



New Zealand Presidents Report to The Institute of Quarrying Australia Conference – 2004

Mr Chairman, fellow members

Greeting's to you all.

It is in the absence of the New Zealand President, Brian Bouzaid, that I attend your Council Meeting and Conference.

Brian is currently in the United Kingdom attending the International Presidents Meeting and conference being held in Chester and would like to extend his apologies for not being present here today.

It is therefore with great pleasure that I present to you, on Brian's behalf, a report from the New Zealand Institute of Quarrying for 2004.

New Zealand Report

It was again pleasing to welcome your President, Mike Canny and his wife Gabrielle, to our recent Conference at Wairakei, near Lake Taupo, the 36th Conference held in New Zealand since a branch of the Institute was formed in Wellington back in 1968.

Our conference theme was *"think Taupo, think Rock"* and offered a strong local flavour, highlighting how IOQ members and our industry contribute to the Taupo area, which is a national and internationally recognised tourist Mecca.

"Rock and Tourism".

In an environment where, government, local authorities and the community are requiring greater compliance from our industry, the importance of having Quarries and our Industry available to underpin the countries economic and social growth, while unquestionable to us, is still not well understood by those who are actually the greatest users, Government, Local Councils and the Community.

There is still much work to be done to improve our image. Today our members, their companies and quarries, need to be not only competitive, professional, safe and profitable, but be environmentally friendly and be able to undertake extensive consultation with government, local councils, the community, and our indigenous people.

The Institute and its members are therefore very different from those that formed the New Zealand Branch back in 1968.

The main reason for this is the need to continually review our position, to build on our foundations as an Institute, and to keep up the professional image of our Industry, whereby our people are highly trained in management, operational best practice and have the capacity to manage change.

Yes change -- change if met and managed correctly, can be a great stimulus to us all and we know how quickly change is taking place around us.

An example is how we use and store explosives. This has changed dramatically as a result of recent terrorism attacks around the world.

This is an area in which I feel we will see more and more regulations as we not only have to comply with tighter compliance issues, and learn new techniques, but also face the issue of terrorism along with the rest of the world.

An Industry tool “explosives” something that we use everyday to move mountains, or split rock, is becoming the preferred means to kill, maim or destroy.

The more the Explosive Companies fine tune their product for our use the more attractive it is to others with quite different motives.

Draft regulations currently out for consultation in New Zealand have been strongly influenced by Military and NATO regulations.

There is another issue our members will find themselves having to deal with more and more.

The media, intrusive or painful, is a fact of management life today. Those managers who are well prepared for probable adverse publicity will survive to blast or crush again another day.

There are however, plenty of examples where one can use the media for what it is good at, being a medium with which to reach the wider community.

There is, I believe no substitute for frank, open and supportive dealings with government, local councils and the community in which we operate.

Failure for our Industry to manage change may result in the hounds smelling blood, resulting in a quarry closures, a loss of jobs and employment for our members.

In amongst change, there is of course, no excuse for poor practice. High Standards and Best Practice needs to be maintained.

We cannot therefore live in the past and, at times, must let go of some of the thoughts and practices we have known and utilised, sometimes over very long periods, and learn lessons from the past while focusing on planning for the future.

There will however always remain some important and well-proven principles that we must not forget when building or modernising.

These principles are our firm foundations – the bedrock on which we have built our Institute of International Professional Quarry People.

In conclusion, the Institute in New Zealand has continued to strive for improvement in our performance, as a branch of a Professional Organisation, focusing on serving our members.

New Zealand Institute membership currently stands at 375 with 2850 trainees registered with EXITO, our Extractive Industry Training Organisation.

It is this group of people which we will need to focus on as we plan for, and consolidate, our future.

“The long-term prosperity of the Institute in New Zealand can only be secured if the enthusiasm at the quarry face, the grass roots level of our Industry, is carried forward and becomes part of our membership

We need to emphasis the importance of Pride and Professionalism as an integral part of being an Institute Member.”

On behalf of our members in New Zealand, we wish you a successful Conference and wish to extend a warm welcome to the members of the Australian Institute to attend our next conference to be held in Waitangi in July 2005.

Thank you.

George Kelcher on behalf of

Brian Bouzaid
President
The Institute of Quarrying
New Zealand Incorporated