

NZIGE News

Volume 2004, Issue 2

December 2004

Newsletter to Members

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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...

- 2004 Technical Seminar Survey
- Horrocks Medal – 2004 seminar
- Keeping safe... "Getting our kit together"
- Did you know..."Recycling"
- Workshops by IPENZ

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:

- Sean Waddell - Associate
- Raymond Wai-Man Lam - Member

2004 Technical seminar review

A very successful NZIGE Spring Technical Seminar was held at the Kingsgate Hotel in Hamilton on 11 and 12 October. The seminar theme this year was "Compliance and Technology Solutions for the Future", and the seminar this year again attracted over 50 delegates.

Mr Mike Underhill, in his capacity as Chair of Waikato Economic Development, provided a very lively and thought provoking opening address. Over the following two days delegates enjoyed 14 interesting and varied presentations that touched on many aspects of the wider gas industry, including LNG, innovative gas technologies in NZ, maintenance engineering techniques, gas appliance particulate emissions, and more. The second day also included a site visit to the Pukete wastewater treatment cogeneration plant.

This year the NZIGE was very fortunate in having Mr Glyn Hazelden from the Gas Technology Institute, Des Plaines, USA who provided very interesting and informative presentations on pipeline rehabilitation and keyhole technology developments that GTI are involved with in the USA.



Delegate feedback from a follow-up survey is currently being analysed to identify possible improvements to ensure the ongoing success of the annual NZIGE Spring Technical Seminar event. Overall, delegates rated the seminar a score of 5.8 out of 7. This compares favourably with last years score of 5.2.

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

Horrocks Medal – 2004 seminar

The Horrocks Medal for the 2004 seminar was awarded to Ian Gallaugh 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.

IPENZ Convention

A highlight of the engineering calendar is the annual IPENZ Convention. The 2005 IPENZ Convention will be held at the Waipuna Hotel and Convention Centre in Auckland from the 16th – 18th March and promises to be educational, enlightening and entertaining. "Engineers as Leaders" is the overall theme of the Convention. The Convention comprises of a President's Reception, a Fellows and Achievers Dinner* and informative sessions themed : "Engineers as Leaders", "Engineering the Built Environment", "Building and Construction", "Software Engineering" and "Engineering Materials". Registration opens soon, so don't forget to pencil this date in your diary now!

* all sessions will be held at the Waipuna Hotel and Convention Centre apart from the Fellows and Achievers Dinner. This dinner will be held at the Ellerslie Convention Centre on Thursday 17th March 2005.

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... "Getting our kit together"

A good few years ago now I came across a car that had a sticker on the back window proclaiming for all to see that the car in question was a nuclear free zone.

Cars may be many things to many people, but I doubt any car could be considered an effective shield against a nuclear strike.

For most of us, cars fulfil a far more mundane purpose - getting us from point A to point B reasonably safely and, unless you live in Auckland, reasonably quickly. The car, van or truck you and I drive is therefore essentially and almost solely a mode of transport.

At least it was. But recently our humble vehicle has gone through a transformation of sorts. It has become something else, at least in legal terms. The problem is not a lot of people or companies know it. Consequently, a lot of those people and companies are breaking the law!

You see, your vehicle and mine, if we are using them for work, are now defined for the purposes of various OSH legislation and codes of practices as "places of work." In that capacity, those vehicles are subject to some of the same requirements as a static place of business - including the provision of accessible first aid equipment.

Yes, there are differences; OSH is, after all, pragmatic. For example, depending on staff numbers, your company may be required to provide a discrete first aid room in your factory, shop or office; no such requirement applies to your vehicles.

However, OSH strongly suggests that you have a first aid kit in your vehicle. Consider these three quotes from the OSH Guideline on the subject, and you'll see that the statement "strongly suggested" is a bit of an understatement:

"...the employer should provide the materials, equipment and facilities needed to ensure that the level of cover identified as necessary will be available to employees at all relevant times."

"Each employer shall provide at least one full basic first aid kit in each place of work."

"Where employees work in, or travel to, scattered locations away from the main place of work, each work vehicle shall be provided with a suitable first aid kit."

You'll be interested to note that whilst the above quotes are from OSH's helpful guidance notes, the word "shall" is defined in those same notes as denoting a "mandatory requirement." In other words, we shall have a first aid kit in each and every vehicle used for work purposes. To not have one opens us up to all types of nasty culpability and unnecessary attention.

