



Welcome to the October edition of From the Quarry Face.

Life, as they say, is a continuum, so when it came to marking the AQA's 50th earlier this month, we not only gathered some of our pioneers – we turned to the next generation to mark the occasion.

I could not have felt more proud last week when I went to New Plymouth's Fitzroy School to hand over the prizes for the [Rock our Future](#) competition which we organised to mark our jubilee.

Primary schools were invited to have pupils design a quarry which could crush and load ten truckloads of aggregate an hour – and only by using renewable energy. The entries from the Little Eggs Inc and Storm Industries groups of year 6 boys at Fitzroy School were stand outs in the competition.





New Plymouth MP Jonathan Young, parent Mark Ford and AQA CEO Wayne Scott with the two groups of Fitzroy School boys who won a national competition to devise a quarry that could operate on renewable energy.

It was a heck of a challenge - they needed to generate 20,000kw hours per day of power to run a quarry. Both proposed using solar, wind and water turbine power.

The Little Eggs Inc group also researched geothermal and tidal power but discounted these as impractical. Storm Industries proposed connecting the quarry to a gymnasium to recharge batteries off pedal power – which we thought was a good piece of enthusiastic innovation.

The boys were wonderfully supported by one of the parents, Mark Ford and teacher Nina Lobb. Like most Kiwis, she knew little about quarrying until she saw details about the Rock our Future project. As she got interested, she realised the pupils would as well. She told us about the loud, excited voices from the boys of possible solutions and decisions being made.





Getting excited about quarrying - Storm Industries group members left to right, Ben Jackson, Cooper Myers and Reuben Mathias, with their Lego version of a future quarry.

The two groups won \$1000 each for their school and each boy also received a small cash prize and an earthmoving machinery model – that iced the cake for them.

We had some great support, none more so than Vickers Quarry, which shut-down work for a day last May to host two busloads of students at their Stratford quarry and show how a site works. Vickers then capped this by making a major donation to Fitzroy School last Friday.

All of this is encouraging us to look at running another competition again next year. I need to consult with the AQA Board but I'm thinking about asking students to turn a disused quarry into a public asset.

Let's hope this helps encourage some of the next generation to enter our industry and be around when we turn 100 - in 2079.

That's a wee way off so enjoy this From the Quarry Face as part of the continuum.

Wayne Scott

Highlights of what we have been up to since last issue

- Submissions on the Government's:
 - [Resource Strategy](#)
 - [Biodiversity Strategy](#)
 - [NPS on Urban Development](#)
 - [NPS on Highly Productive Land](#)
 - [NPS on Freshwater](#)
 - [NES on Freshwater](#)
- Presentation on "Challenges Facing the NZ Aggregates Sector" to ConcreteNZ Conference
- Review and submissions on:
 - [Western Bay of Plenty District Plan](#)
 - [Central Hawkes Bay District Plan](#) and;
 - [Tairāwhiti 2050 \(Planning for Gisborne Region\)](#)
- Fitzroy Primary School (New Plymouth) take out the Rock our Future School Project Competition
- RadioNZ story on future shortage of aggregates generated interest from MPs Shane Jones (NZ First), Eugenie Sage (Greens), and National MPs Jonathan Young, Sarah Dowie, Jacqui Dean and Stuart Smith.

Check our [website](#) for more details.

AQA 50th hears urbanisation will drive aggregate growth

When it came to organising a guest speaker for our AQA celebration dinner, Jim O'Brien topped the list; and then he agreed to come here all the way from Ireland with his partner Carmen. Jim was instrumental in founding the Global Aggregates Information Network and is a former president of the European Aggregates Association.



Around 80 people attended the AQA 50th dinner at Christchurch's Hagley Oval and we had video contributions

It was a memorable evening for all attending, and our thanks to our sponsors – **J Swap Contractors**,

from others including founding members Jim Hunter and George Cunningham.

Fulton Hogan, Golder Associates NZ Ltd, Wirtgen Group NZ, Holcim, MITO, and Q&M Magazine.



Attendees included kindred organisations such as Rob Gaimster, CEO Concrete NZ, former CEO Roger Parton, former AQA chairs Eric Souchon and Bruce Taylor with his wife Julie.

Jim left us in no doubt that as the [world urbanises](#), demand for aggregate will continue to rise. He said already more than half the planet's population live in cities and by 2050 it will be two-thirds. The world now consumes 50b tonnes of aggregate a year, much of it for the buildings and roads of urban populations. This is forecast to rise to 60b tonnes by 2030 with Asia now accounting for two-thirds of all aggregate use.

“Everywhere as the planet urbanises, there are problems getting access to resources. As you know here in New Zealand, it's difficult getting the permits to extract aggregates near bigger populations.”

China is consuming 40% of world aggregate alone as it urbanises; the United States just 5%. New Zealanders consume around 40m tonnes or a truckload each year, which is high for a developed country and reflects our lengthy roading network as well as expansive housing and roading programmes.

Jim O'Brien says one quarry in the United Arab Emirates exports more tonnage annually than the 1000 operating New Zealand quarries – but by far the best environmental and cost outcomes have come from usually plentiful rock resources quarried near where they were used.

No dispute from anyone in the audience to anything Jim had to say

He said aggregate consumption is a measure of economic activity.

and he provided a fitting speaker to mark our industry's 50th.

The prospect of importing aggregate

I get a bit frustrated with general media coverage sometimes – we didn't get much coverage of Jim's excellent, insightful comments other than industry outlets – but I did manage to get on twice at Radio NZ's flagship Morning Report in recent weeks.

I was warning that unless there are improvements in the planning rules to allow quarries to continue producing aggregate near urban demand, New Zealand may have to look at importing quarry materials.

Infrastructure Minister Shane Jones responded positively to say it would be perverse to have to import aggregate into a country riddled with it. He's taking the idea of a national aggregate inventory to the new Infrastructure Commission and looking to RMA reforms to rope off usable resources.

We can only hope that such changes can and will be delivered. We have got some traction with this Government but of course we need enduring decisions across changes of Government, so we are also engaging with the National Party.



Minister Shane Jones addressed the Quarry Conference earlier this year.

Frankly, I don't think we will get to the point that we need to start looking to Stevin Rock's gargantuan quarry in the Middle East to import aggregate – or even from Australia. We should be able to resolve any demand locally, even if its through ad hoc measures such as the Transmission Gully project being forced to reopen a disused quarry for fear lack of supply will compound delays.

NZTA says it took this step to prevent exhausting supplies around the lower North Island for other projects.





Transmission Gully - Photo courtesy of NZTA.

Given Transmission Gully has been talked about since I was about the same age as our winners at Fitzroy School, we have to get the planning right.

There needs to be some direction from central government to local government around how they protect that. Successive governments have been loathed to give too much

direction – hence the bizarre prospect that a country, as Shane Jones puts it is “riddled with rock” may one day have to import it.

I can only hope the government's new resource strategy, which closed last month for public submissions, is at the centre of a new approach to ensure this happens.

Thumbs up on CPD engagement and outcomes

You've all experienced consultation which isn't actually consultation; officials who simply want to get their boxes ticked en route to implementing a new policy.

So it's been a pleasure to see the new CPD requirements for the extractive sector emerge in such a constructive way.

The Board of Examiners (BoE) reviewed CPD requirements following a consultation process with stakeholders which it says uncovered a range of issues. After considering feedback and submissions, the BoE recommended an entirely new framework around CPD to WorkSafe New Zealand, which has been accepted. The new framework will be implemented from February.

Not only did the BoE make changes the industry agreed with, it also listened to submissions made by industry during the consultation. We had genuine consultation right from when WorkSafe and the BoE came and engaged with a MinEx Board meeting. The end result is a set of changes that reflect the day to day realities of our sector and a workable, sensible CPD regime taking place

from next year. This is a real win-win for industry, BoE and Government.

The changes include:

- Certificate of Competence (CoC) holders can complete their CPD hours over five years with no conditions
- Formal/informal activities replaced by unrestricted/restricted activities
- CPD logbook revised to accommodate changes and encourage emphasis on the component parts of CPD.

I am particularly pleased to see transitional arrangements as these acknowledge initial difficulties with the introduction of CPD. The signals of continuing engagement are also welcome.

New Members

We welcome new members [AGS Earthmoving](#) and [Central Machine Hire Ltd](#) who have joined the AQA recently.

Check out all our [members](#).



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