

NZIGE News

Volume 2005, Issue 1

April 2005

Newsletter to Members

April 2005

Welcome to this edition of the NZIGE News. These are produced on an 'occasional' basis to correspond with our members and keep you up to date with activities and areas of interest to the Institution. Please enjoy!

Feature articles...

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Scholarship 2005

Congratulations to Duncan Walker – this year's successful applicant of the 2005 NZIGE Scholarship.

As you know one of the objectives of NZIGE is to improve and advance the technical training and general knowledge of our members. One way we do this is the provision of a sum of \$2000 (GST inclusive) each year in the form of the NZIGE Scholarship.

This year the Council wanted to be more proactive in the way the scholarship funds are distributed and identified the upcoming New Zealand Quality College Auditor Training course to fulfil this requirement. The course is a five-day program and upon successful completion of

the course, participants receive a Certificate of Attainment and can progress to become a Provisional Quality Auditor under the RABOSA Auditor Certification Scheme.

On behalf of the Council thank you to those that applied. The Council was encouraged by the response and strongly believe this is a fantastic opportunity that will benefit Duncan, our members and the NZ gas industry.

NZIGE Workshops

NZIGE has organised an *"Accident/Incident Reporting and Investigation"* training course to be held in New Plymouth on the 2nd and 3rd May 2005. Applications for this workshop exceeded the maximum number of attendees allowed and unfortunately meant we had to turn away some enthusiastic applicants.

Due to this demand the Council is considering organising another course in September and encourages anybody that maybe interested to contact [Wally Mulgrew](#) to register their interest.

Life Fellows

At the last AGM, Rod Crone was awarded Life Fellow status. At a Council meeting prior to the AGM it was unanimously agreed that Rod's contribution to both the Institution and the gas industry has been outstanding and has been recognised by many individuals.

At the last NZIGE Council meeting it was unanimously agreed to award Tony Williams Life Fellow status. The Council recognised Tony's past involvement in the affairs of the Institution and the fact that he has decided to retire from the New Zealand gas industry.

On behalf of the NZIGE, congratulations and good luck for the future.

Welcome to new members

The Council are pleased to advise current members of those persons who have recently been accepted as Members or Associates of the Institution:

- David Whitfield – Associate
- Allan Emmart - Graduate
- Stephen Ilkovics – Member
- John DeBernardo - Member
- Gerry Thompson - Member

Horrocks Medal – 2004 seminar

The Horrocks Medal for the 2004 seminar was awarded to Ian Gallagher and David Howell for their very informative presentation titled "*A Project to Determine the Particulate Emission Characteristics of Gas Space Heating Appliances*".

The judges commented that the presentation detailed an original piece of work that involved the development of new testing procedures that was used to counter a pre-determined position by a local authority, the outcome being to the gas industry's benefit.

The adjudicators and NZIGE Council acknowledge the efforts of Ian and David, and all presenters for the high standard of presentations and the interesting topics covered at the seminar.



David Howell (left) and Ian Gallagher (centre) are awarded the Horrocks Medal by NZIGE President Peter Thorley, for their presentation at the 2004 NZIGE Spring Technical Seminar.

2005 Technical seminar

The 2005 Spring Technical Seminar and 81st AGM will be held in Lower Hutt on the 17th and 18th October 2005. Further details on the seminar will be available when finalised.

If anyone has any ideas for possible presentation topics or would like to do a presentation at the seminar please contact any of the Council.

Workshops by IPENZ

Want to improve your Excel skills or understand the asset management function of how to bridge the gap between finance and engineering, well read on.

IPENZ is offering all NZIGE members access to the IPENZ professional development programme. Typically the programme consists of one to two day short courses in areas that are topical and of interest to Members.

If you are an IPENZ member then the courses will meet the continuing professional development requirements as the outcomes will be linked to the relevant elements of the Competence Standards for each membership class.

Please note that NZIGE members can be put on an emailing list to be notified of upcoming workshops.

Full information on each course and a registration form are on the IPENZ website: <http://www.ipenz.org.nz/ipenz/nzecal/default.cfm>

Keeping safe... "Work-life balance"

Part of achieving good work / life balance is ensuring work does not negatively impact on people's lives outside of work and their mental and physical health. There is particular potential for work-place stress and fatigue to spill over into the private sphere, as well as vice versa.

Under the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992, employers are responsible for controlling or eliminating hazards which might cause injury or occupational illness. Stress and fatigue are implicitly included in this.

Managing paid work, unpaid work and leisure is a juggling act for many people – and that's likely to continue.

The issues:

- As more women take up paid work, there are more dual income families, more sole parents in the workforce... and greater potential for conflict between work and family life
- Thanks to an ageing population, more of the workforce is likely to be involved in caring for elderly relations
- More workers are putting in long hours, while the advent of cellphones and PCs is making it easy for work to spill over into personal time.

Balancing work and home life is a growing concern for both employers and workers. Improving that balance can help with employee recruitment and retention, match people who wouldn't otherwise work with jobs, and benefit families and communities.

