



Past 'master' passes reins to 'student'

James Weir

THE MASTER, Don Trow, is stepping down to be replaced by the former student Alan Isaac on the board of Wellington's infrastructure consultancy Opus.

Former Victoria University accountancy Professor Don Trow has been a director of Opus since 2007.

He retired at yesterday's annual meeting, but will remain as an adviser to the board on accounting and regulatory issues, according to chairman Kerry McDonald.

"I would like to thank him for his very substantial contribution to the company," Mr McDonald said.

Professor Trow, 73, has chaired the Opus audit committee. He also taught Mr Isaac at Victoria University.

"He was one of the best students we ever had," Professor Trow said.

Mr Isaac is a former chairman of accounting firm KPMG and is chairman of New Zealand Cricket. He was with KPMG for 35 years and chairman for the last 10 years with the company.



Top table: From left, Opus chief executive Kevin Thompson, former director Don Trow, new director Alan Isaac, and chairman Kerry McDonald. Photo: MAARTEN HOLL

KPMG, like Opus, depended on the culture of the company and the quality of its people, Mr Isaac said.

"I was attracted to Opus' values and its attitude towards people," he told the annual meeting before he was elected.

Mr McDonald was also re-elected to the Opus board yesterday.

Professor Trow said Mr McDonald had a distinguished record in business on both sides of the Tasman and was president of the Institute of Directors, as well as deputy chairman of NZIER.

"Like many economists who have leading positions in New Zealand, his degree was from the University of Canterbury," Professor Trow said, to some chuckles from Wellington shareholders.

One shareholder asked Mr Isaac if there was any Canterbury input into his education.

"I'm a very proud Wellingtonian," he replied.

Mr Isaac is also doing work for McGrathNichol as receiver for the property company of Wellington businessman Steve Petherick.