

Civil Contractors New Zealand Manawatu Branch

Branch Meeting Minutes

12 August 2021

42 Harrisons Line, Ashhurst

Start 7:00pm

Present: Greg Lumsden (Chairman), Heidi Giles (Secretary), Grant Radovanovich (CCNZ), Trevor Blenkiron, Daniel Blenkiron, Juana Doyle, Christopher Coleman, Shane Taylor,

Apologies: Leeann Clark (NZDT),

Confirmation of previous minutes:

Matters arising:

- Manawatu Regional Excavator Operator Competition – 6th March 2020. We go after Wellington, the gear goes to Nationals. Greg to confirm date with Eve and machine requirement. Discussion over Eve coming to a Branch Meeting to discuss Nationals.
 - Shane to approach council in relation to Railway Land. Check and see if any booking son the Monday so land doesn't have to be reinstated by Sunday night.
- Manawatu Branch would like to support Whanganui's Branch, expression of interest 21st October 2021 event. Manawatu financial contribution towards Mike Kings fee's? Manawatu to provide Bus for members (no charge). Need to discuss charge to members for Mike King & drinks?
 - Heidi to look into Bus hire companies in Palmerston North available for the 21st October 2021.
- Waiting to hear from Jamie, when we can go through Transmission Gully, then will open up trip to Members. Can open up to Whanganui and Hawkes Bay.
- Wild Bore shooting annual competition 1st & 8th September, times to be confirmed.
- Juana, hard to find meetings on website, one email came out. Reminders need to be sent out leading up to meetings. Needs to be on the front page. Telephone call? Text message?
- If the Council were at meetings, they could be present to have questions answered directly, ie: tenders and how the process is managed.
 - Contractors magazine, used to have all the tenders listed with the successful tender and lowest price.
 - You used to be able to contact the Council to find out what tenders are up, that doesn't happen anymore. You don't have a full-time staff member to constantly fill out forms to tender.
- Heidi's hours will need to be increased in the short term to get all contact information for members updated.

Correspondence:

- Greg received an email in relation to 'Save Marsden Point'. Grant Radovanovich reported if CCNZ want to get involved as a collective. Asked the Members of Manawatu to vote, outcome was no.

Financial:

- One account has been paid for magazine.
- Current position - outstanding accounts have been paid. AGM total was \$1,285.50 (of which \$700.00 was paid by attendees), as of today Call Account \$25,802.69, Current Account \$323.53, Visa \$0.00, Term deposit balance \$30,000.00.
- Heidi is meeting with CCNZ finance accountant in September to gain appropriate access and to understand how they want Xero managed.

General Business:

- Peter Silcox retiring as of 21 December 2021. CCNZ has engaged a Human Resources firm to advertise in early September 2021.
- Contact lists being brought up as correspondence at Branch level so members can advise if they know who the contact is.
- Trevor Blenkiron noticed in the media a Careers event with UCOL being held in Palmerston North, did our Industry or Branch hear about that? As it was school leavers getting career advice.
 - Grant has asked that if anyone hears about these types of events can we let him know, so he can pass it onto Fraser as he may not have heard about them. We can then get someone from Head Office to attend.
 - Biggest issue is that they have to have full license to do Wheels, Tracks and Rollers or drive a truck. With school leavers we have to wait a few years until they have their full licence and then try and get them off another employer.
 - Another issue is getting Career Advisors in the schools to accept that Contracting Industry is a viable career. Not just sitting driving diggers, driving trucks covered in grease. We need to re-educate the Careers Advises to get a buy in to the Industry.
 - The stigma around the Contracting Industry is also a stigma that we are the bottom of the heap. We have moved away from Trades and getting our hands dirty.
 - Putting people in a bus and showing them around some really cool sites and show them what's available.
 - Challenge for the Branch - put on an evening or day, for Careers Advisors. It would take a bit of organising a big job to get the scope.

Discussions over Meetings schedule

- Suggestion that maybe the remaining 6 months, we have 2 meetings. March to September is Excavator Competition planning.