Improving work-life balance can:

- Aid employee recruitment and retention
- Reduce absenteeism
- Improve the quality of peoples' working lives
- Match people who wouldn't otherwise work with jobs
- Benefit families and communities

Source: <http://www.dol.govt.nz/futureofwork/worklife.asp>

A bit of history...“Formation of the Gas Institute of NZ”

For some 50 years following the first supply of coal gas being turned on in Dunedin in 1863, the gas industry operated with minimum of State legislation... In 1920 discussions began with gas industry representatives and Government regarding draft regulations based mainly on the United Kingdom Act.

...these proposals required consideration, along with the need to study the steady introduction of electricity within the colony from water power, steam driven generators and in some cases gas engines.

After preliminary discussions an inaugural meeting was arranged in Wellington for 28 February 1924.

The 'Star' reported the same day -

New Zealand Gas Institute ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Wellington this day. A meeting of engineers and managers of gasworks in New Zealand, convened by Mr. G.D. Stone, of Wanganui, was held today for the purpose of forming a Gas Workers Institute for New Zealand.

There was a large attendance of representatives from municipal and company gas undertakings from all parts of the Dominion.

An association to be called the Gas Institute of New Zealand was formed and the following officers were elected. President Mr. James Lowe, Auckland; vice president, Mr G. D. Stone, Wanganui; secretary, Mr H. Rands, Wellington; treasurer, Mr. M. J. Kennedy, Wellington; committee, Messrs. Atkinson, Auckland; Healy, Palmerston North; and Kennedy, Greymouth.



James Lowe

It was decided to hold the next annual meeting in Auckland.

The members of the institute met to consider a draft of the proposed regulations affecting the gas industry which the Board of Trade have under consideration. A deputation was appointed to interview the Minister and the board with the object of securing certain amendments in the proposed regulations.

Members of the institute were already negotiating with Board of Trade especially the need for a standard heat value of gas, this being stated publicly by Dept of Industries and Commerce.

The article above is an extract from Albert Veart's book "Lamp Light to Natural Gas – A History of the New Zealand Institution of Gas Engineers".

Did you know...“Facts”

- The earth increases in weight by around 25 tonnes every day. The extra tonnage is "space dust"
- Lions can mate over 50 times a day.
- If a pinhead was brought to the same temperature as the sun's core (15,000,000 degrees celsius) it would set alight to everything for 60 miles around
- The longest-ever recorded flight of a chicken is 13 seconds.
- It's physically impossible for you to lick your elbow.
- Banging your head against a wall will burn 150 calories an hour.
- There are on average 6,000 computer viruses released every month.
- Mosquito repellents don't repel. They hide you. The spray blocks the mosquito's sensors so they don't know you're there.
- A duck's quack doesn't echo, and no one knows why.
- On average, 100 people choke to death on ball-point pens every year.
- Almost everyone who reads this will try to lick their elbow.

'Lamp Light to Natural Gas'

Council has available copies of Albert Veart's book on the history of NZIGE and the NZ gas industry published in late 2000. This very informative book was researched and written by Albert and published by NZIGE after his death in 1999. This is a great collection of valuable information about the history of the industry from the very early coal gas days through to the modern deregulated industry that may have otherwise been lost. Copies of Albert's book are available from NZIGE at a cost of \$20 each or five for \$80. Please contact [Wally Mulgrew](#) should you be interested in purchasing a copy.

A bit of humour...

"Call this a professional pantomime?" asked a furious theatregoer as he and his family stormed out of a performance at the Altmark Theatre in Stendal near Berlin. "I certainly don't. This was advertised as Snow White and the seven dwarves but what did we see on stage? Only four dwarves, two of who had pathetic puppets strapped on their backs, and sometimes there's also a normal sized man on his knees pretending to be the seventh dwarf. What's going on here isn't a theatre production, it's cheap mockery".

Despite receiving dozens of complaints from disgruntled Christmas audiences, theatre spokeswoman Suzanne Kreuzer defended the production. "Christmas is the one time of year when dwarves are in great demand, and they can almost name their own fee. We are a small theatre, and our budget only enabled us to book four dwarves. So we've attached two puppets clad in dwarves' costumes to the backs of two of the real dwarves, and the actor who plays the prince sometimes gets down on his knees and joins the end of the line. But he can only do that when he is not playing his lead role so, if children ask us why there are sometimes only six dwarves on stage, we tell them the seventh one is stuck down the mine working overtime"

Email addresses

If you received this newsletter by post, we don't have an email address for you on our database. If you have email, please advise [Wally Mulgrew](#) so we can add this to our list.

Email enables us to communicate quickly and cost effectively with our members.

Change of details

Could all members please ensure that any changes to contact details - address, phone no's, employer, email etc are notified to IPENZ so we can keep our membership database up to date.

We currently have a number of members that we can't contact due to incorrect details. If you know of anyone who hasn't heard from us recently, please get them to contact [Wally Mulgrew](#) with their updated details.

NZIGE Council

The members of the NZIGE Council as elected at the AGM are:

Peter Thorley

President

Ian Chapman

Past President

Barry Kinchin

Representing

Corporate Members

Dan Hynson

Representing

Corporate Members

Geoff Brown

Representing

Associate Members

Craig Muirhead

Vice President

Wally Mulgrew

Secretary/Treasurer

Geoff Evans

Representing

Corporate Members

Ian Gallagher

Representing

Associate Members

Contacts

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