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Press Information

IQ Announces Caernarfon Award Winner

Since 1989, the Caernarfon Award is presented annually for *the best paper given at an Institute of Quarrying conference, seminar, meeting etc anywhere in the world which is adjudged to have contributed the most to the advancement of some aspect (technical, environmental, strategic etc) of the quarrying sector.*

The winner and runners up of the 2021 **Caernarfon Award** have been judged by the presidents of the international Institute of Quarrying (IQ) branches (United Kingdom, Southern Africa, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Australia and New Zealand). The winning award was presented at New Zealand's QuarryNZ Conference Awards Dinner held in Wellington on 16 July 2021 .

Gavin Hartley MIQ, Quarry Manager Blackhead Quarry, Dunedin, New Zealand, is this year's winner.

It was his presentation '*Quarrying Way down South*', which highlighted the challenges of quarrying in one of the world's harshest environments, delivered at the IQ Otago/Southland Branch mini conference in July 2020, that impressed the IQ presidents.

The international presidents recognised that Gavin's presentation demonstrated how IQ members share their skills and expertise with colleagues and other professionals around the world, whilst at the same time expanding their own

knowledge and understanding of the science of quarrying; the very principles of what IQ was founded on.

Dean Torstonson, IQ New Zealand President, explains: "Quarrying in an isolated place and in adverse weather conditions is very challenging. Gavin's paper provided a snapshot of a small team of quarrying professionals producing aggregate for new building foundations in one of the world's harshest environments - way down south - in McMurdo Station, Antarctica. It described the landscape, the project, the quarry and equipment, health and safety, the people, the project outcomes, and piqued the interest of everyone associated with the quarrying industry. Congratulations Gavin; the honour is well deserved".

With an exceptional number of high-quality submissions for the prestigious award, IQ's presidents also presented four entries with a 'Highly Commended' recognition.

Gavin Mennie, Breedon Group, and **Martin McGroarty**, Fife Council, presented "*Mineral Planning in Scotland*" on behalf of the IQ Scottish Branch. The presentation gave the audience a unique insight, both pre-operational and of a working site, of the requirements that the operator and the planning authority have to consider during and after the life of the site.

Claudia Trotter, Mates in Mind, presented "*Improving mental health within the workplace*" on behalf of the IQ North Wales Branch. Whilst a lot of businesses have structures in place to help staff with issues, the presentation highlighted important information on what help was available and more importantly assisted with dismissing the stigma of asking for help along with the understanding of different forms of mental health problems. This was particularly important due to the additional pressures from COVID on people's wellbeing.

Simon Tose, Blast Consult, delivered a short online course on “*Blast Design*” to the IQ South Africa members. The course covered the fundamentals for blast and blast design. Providing insight into approaches for developing more efficient blasting methods.

Mark Godden FIQ, Albion Stone, presented “Portland Stone – The transition from Surface to Deep Mining” on behalf of the IQ West of England Branch. It outlined the geology of Portland and the important role that Portland stone had played in construction over past centuries, the drivers for going underground in terms of the past and current impact of quarrying on the landscape of Portland, as well as the processes involved in developing the underground excavation work. He also explained how this innovation would secure a long-term future for Portland stone.

Shane Braddy is IQ International Presidents Chair. He adds: “Despite the challenges caused by the global pandemic, it’s clear to see from the volume of applications for this year’s Caernarfon Award that our international network of Institute of Quarrying organisations has continued to deliver high-quality, informative and educational sessions for their members. On behalf of the IQ, I’d like to congratulate our winner, Gavin Hartley, as well as each of our highly commended runners up.”

“To receive an award judged by your peers internationally is an unbelievable honour and I am so proud to be part of a great industry”, Hartley said, upon receiving the Award.

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The Institute of Quarrying

The Institute of Quarrying (<http://www.quarrying.org>) is the international professional body for

quarrying, construction materials and the related extractive and processing industries, with over 6,000 members in some 50 countries of the world. Membership is open to individuals, rather than companies, and the Institute's long-term objective is to promote progressive improvements in all aspects of operational performance through the medium of education and training.

The Institute believes education and training is a lifelong opportunity which should be viewed in the broadest terms, starting with initial qualifications gained at college, university or through distance learning programmes. This is followed by continuing professional development through attendance at conferences, seminars, training courses, competence assessment schemes, workshops, technical meetings, site visits and the updating of knowledge by reading the Institute's journals, technical and management papers and handbooks.

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