

May 2006

Introduction

I thought I would take this opportunity in my first newsletter to introduce myself and give my first impressions, after a very brief period, of the Association and the industry

I spent 21 years in the RNZAF and then held middle management positions at L D Nathan's and Barclays Bank plc, both in Wellington. In 19912, I was appointed CEO of Clubs New Zealand Inc and there began a long involvement in not for profit/trade association activities.



The trade association plays an important role for its members in harnessing the collective power of the group. This Association has some very big corporates as members with significant political and economic leverage and if applied wisely this can benefit all members in the industry. For one thing is a certainty, the business environment in which we all operate is not going to get any easier. It is therefore necessary that your Association makes every effort to protect and preserve as far as is possible, the current business climate.

And what about the aggregate and quarry industry. It is clear from the very short time I have been with the Association that there is a lot more to this industry than the public and more importantly the politicians realise. Because this industry interferes with the physical environment, it is always going to be accused by some sectors of conduct tantamount to rape and pillage. Yet if done properly, any adverse effects can be short term and properly addressed.

The Association has an Environmental Policy which is attached to this newsletter, and which should be displayed in every office and at every opportunity. Such policies should not just adorn the wall but must be applied and be seen by those who would restrict these activities, to be effective. Some you will never please but most care reasonable and can be satisfied.

Health and safety of employees is another critical factor. We all held our collective breath while the miners in Beaconsfield were rescued. Now the recriminations start with the management being accused of all sorts of neglect and mismanagement. One life lost is one too many.

So those are my initial thoughts. I look forward to meeting many of you at the Conference in Christchurch in July, and to working with you in the future.

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Conference

The IOQ/AQA Annual Joint Conference is being held in Christchurch on 12-14 July at the Christchurch Convention Centre. Registration forms have been posted out but if you need another one or an electronic copy, you can either contact myself or Kelvin Strong.

The AGM will be held at the Conference and elections for office will be on the Agenda. Members are reminded that each nomination is to be moved and seconded by a current financial member of the Association

MIMICO 2006 ENVIRONMENTAL Excellence Awards

The entry forms for this award have been sent out and extra copies are available, just give me a call.

Entries close on 26 June 2006

New Zealand Quarrying & Mining magazine INNOVATION Awards

This is a new award sponsored by the magazine and the entry forms are enclosed with the mail out

Entries close on 30 June 2006

District Plans

We are approaching the triennial review of district plans and already one local authority has raised issues that will adversely impact on activities of members.

Be watchful and let the Association know if matters are raised in your area. This can be your local council as well as the Regional Council.

The Association is putting in place procedures to ensure it is alerted of any proposal that would affect members and will be making submissions as appropriate.

Members should also make submissions and seek a letter of support from the Association to assist.

Do not let these activities pass by without having your say.

Communications

I will shortly be sending each member a contact update list to ensure I have the latest information.

In particular, I want to obtain every member's email address so that we can communicate quickly and efficiently and keep you informed.

I know that such forms are a pain but it will help AQA serve you better. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Subscriptions

Just a note to those who have yet to return their Subscription Assessment for this year. These are due by the end of this month.

From the "I wish I had dug that" Department

A diamond mine in Siberia 1.2 km across and over half a km deep



Roger Parton
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR