

NZIGE News

Volume 2009, Issue 1

May 2009

Newsletter to Members May 2009

Presidents Message

Welcome from what by now should have been the second newsletter of the year. Despite the delay, this newsletter has become a bumper issue as the efforts of Council behind the scenes haven't slowed!

The latest and most pleasing result has to be the formation of NZIGEM. Remarkably three years have passed since 2006 when Bill Miller first suggested that IGEM might be interested in forming a branch with NZIGE. It is to Bill's credit and Craig Muirhead who was President at the time that we have to thank for taking a concept and making it a reality.

The 2009/10 Membership Subscriptions will be sent out in the next few days which include the \$62 annual subscription for those who have applied to join NZIGEM.

Planning for the 2009 Spring Technical Seminar is well on the way with the conference venue close to being confirmed along with a number of presenters. As promised in our last newsletter a summary of the results from the seminar survey conducted in December has been provided below. The results are again pleasing and thanks must again be extended to those that took the time to complete the survey. We do take notice and we do listen to your views, so welcome any and all feedback whenever we receive it.

On a final note it is pleasing to report and welcome four new members, but sad that with their recent passing we have lost Ted Williams (Past President) and Tony Gregory.

Geoff Evans
President

Contents

Feature articles...

- Membership changes
- Obituary – Arthur (Ted) Williams
- Obituary – Anthony (Tony) Gregory
- 2008 Survey Results
- 2009 Spring Technical Seminar
- NZIGE Golf Tournament
- Seminar Trade Displays
- NZIGEM
- 2008/09 NZIGE Scholarship
- 2009/10 Annual Subscriptions
- Lamp Light to Natural Gas by Albert Veart
- Workshops

Membership Changes

Council is pleased to welcome the following new members;

- Andrew Stevenson (Member)
- Darren Liptrott (Member)
- Katie Williamson (Graduate)
- Steve Williams (Associate)

Sadly Council reports the loss of two members who recently passed away;

- Arthur (Ted) Williams (Life Fellow)
- Anthony (Tony) Gregory (Associate)

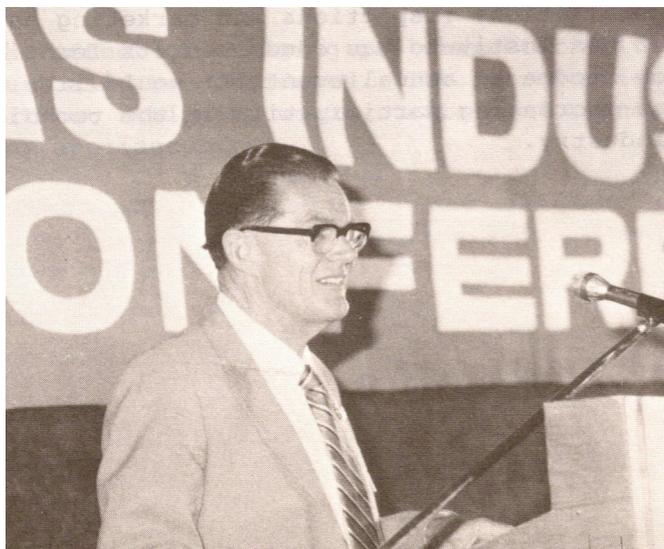
The following members have resigned since our last newsletter;

- John Darnley (Member)
- Tom Hodgson (Fellow)

Membership numbers as at 1 May 2009 were as follows;

Class	No.
Life Fellow	12
Fellow	6
Member	55
Associate	33
Graduate	6
Total	119

Obituary – Arthur (Ted) Williams (F. NZIGE)



It is with sadness that we report the passing of Ted Williams on 2 February 2009.

Ted will be well known to many who were around in the conversion days when natural gas displaced manufactured gas and over the next two decades as natural gas became more prevalent. He not only played a significant role within NZIGE but in other industry associations and organisations.

For many years Ted was the Manager of the Palmerston North City Council Gas Department which was one of the original "Kapuni 8" gas undertakings that signed up to convert to Natural gas in the 1960s.

Ted played an active role in GINZ (Gas Institute of NZ) the forerunner to NZIGE, having joined in 1961 and was appointed to President in 1975. NZIGE records provide clear evidence of Ted's participation and enthusiasm within the Institute and was clearly someone motivated and keen to make a difference both within the Institute and the industry.

Ted was actively involved with the affairs of the Gas Association of NZ (GANZ) and in the late 70's was the Palmerston North City Council representative on the Association Executive as well as being appointed to chairman of the appliance approvals group run by GANZ. Ted and David Peace (as Manager of the Testing Laboratory in Auckland) worked closely together running the approval scheme for gas appliances which eventually was expanded to become the Gas Development Centre.

In 1983 Ted became president of GANZ and was granted life membership of GANZ at the 80th AGM of the Association on 22 February 1989.

Ted retired from the industry in 1988 and was made a Life Fellow at the 65th AGM of NZIGE on 22 February 1989 in Wanganui.

Obituary – Anthony (Tony) Gregory (Assoc. NZIGE)



It is with sadness that we also report the passing of Tony Gregory on 17 March 2009.

Tony was born in the UK in 1944 in Carlisle, and emigrated to New Zealand in 1964 to take up a position with the Ministry of Works in the laboratories at Gracefield in Lower Hutt.

Trained and working as an Industrial Ceramics Engineer, Tony worked for NZ Insulators in Temuka before moving up to Auckland to take a position with AHI as a Production Engineer.

Tony joined Rinnai New Zealand in 1977, just two years after the company was founded. He originally served as Production Manager with responsibility for R&D and Supplier Relationships. His later work was as Technical Manager, covering Training, Product Evaluation and Launching, R&D and Product Compliance.

Tony was instrumental in the technical establishment and setup of the training programme for the Rinnai Infinity Continuous Flow Water Heater range. Tony enjoyed the training aspects of his job, and his skill with computers led to some very slick presentations and training material.

His final work with Rinnai was assisting to establish the commercial hot water market in South East Asia, seconded to Rinnai Corporation, and based in Singapore, travelling throughout Asia and the Sub-continent.

Tony was a member of the Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association which evolved into the Gas Appliance Suppliers Association for which he served a term as President, and an Executive member for 8 years and President in 2001 & 2002 of the LPG Association. Tony was highly respected and had a wide and excellent knowledge of gas equipment design and operation.

Tony played a major part in the establishment of the cabinet heater market in New Zealand and worked on the technical issues surrounding the introduction of these appliances.

Tony died peacefully in his sleep at his home in Singapore on Tuesday 17th March 2009, leaving 2 sons and 2 grandchildren, his wife Colleen having passed away in 2007.

2008 Survey Results

Thank you to those that responded to the annual survey which was sent out by email after the 2008 Technical Seminar in Rotorua. There were 47 respondents of which 21 attended the seminar.

The key findings are listed below, based on a rating of 5 or better on the scale of 1-7, where 1=poor & 7=excellent. The figures in brackets

represent the survey results from the previous year;

- Technical Presentations – 95% (93%)
- Value from Exhibitor Stands - 71% (83%)
- Site visit – 77% (65%)
- Seminar Dinner & Happy Hour – 95% (79%)
- Value for money – 91% (86%)
- Seminar overall – 95% (86%)

A number of comments were made on site visits noting the difficulty in finding appropriate venues and questioning the long term viability and benefit to delegates. Council is cognisant of this and although keen to retain site visits will only provide them if a suitable activity can be found.

Thank you again to those that participated in the survey as we value the feedback and guidance to ensure that we provide maximum benefit and opportunity to our members.

2009 Spring Technical seminar

The 2009 Spring Technical Seminar has now been confirmed for Auckland on 21/22 September with the venue to be confirmed in early June.

An invitation has been sent to IGEM to attend the seminar although we have yet to receive a reply.

Council has also confirmed a number of presenters but as usual at this stage of planning there are always spaces available for those members who wish to make a presentation.

If you are interested in presenting or have an idea or concept that you consider would be of interest please contact Geoff Evans or Greg O'Malley. Similarly if you know of a suitable activity or site visit that you would like Council to consider for the 2009 Seminar in Auckland, please let us know.

NZIGE Golf Tournament

Following the decision last year to change to an Ambrose format and the positive feedback from those that attended, Council is planning a similar event this year although the venue has yet to be confirmed.

The advantage with Ambrose is that it caters for golfers and non golfers alike, making the event more focused on participation than an individual's ability (or inability!) to play the game. Those that played last year had a great time and many who didn't go have indicated that they would like to this year.

More details about this year's event will be provided closer to the time. If you are a supplier and interested in being a sponsor then please contact our organiser Geoff Brown at geoff@cus.co.nz.

Seminar Trade Displays

Council will be sending out invitations around July to companies and organisations who may be interested in exhibiting their products or services at the 2009 Seminar.

Those contacted last year will receive an invitation again this year, but if you have not held a display previously or know of someone who might wish to, then please contact Geoff Brown at geoff@cus.co.nz.

NZ Institution of Gas Engineers and Managers (NZIGEM)

It is pleasing to report that it is all go with NZIGEM and within the next week or so those members that have previously applied for membership should receive confirmation along with a copy of the IGEM publication Gas International.

Council is presently working with IGEM on the content and timing of the initial mailout so are unable to confirm exactly when it will occur but it will happen and hopefully sooner rather than later.

Membership fees for NZIGEM remain at \$62 incl GST and have been included in the NZIGE subscription invoice being sent out in early June. The NZIGEM Subscription Year is aligned with NZIGE (1 June 2009 to 31 May 2010)

If you are interested in applying for membership of NZIGEM please contact Greg O'Malley for an application form. The form will shortly be available at the NZIGE website and the option to join will be included in the application form for new members of NZIGE.

2008/09 NZIGE Scholarship



Council is pleased to announce that Grant Bourke has been awarded the 2008/09 NZIGE Scholarship for his thesis "Energy Efficiency of Household Hybrid Gas Instantaneous/Electric Heat Pump Water Heaters". Grant is in his first year studying for a Masters in Engineering Mechanical at the Auckland University.

The scholarship is a contribution toward his university fees and will assist Grant in both gaining an in depth knowledge of potential new technologies and allow him to develop his research and project management skills. His studies will benefit the NZ Gas Industry by promoting the direct use of gas through the development of a product that will compliment and enhance heat pump water heaters rather than attempting to compete with them as has been the case to date.

Grant has offered to make a presentation at this years Spring Technical Seminar and at a later seminar once he has completed his studies.

You will probably be aware from past newsletters that Council has been very keen to award the scholarship to a worthy recipient and cause. Grant's application for the scholarship

was not only very welcome but Council was particularly impressed with the application and considered both Grant and the nature of his studies worthy of receiving support from NZIGE.

Council wishes Grant every success with his studies and his willingness to pass on the knowledge gained to our members.

2009/10 Annual Subscriptions

Subscription invoices will be sent to members in the first week of June for the subscription year commencing 1 June 2009, with a due date for payment of 1 August 2009.

Please note that for those that have previously applied for membership of NZIGEM an additional fee of \$62 has been included in the amount due. The NZIGEM subscription year is aligned with the NZIGE year which commences 1 June 2009.

If you do not receive an invoice or have any comments or concerns then please contact the Secretary, noting that Life Fellows and Honorary Fellows are exempt from paying the NZIGE subscription but will be invoiced for the NZIGEM subscription if applicable.

It would be very much appreciated by Council if on receipt of the invoice you process payment as soon as you can, or let us know as soon as possible if you wish to query the account. Each year a small number of members fail to pay by the due date (in many instances the same people) and Council can spend an inordinate amount of time chasing up what typically amounts to very little money.

Lamp Light to Natural Gas

There are now only a limited number of copies available of Albert's book from the initial print run in 2000 (published by NZIGE). Council is considering not printing the book again but making it available in electronic PDF format. As the setting up cost is likely to be minimal we are keen to make the book freely available to members and others on request.

Council believes that in the spirit the book was conceived and published, making it more widely available to members and anyone else wishing to read it, would be completely respectful and appropriate for a person who throughout his life contributed so much to the NZIGE and the NZ Gas Industry.

If you consider that the book should be reprinted please contact Geoff Evans. If you would like to purchase one of the remaining 3 copies at a cost of \$20 each please contact Greg O'Malley.

For those reading this that haven't heard of Albert Veart's book, it is a very informative and detailed book researched and written by Albert and published by NZIGE after his death in 1999. It 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.

Workshops

There are no specific workshops planned at present although a number have been identified as possibilities, so if you have an idea or a specific topic that you consider would be of interest to members please contact Geoff Evans.

IPENZ e.nz magazine

This magazine is available to NZIGE members for \$40 + GST per annum including postage, with 6 issues of the magazine sold on calendar year basis. If you wish to subscribe please visit <http://e.nz-magazine.co.nz/main.htm>

Change of Details

If you have recently moved, changed employers or had any other changes to your contact details please help us help you by advising us of the changes. We will then make sure your details are updated on our records and we are then better able to provide you with information when it is sent out to our members.

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