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Preface IIC New Zealand

This Congress and its proceedings, including this special edition of news in conservation which features the Congress posters, have the ambition to address change in a fast-changing world, and where better to locate that discussion than Aotearoa New Zealand, a country which has opened the doors to a more inclusive heritage experience. Time and again, in discussions on a global stage, it has been a voices from Aotearoa New Zealand, that have spoken carefully and kindly, offering a challenge and raising questions to help the heritage sector re calibrate, to rethink and -I hope-to begin to reform.

The papers and posters offer the perspectives of conservators, heritage scientists, curators, community activists and academics. Many of the authors hold multiple roles, and such multiplicity is essential to our practise. As the world looks back at the pandemic years and looks forward to how we can do better, we are emerging from our lockdown lives. What have we all learned from these years and what can be changed? I believe that we can find optimism in new voices and perspectives taking centre stage in conservation. Whether these voices belong to people knew to a career in conservation or those being given voice after generations of exclusion, they emerge to offer the community a chance to build something new, something better, and something unique that can only be created by interactions across place, class, sex, race, gender, ability or age. This is the prize and the gauntlet. Will we all stop to listen and to learn to hear what others say and to use that to re calibrate and test our own approaches?

IIC has used the last three years to adapt and to challenge its own structures and practices. We aim to carry forward all that was wise, graceful and supportive of the past and to bring in the vibrancy excitement and energy on offer from our members and supporters worldwide. The potential to do better developed during the pandemic, and the need to do better has been illustrated on the world stage with destruction, hatred and sadness impinging on all our lives. We know that cultural heritage can take its place in community building and restitution. In these proceedings we want to celebrate the things that people value, how we can guide and lead each other, develop new knowledge and make old wisdom available. We have a unique focus on reusing the past to build a better today. That is our contribution to sustainability, and I hope you enjoy reading the posters within. Professor Jane Henderson FIIC ACR

secretary general, IIC