

# NZIGE News

Volume 2004, Issue 1

April 2004

## Newsletter to Members

April 2004

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...

- [Hawkes Bay flood crisis](#)
- [Workshops by IPENZ](#)
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- [2004 Technical seminar](#)
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### Hawkes Bay flood crisis

Gas supplies to the Hawke's Bay region were disrupted on 16 February 2004 when floodwaters destroyed a bridge carrying NGC's high pressure gas transmission pipeline across the Pohangina River, near Ashhurst.

The pipeline was still intact but was separated from the bridge and left suspended in turbulent water. This section of pipeline was isolated and partly depressurised for safety reasons and to preserve linepack in the pipeline east of Ashhurst. It was recommissioned to about half normal operating pressure on 20 February while a temporary aerial crossing using new pipe was constructed.

NGC contactors worked around the clock to complete the 120 metre temporary aerial

crossing that was commissioned on 3 March 2004.

A new permanent crossing, to be laid in a trench 60m downstream of the former crossing is expected to be commissioned by NGC in late April.



Photos courtesy of NGC

In order to help maintain gas supply, Vector, Powerco and NGC agreed the loan of Vector's six CNG tankers in order to provide customers with

a temporary gas supply while the main line was repaired.

Five of the tankers and a regulating unit provided supply to the Watties plant and other parts of the network in the lower North Island. The sixth tanker and a second regulating unit supplied gas to approximately 300 customers in Ashhurst.

For further details refer <http://www.ngc.co.nz/>

## 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*  
**Barry Parsons**  
*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*

## 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:

- Philip Miles - Associate
- Wally Mulgrew - Associate
- Graham MacKinnon - Member
- Martyn Dudley - Associate
- Geoff Hall - Member
- Brett Oldfield - Member

## Workshops by IPENZ

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>

## 2003 Technical seminar review

A very successful seminar was held in New Plymouth last October with just over 50 delegates attending. We have received favourable comments regarding the quality of presentations and the interesting topics and theme. We continued on recent years' success by inviting specialists from outside the industry to do presentations on topics that increased the knowledge and skills of our members and benefited the NZ gas industry.



Over the Christmas break we circulated a web-based survey to those members that attended the 2003 spring technical seminar. The survey asked participants a number of questions relating to the preparation, content and future seminars. Below is a brief summary of some of the key feedback we received. If you want to see the complete results of the survey then please click on the link below.

For complete survey results please click [here](#).

## 2004 Technical seminar

The 2004 Spring Technical Seminar and 80<sup>th</sup> AGM will be held in Hamilton on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> October 2004. The NZIGE annual golf tournament will be held on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October.

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.

## Horrocks medal – 2003 seminar

The judges for the Horrocks Medal at the seminar have recommended that no medal be awarded due to the criteria not being fully met – particularly the requirement for producing a technical paper. It needs to be noted that Council believes the presentations and topics at the last seminar were of a high standard and great value to our members and the industry as evidenced by the favourable comments received.

The Horrocks medal judging criteria puts emphasis on producing a technical paper in addition to the presentation. With the trend in recent years to power point presentations and a CD to increase the quality and professionalism of the seminar, there has been a move away from producing a traditional 'paper'. Council will review the Horrocks medal requirements and will advise members in the future. If anyone has any comments/ideas on this please contact a Council member to discuss.

## A bit of humour...

A guy has a gas heater installed. 18 months later he receives a call saying "We haven't received payment for your gas heater installation". Funny! The guy says. "That should have been fixed up 6 months ago". Well says the caller "We have no record of receiving payment". "Then I suggest you talk to the heater" says the guy. "Why talk to the heater?" "Well, explains the guy, your installer when fitting it told me it would pay for itself in 12 months".

## Scholarship

NZIGE has again budgeted \$2000 for a scholarship to benefit our members and the NZ

gas industry. Any activity that will benefit an individual member's professional development, NZIGE membership in general and the NZ gas industry will be considered. The Council has set some guidelines for assessing applications to ensure this is done in a fair and consistent manner. Any inquiries should be made to [Peter Thorley](#).

## 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.

## 'Lamp Light to Natural Gas'

Council still has available copies of Albert Vearts 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 Alberts book are available from NZIGE below cost at \$20 each or five for \$80. Please contact [Wally Mulgrew](#) should you be interested in purchasing a copy.

## 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.

## A bit of history... "The Horrocks Medal"

Mr Harold Horrocks was employed by the Dunedin City Council in October 1913. In 1924 he was appointed Assistant Gas Engineer and promoted to Senior Gas Engineer in 1936. He announced his retirement on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1952 at the age of 65. The Dunedin City Council's

