

QUARRYNZ: IOQNZ could take over industry training

Bernie Napp - Fri, 20 Jul 2018

The professional association for quarry workers will explore running all industry training for its members.



At its annual general meeting on Wednesday at Claudelands, Hamilton, members of the Institute of Quarrying New Zealand amended its mission statement to include “education and training”.

Steve Ellis of Stevenson Construction Materials then asked IOQNZ management: “What are you going to do about it.”

He proposed to include in the business plan a feasibility study on the IOQNZ’s ability to run all industry training for the quarry sector, supported by the meeting.

Ellis said it was important to explore a wider role for the IOQNZ in industry training. “Here’s what we think we can do, and here’s how we can do it.”

Tim Kennedy who was appointed to the IOQNZ board at the AGM said the industry needed to consider seriously the future of training. “We need to make sure that MBIE gets it right.”

Kennedy was referring to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment’s review of regulations for mining under the Health and Safety at Work Act.

“We concentrate on CoCs [certificates of competency] and the rest of it gets left behind. We need a fool-proof plan going forward.”

IOQNZ president Peter Morgan said earlier in the discussion the IOQNZ seminar and webinar programmes work well, and fill a gap in training opportunities. They are “a relatively cheap and easy way” for members to meet continuing professional development requirements.

Morgan said he would table Ellis’s proposal at the September IOQNZ board meeting for consideration.

The IOQNZ mission statement now reads: “to promote the fellowship, education and training of members to enhance the image and professionalism of quarrying in New Zealand”.

Other IOQNZ business

In his president’s report, Morgan noted the 50th anniversary of the IOQNZ, and of the QuarryNZ conference.

He acknowledged the work of Matt Webster, the central districts branch chair, in organising the youth programme.

IOQNZ reported income during the 2018-2019 financial year of \$95,118, and expenditure of \$130,109, producing a deficit of \$34,991, similar to the budget forecast.

The deficit arose from expenses incurred with the publication of a book for all members, *Men Of Stone*, and sundry items, including badges and shields.

IOQNZ secretary Petrina Torstonsen reported fully-paid membership of 475 as at June 30, up on 384, a year previously.

Standing currently at more than 500, the growth in membership stemmed largely from recently-imposed regulatory requirements in health and safety, and CPD, she said.

Communications with members had improved with a new Facebook page, with posts made 2-3 times a week. These advise of upcoming IOQNZ branch meetings and the like.

Members voted in favour of a proposal to increase membership fees by 2.5 per cent.

The 2019 QuarryNZ conference is scheduled to be held in Invercargill, on July 17-19.

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