- Manawatu Branch, commits 6 months of the year to the Excavator Competition then slow down the remaining 6 months (members don't turn up to meetings during this time).

Membership:

Discussions over increasing membership:

- Willingness from people present, but need more people to attend meetings.
- What would encourage more members? Social interaction ideas include running business house competition, members can enter a team of 2, then we put on a prize giving after the regionals. All drinks and food at winner's premises. Quick talk prior to that to encourage new members.
- Trevor Blenkiron – not many contractor members. Downers, Fulton Hogan, Higgins, Mills Albert – unfortunately don't attend. N3 card, most businesses have a good relationship with their client and have your own discounts. Still need to be discussing Contracting issues. Members have to come themselves; I'm not going to ring people. I want them to want to come to meetings. Think about 1 company/person. Meetings need to be structured properly. Welcome, Chairman names them. Social part of the evening, move around, interact.
- Presentation – what are the benefits of being members, power of the head office, N3, fuel schemes etc.
- Daniel Blenkiron – we need new members. Drag them along to functions. Needs to be done sooner or later. Grant and the N3 representative for a 'Bring a Mate' function. The first thing they say is what do I get out of it? Social Media, call, email. The more they get the more they will read it.
- Expressions of interest for a N3 and Council, N3 could sponsor a night, but some money at the bar. There are associates to sponsor nights.
- Trying to work out what will bring members to meetings, to start conversations, networking etc. How can we make it beneficial for them to come along and bring their staff.
- Gary Clarke is doing that, by bringing his staff.
- Active branch with active participants and real value taken out of it.

Grant Radovanovich reported:

- Wednesday before conference, comprehensive review coming out.
- Head Office perspective – dealing with skill shortage
- On the 4th August 2021, CCNZ requesting a meeting with parliament to discuss skill shortage and immigration survey.
- CCNZ contract John Bryant to work on a Civil Workforce Forum. He has been going around the countryside meeting with companies like yourselves and asking What are you guys doing out in the industry doing to bring people in? asking companies what are they wanting and trying to pull together actually some consistency about what industry want from someone that has come out of school and what training is

available and out there. That was discussed at a forum on the Wednesday before conference the results will be going out early September to Members. It's a pretty comprehensive review on what's going on around the entire industry. Some fallout will come from that to move forward. From a school leave and bringing people into the industry.

- From the Head Office perspective, we are heavily involved in trying to deal with people and the skill shortage we've got as well. You should have seen the latest Construction Survey, at least, an email with the downloadable side of it or a hard copy from the Construction Survey. And also, from that there is the immigration survey which came out. A survey put together by Engineers New Zealand, CCNZ, Institute of Architects, Master Builders. 135 companies responded to the survey, only 26 of them were Civil Companies. Wasn't a good representation of Civil Companies put information forward, however from those 35 companies there were 3229 vacancies and 53% of them came from Civil Companies. 1698 jobs coming from Civil Companies, it is a thing that CCNZ are working on and have requested a meeting with the key Ministers, Grant Robinson, Megan Woods, Potu Williams, Chris Faafoi on Wednesday the 4th August they requested that. And they will be having a meeting to recommend some changes done to the boarder exemptions, some changes around MIQ, some changes around lowering the salary threshold (think it's around the \$106,000 - \$107,000) so lowering that and adding construction sector professions and occupations to the list of approved workers alongside Dairy, Farm Managers, Shearers and things like that. We are working it from an overarching level, but we need to be doing more bringing kids into the industry. Top down, bottom up scenario. We are aware and working hard to turn that around. Governments don't turn wheels quickly, but it is the biggest issue coming out of the survey – Employment, Staffing issues.
- Advocating on behalf of the Free Trade Training, the training that is going on at the moment and pushing for that to be continued. And hopefully that will happen, which means there will be more people wanting to get into the industry. So those are things CCNZ are working on from a people and skill shortage that CCNZ are working hard on at the moment.

Meeting closed 8:46pm