

MARITIME
SEAFOOD
EDUCATORS
ASSOCIATION



Maritime and Seafood Educators Association Of Aotearoa (MSEAA)

Chairman's Report 2009/2010

While the overall tone of the economy has been subdued the progress, exploration and development in the broad marine sector has been clearly recognised by the current government. Over the past year there has been a positive acknowledgement of the marine sector and specific recognition for segments such as aquaculture and oil & gas with in some cases government financial incentives being made available to progress marine and aquatic activities. These include iwi aquaculture settlements, plans to ease RMA requirements, development funds for marine power and investments in seismic surveys. MSEAA has a role to play in collecting sector information and ensuring its availability to the general public. Our new website will be a key portal for this topical information.

Many Ministers of the Crown including the Prime Minister have spoken in support of our sector, recognising its significant potential for the nation's economic growth. We remind all that oil exports are the third largest export dollar earner only reaching that level in the past two years and additional new off-shore wells will mean further export volume.

Almost every week we see publicity about the sector be it oil & gas, marine farms, wave and tidal power, iron-sands, surf-clams, marine farm plans, export successes, marine tourism and many other specific activities. These stories serve to tell the general public about the importance of our sector.

However, marine industries are still not always seen as an attractive career option and face employment challenges including the ability to recruit and keep staff with the appropriate skills and experience. As a generalisation we have an aging workforce which requires particular initiatives to attract young people. MSEAA is aware of these issues and as a collective of trainers has a specific responsibility to offer interesting and relevant career programmes to maintain a supply of graduates to all parts of the sector.

Student numbers in 2009 and 2010 have held up well for all MSEAA tertiary providers reflecting both the economic uncertainty that developed from last year and higher unemployment. A successful 2011 training year will depend upon the present development of providers' investment plans with TEC and how providers will be able to facilitate training within a capped tertiary funding environment and the results of the NZQA Targeted Review of Qualifications. MSEAA provides significant sector group advocacy for these providers.

A highlight of the last year was the 2009 MSEEAA Annual Conference in Nelson held from August 12 to August 14. The conference was well supported and members enjoyed a range of topical speakers, sector interaction, entertaining events and site visits. The 2009 AGM followed the conference with a positive response to ensure that the executive committee retained the range of skills and contacts to further progress our organisation into 2010.

During the year the Executive met on three occasions - October, March and June at SITO. The major ongoing discussions include:

- Maintaining important ongoing linkages with SITO and MNZ and its representatives (and championing with MNZ another future workshop for Statutory Examiners).
- Ensuring that our voice is heard in the tertiary planning and decision processes particularly with TEC and NZQA including discussions about the NZQA Targeted Review of Qualifications and input into unit standard's reviews.
- Gathering topical information and data about the marine sector with a strategy to communicate information to a wider audience.
- Member representation on and feedback from SITO Advisory Groups.
- Building our capability through developments in communication – in particular our website and facebook.
- Granting a Michael Little Scholarship.
- Supporting, advocating and listening to each other.

For Maritime New Zealand the last year has seen progress on the process of updating its statutory qualifications. We recognise this will take some time. MSEEAA and its members continue to have a good working relationship with MNZ staff. We are particularly appreciative of the continuing contribution made by Harkesh Grover.

MSEEAA continues to have a very good working relationship with SITO. The support of SITO is particularly appreciated. Not only is it an active member but it willingly hosts meetings of the executive. We also note our appreciation to Michelle Blacktop for all her support over the past years and welcome the return to MSEEAA of Teresa Jones-Madill from SITO.

Thanks to members of the executive for their support and encouragement, to Christine Burt, our Secretary and to John Hannah who provides support and organises the annual conference.

Beyond this 2010 MSEEAA conference in Auckland this organisation will continue to work with both the maritime and seafood sectors to help them to achieve their considerable potential. In particular, aquaculture has come of age with the Prime Minister at the 2010 Seafood Conference championing the potential of marine farming.

Over the next year the MSEEAA executive will continue to progress a number of activities including membership development, completing the website update, further developing the marine strategic paper for circulation and enhancing MSEEAA's public relations.

Dan Forsman
Chairman.

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