



Welcome to From the Quarry Face

Welcome to another year where we face up to quarry issues and meeting the nation's need for aggregates and other quarry materials.

I trust you've enjoyed a good break and are either back in the saddle or about to remount.

Last year finished for me with a unique experience – attending and speaking at the 5th China International Aggregates Conference, held in a very chilly Shanghai in December. This brought together quarry organisations from all over the world.

While the scale of production in places like China dwarves our 40m tonnes in NZ, the broad issues are the same; access to resources amid increasing demand, regulatory and environmental issues.

One issue that brings these things together for us here is river-sourced aggregate. I was interested to see that Environment Canterbury is stepping up controls on this supply, particularly in the lower reaches of rivers such as the Waimakariri. Companies are now heading further upstream or developing land-based extraction options. This follows on from Marlborough and Gisborne councils in limiting gravel extraction from riverbeds as it becomes scarcer.



Tied but not tongue tied. Wayne Scott, CEO of AQA unusually, in a tie, at the China aggregates conference.

We remain a lucky country and I for one believe quarrying may be heading towards a better climate of acknowledgement of how critical we are to building and maintaining our nation. That's certainly what we at the AQA are working for.

One encouraging signal is our [new apprenticeship scheme](#), which gets underway in earnest this year – see the following story for details.

A couple of issues arise. One is that this might finally dispel the myth that we don't need land-based quarries in areas such as around Christchurch – because there's supposedly so much aggregate available from rivers.

However, if companies choose to extract from up-river sites, then of course the cost of that material will also rise, given trucking remains the major cost in the supply of aggregate.

At least we retain options unlike places like China where for example, natural sand is now no longer produced after so much was whipped off the Chinese coastline that it created environmental issues.

I also encourage you to steer any young people with the potential for a future in quarrying to look at the [IOQ youth programme](#)– scroll down for details.

Thank you all for your membership during 2018. The Board confirmed at the AGM that there will be no change in fees for 2019. During February you will receive renewal correspondence and I look forward to your continued support for our association.

And finally, while still seven months away, put the [QuarryNZ Conference](#) in your calendar for July 17-19; it's in Invercargill and I'm sure you'll want to enjoy the Southland welcome, led by our newest knight, mayor Sir Tim Shadbolt!

Regards,
Wayne

Apprenticeships going great guns

By the close of play last year, the new [extractive industry apprenticeship scheme](#) had attracted nearly 40 applicants.

That's a very encouraging start to a scheme which only originated a few months earlier. I was pleased to help get it underway and now we have the Extractives Industry Reference Group working with our sector's training organisation, and MITO to develop the necessary training and qualifications towards a Level 4 Certificate in Mining and Quarrying. MinEx is also strongly involved.

There are various layers to the apprenticeship. Level 2 certificates are required for newbies and MITO is trialling new online tutorials to allow trainees to complete this work at home or work.

On-site verifiers are being used so assessors don't need to travel to a work site.

Gaps in the Level 4 training have been identified and are being filled with material from Australian and British programmes, through modifying existing Unit Standards or by developing new ones.

So, there's a lot of work going on and a lot of industry support being provided, which all augurs well for the success of our new apprenticeship scheme.

To apply, head to the [MinEx website](#).

IOQNZ brings in training guru

Hats off to the Institute of Quarrying NZ (IOQNZ) which has been developing its contribution to industry training in recent years. It has Paul Sutton (until recently the CEO of Institute of Quarrying Australia) on a part time basis to help provide some direction for IOQ NZ in the training sphere.

Many of you will recall Paul's excellent presentations to the [QuarryNZ Conference](#) and other forums where he outlined the critical importance of securing first-rate training and demanding to see the results carried through a company. He's a previous school principal who revolutionised training for IOQ Australia.

Meantime, applications are drawing towards a close for the [IOQ NZ Youth Programme](#) for 2019.

This is open to applicants with 1-2 years experience in the extractive industry, who have or are working towards a B Grade COC and have the support of their employer.



Paul Sutton.

They get a complimentary entry to the [QuarryNZ Conference](#) and IOQ NZ student membership for 12 months as well as exposure to the extractive industry on a regional and national level with opportunities to form relationships within the industry.

Successful candidates need to provide reports during the year, outlining conference information they have learned and two subsequent follow up reports on their progress through the industry.

To apply, complete the [application form](#).

We can all GAIN some benefit

The AQA is a member of GAIN – the [Global Aggregates Information Network](#).

Since it started nearly 10 years ago, convened by the ever-cheerful Irishman Jim O'Brien, GAIN has grown in size and standing.

GAIN member countries now represent 70% of global aggregates production of 50 billion tons.

It was great to mix with GAIN members at the China Aggregates Association (CAA) conference in Shanghai. As you can see, it's a diverse group.

AQA submits NZ updates to the regular GAIN newsletters – as you can see from the latest edition on the [AQA website](#). There is a lot of useful information being shared.

第五届中国国际砂石骨料大会在上海召开



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