. This is where I see the value in this role...