

Report by the Treasurer 2016

IIC's financial position has stabilised at a moderately healthy state. We see over the past couple of years that income is consistently greater than expenditure, and that there are no major debts outstanding. The major costs are being contained: publications, congress and staffing.

However more worrying is the future of our major income source, membership fees. Although the budget shows an increasing income, the underlying membership base is declining. We are losing members from the two largest groups in terms of numbers and income: individual members and institutions. The loss of individual members is a continuation of a long term, 20 year, trend which past small scale initiatives have failed to dent. Council is responding by forming a membership committee and a study of how IIC is perceived. This is a trend seen across other membership organisations, many of which are having to re-imagine their roles and relationships with both members and non-members. I would urge existing members to promote the strategic benefits of a strong IIC and the improvements that past and present members have made to the care of our heritage. Future members have a huge potential to make as significant a difference in the coming years. We are stronger working together.

Institutional members were crucial in the early days of IIC in providing the resources and authority to the growing organisation. Their involvement is still vital as an important link between the independent, professional, IIC and the embedding of advances in practice. We consider that each institution that intends to advance conservation should be a member, just like every conservator wishing to improve care for our heritage. It is those conservators in institutions that have the influence to promote institutional membership, which enables continuity of professional involvement over succeeding generations of conservators in post. If you can persuade your institution to be a member of IIC, you will be enabling a long relationship with international conservation efforts.

The pivotal role of pioneering institutions has been recognised by IIC in the Opportunities Fund. This pays institutional membership fees in countries and situations where there is a pressing need to promote and develop conservation. I urge members to contribute to the Opportunities Fund and to the Brommelle Fund to support students attending congress. The recipients are frequently from areas having little contact with IIC and the international community. Contacts and networking with workers in the field with the latest thinking has the potential to kick start rapid improvements in care and professionalism. These funds have been able to benefit from the UK gift aid scheme where the UK government provides matched funding for donations from UK members.

The financial report reflects both the threats and opportunities for IIC. I commend it to you as a fair statement of last year's activities. The coming year includes the Los Angeles congress which we intend to be as successful financially and for conservation as previously.

As always, it depends on you. The Council members are merely the figureheads of a massive amount of voluntary work undertaken by IIC activists. If you wish to make a difference in conservation, you and IIC are made for one another.

Velson Horie, Treasurer