



Maritime & Seafood Educators Association Of Aotearoa (MSEAA)

Chairman's Report 2014-2015 AGM, Nelson, 13 August 2015

The Association has a strategy to deliver on five business objectives:

- Deliver an annual conference
- Operate a quality website
- Ensure press releases and news items acknowledging MSEAA
- Increase membership
- Gain new sector members.

In the past twelve months since our last AGM in August 2014 the executive has met three times in November 2014, April 2015 and June 2015. With a focus upon the objectives above at the executive meetings we have consistently delivered annual conferences, we do have a current website and Facebook and we have engaged with a variety of organisations and stakeholders in the maritime, seafood and marine sectors.

We have open meetings and as a result we will have sector “visitors” attending who provide valuable insight for our industry. Sector educators advise on and guide the changes in certifications initiated by Maritime NZ under the SeaCert programme and also the qualifications managed by Competenz (as the maritime qualification developer) in the progress of the NZQA Targeted Review of Qualifications.

The Competenz ITO and Maritime NZ have permitted MSEAA members to participate in maritime qualification and certification developments. This input and dialogue allows our expertise to be recognised and utilised in the progress toward future qualification and licences. The work towards finalising qualifications for registration by NZQA is near completion alongside the introduction of SeaCert by MNZ.

In the seafood industry, including aquaculture, qualification review work is currently under progress under the governance of the Primary ITO.

The 2014 conference, “Winds of Change”, was successfully held in Wellington in August with a range of industry leaders addressing attendees. In addition to our ITO and MNZ presentations topics included: Maritime Policing, Rule changes on Commercial Operators, Supporting the Workforce, Engaging learners in an on-line environment and NZQA Programmes of study and managing consistency.

In 2014 a Mike Little Scholarship was awarded to Ashley Leach a student of the New Zealand Maritime School.

Our marine sector continues to be sustainable and of significant importance to the New Zealand economy. Most certainly the government has a strong focus upon both commercial utilisation and also the sustainability of New Zealand's marine resources and environment. This has led to a number of political topics including issues around marine activities. This highlights the fact that there is public awareness so there needs to be clear expectations about the way in which the marine sector is managed.

2015/2016 will continue to provide opportunities and challenges for our provider members with TEC investment plans, NZQA EER, the ongoing NZQA Targeted Review of Qualifications (TROQ) and new programmes of study, managing qualification consistency, and aligning to maritime certifications.

There was a strong provider response to NZQA over the fees for managing consistency. A review by NZQA resulted in a lowering of the intended fee regime and halving of the consistency event. This will save participating providers significant fees and costs.

MSEAA continues to be recognised by many stakeholders as an important and established tertiary representative organisation. Going forward, the proposal for a MSEAA Domestic Operations Moderation Group as an assessment and moderation panel for the domestic licensing area is currently under discussion. MSEAA has also been invited to provide a MSEAA representative on to the MNZ Industry Reference Group for the Midpoint Funding Review.

We thank Competenz ITO and the Manukau Institute of Technology for hosting our executive meetings in Auckland over the past current year. In particular we extend our thanks to Richard Cowper and Andrew Brownlee for their generosity in ensuring meeting space (and delicious food!) for the MSEAA executive.

I acknowledge the work of the executive and in particular the huge amount of work undertaken by our maritime members with Competenz and MNZ during the year towards TRoQ and SeaCert.

Dan Forsman
Chairman
10 August 2015