

An achievement of a lifetime

Over 50 building officials were presented with the National Diploma for Building Control Surveying at a special graduation ceremony held on 14 November. Chief Operating Officer Dean Kimpton presented the diplomas.

It was a proud moment for the graduates and their families, especially those who are approaching retirement and, although they have been working in the industry for much of their careers, it is their first ever formal qualification.

The diploma itself is a win for the industry, as many have lobbied for it for several years to recognise their skills. From 1 December 2013 all building officials carrying out a technical function (i.e. processing a building consent or carrying out a building inspection), are required to have, or be working towards a recognised qualification.

Working with the Skills Organisation and using the Assessment of Prior Learning (APL) process, graduates were able to have their experience and skills recognised and assessed against unit standards. Council then supported the graduates to complete their diplomas with evening classes and mentoring throughout the year to complete the remaining unit standards.

Initially 13 employees gained both the diplomas and certificates in Adult Education and Work Place Assessment, to enable them to become workplace assessors and help their colleagues through the process.

Due to the large number of people in Building Control requiring this qualification, the APL process will be split over three years. This first tranche of graduates is a real 'feather in the cap' for Auckland Council as it is a massive undertaking and we are the first group to achieve this qualification nationally. Other councils now look to us for direction and guidance.

Special mention should be made of graduate, John Lawrence who sadly passed away before the ceremony. His sister and daughter attended the ceremony and accepted the diploma on his behalf.