It's important to note here that in the absence of actual regulations, OSH's guidelines become a sort of de facto law. At the very least, they are seen as best practice and an employer's adherence to them goes a considerable way to meeting all the practical steps required of the Health & Safety Employment Act of 1992. That adherence can also be a mitigating factor and possible defence in court.

In fact, like much else to do with occupational health and safety, a lot of it comes down to sheer common sense. OSH has done its part in requiring us to have mandatory first aid kits in every work vehicle, and then making reasonable suggestions as to what those kits should comprise. Theirs is a sensible, precautionary and helpful approach.

It's up to each of us to respond in a like manner, and get our kit together.

Did you know... "Recycling"

- A person uses two pine trees' worth of paper products each year (US)

- Making paper from recycled materials results in 74% less air pollution and 35% less water pollution.
- Turning aluminium old cans into new cans saves 95% of the energy needed to make cans from ore.
- One recycled aluminium can saves enough electricity to run a computer or a TV for three hours.
- Recycling a glass jar saves enough energy to light a bulb for four hours.
- Recycling glass saves 25-32% of the energy used to make it.
- A tonne of PET plastic containers made with recycled plastic conserves about 7,200 kWh of electricity.
- Five 2-litre PET bottles makes enough fibrefill for one jacket.
- It takes 7 gallons of crude oil to produce one car tire
- 75% of a tree harvested for paper does not wind up as a paper product
- It takes one full cup of crude oil to make the plastic for each "disposable" nappy.
- It takes 4.5 trees to make the pulp used in "disposable" nappies for one baby over 2 1/2 years (ie: 7 million trees a year are felled for UK babies, 1.3 million trees for NZ babies)

Please Note: These figures have been collected from various sources and have not been independently verified. We offer them for your additional research.

A bit of history... "Gas Street Lighting"

Street lighting was the first initiative for the gas companies. As the population grew gas works were erected initially for street lighting, other uses following later.

In 1863 Christchurch could boast three kerosene lamps. The lamplighter was paid 7 shillings per week for each lamp and to supply chimneys, wick and kerosene. In 1864 the council let a contract for a further 17 kerosene lamps.

By late 1864 the Christchurch Gas Coal and Coke Company had completed its gas works and laid 3 ½ miles of gas mains. It then contracted to take over their 17 kerosene lamps and replace them with gas at £20 per annum each. The first gas lamps were lit on Christmas Eve 1864.

In Auckland the gas company supplied gas to 43 street lamps in the city area and to most leading stores in April 1865.

In 1871 Wellington Gas Company contracted to supply street lighting for 24 gas lamps for the city council. Actually, the first building in New Zealand to be lit by gas was the Aurora Theatre in 1844; the gas was produced from whale oil.

By the 1880's gas had proved its worth, not only in lighting but with cooking and water heating. It was relatively cheap and efficient so it was hardly surprising that smaller towns began to construct their own gasworks.

A quotation from a report to the Wanganui City Council in 1913:

Question: What is the number of horses used for lamplighting and cost of food per horse for last 12 months?

Answer: The number of horses used is four. The cost of feed for the last twelve months is £78-0-9, running out at 7/6 each horse per week. This is very low considering that they have practically no grass, nearly all hard food.

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".

'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.

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](#).

A bit of humour...

An old farmer in Kansas had owned a large farm for several years. He had a large pond in the back, fixed up nice; picnic tables, horseshoe courts, and some apple and peach trees. The pond was properly shaped and fixed up for swimming when it was built. One evening the old farmer decided to go down to the pond, as he hadn't been there for a while and look it over. He grabbed a five gallon bucket to bring back some fruit. As he neared the pond, he heard voices shouting and laughing with glee. As he came closer he saw it was a bunch of young women skinny-dipping in his pond. He made the women aware of his presence and they all went to the deep end of the pond. One of the women shouted to him, "We're not coming out until you leave!" The old man frowned, "I didn't come down here to watch you ladies swim naked or make you get out of the pond naked." Holding the bucket up he said, "I'm here to feed the alligator." Moral: Old age and cunning will triumph over youth and enthusiasm every time.

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

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.

Merry Christmas

From everyone on Council, we wish you a merry Christmas and hope you have a safe and enjoyable new year.

Contacts

When mailing anything to NZIGE please use the IPENZ address – NZIGE PO Box 12241 Wellington.

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Our Website: <http://www.nzige.org.nz/>