

Annual Report SCENZ-IChemE in New Zealand

New Plymouth 10 April 2013

Board Members

David Platts Chair, Brent Young Deputy Chair, Grieg Wilson Honorary Treasurer, Peter Gostomski, Rebecca McDonald, Julian Glynn, Clive Davies, Jenny Culliford, Paul Feltoe, David Pearce, Stephen Drew, Gerard O'Connor, Peter Slane, (ex-officio), and Catherine Muldoon (ex-officio).

Staff

The Board is pleased to report that Catherine Muldoon has been successfully marketing membership to the NZ community and has secured significant increases in student membership numbers as a result of visits to Auckland and Canterbury University campuses. It is very pleasing to report that the NZ office presence, in conjunction with support from Australian office in Melbourne, has delivered significant benefits to the organisation in terms of continuity and membership queries management. The part time nature of the employment poses some coordination issues but with support, as needed, from Melbourne these have been satisfactorily managed. It is acknowledged that with the NZ membership base, desirable as it may be, we cannot at this time sustain a full time staff member.

Office Facilities

We have been advised the current office premises in Thorndon will no longer be available from the end of March 2013. As a result we will again be in need of securing office premises. Given this is now our second such move in three years it is suggested that the incoming board consider alternatives to the current lease options that we have been entering into. Since our executive officer may have a change of circumstances affecting her employment status with us it has been decided, in conjunction with the Australasian executive officer that Catherine undertake her role and responsibilities from home until the accommodation situation can be satisfactorily addressed. We thank Catherine for undertaking these tasks in the interim until circumstances have been clarified.

Apart from the above matters we have benefited in 2012 / 2013 from a stable operation from a fixed base of operation.

Financial

The management of the SCENZ – IChemE branch finances in 2012/ 2013 was jointly undertaken by the New Zealand office and Jo Downham and her team in the UK. With the tax issues now normalised and the change of balance date embedded to align with the UK

the operation has run much more smoothly. Much of the success of this management has been due to the exceptional skills of Grieg Wilson the Honorary Treasurer who has battled the nuances of managing internet banking with international account signatories etc . I would like to thank Grieg personally for his help in this matter.

An added complication of this year's financial management has been the incorporation of Chemeca 2012 accounting processes into the mix. These complications have proved particularly challenging with much of the Chemeca accounts management being undertaken through a trust account managed by the PCO in Melbourne.

As the final CHEMECA accounts reconciliation is still being undertaken the annual accounts for SCENZ IChemE in NZ have these costs segregated out as detailed in the presented accounts. It is expected that when all commitments and obligations have been met the CHEMECA 2012 conference will deliver in excess of \$20,000 SCENZ IChemE in NZ to the income stream for 2012/2013.

Membership

Membership has again grown with a summary presented below.

	Feb 2012	Feb 2013
Fellows	39	37
Members	103	103
Associates	113	145
Affiliates	94	72
Students	18	65

We continue to see growth in membership in the student and associate grade area. This is as a result of the visits to Universities by our NZ Based Executive Officer and board efforts to encourage membership of already qualified engineers. The targeting of students was identified as a key area of activity in 2011 and this membership growth confirms this was an appropriate focus for our efforts. I believe we will need to focus on encouraging transfers from the associate grade to full membership as an objective going forward in 2013/2014. Full and Fellow membership levels remain static at this time.

As noted the number of associate members has grown whilst the numbers of full members remains unchanged. There is currently a small backlog of applications for membership in New Zealand and this needs to be addressed in 2013. If we do not handle transfer applications in a timely manner we will run the risk of losing potential member transfers. The Australasian Executive are aware of this issue and methods by which the vetting and processing of applicants can be speeded up without compromising the integrity of the process are being implemented. It has been suggested that the membership applications office should provide updates to applicants on the progress of their applications to ensure they do not become disengaged with the process.

Activities

Chemeca 2012 Te Papa Tongarewa Wellington

Chemeca 2012 in Wellington was attended by 322 registered delegates and was judged by all to be an outstanding success with many overseas visitors complementing the organising committee on the presentations. Wellington provided a stunning three days of weather for the conference and many visitors left vowing to return in the future. It was also especially gratifying to note the heavy commitment by Platinum Sponsors Fonterra to the event. In addition to their generous financial support their wide range of ice creams and NZ cheese were especially appreciated by delegates.

The quality of presentations, the venue and its staff, plus the large number of attendees made this conference one of the most successful Chemeca to be held in New Zealand.

I would like to sincerely thank Clive Davies our Board Member from Massey University who; as the conference chair organised the conference. I am personally aware of the tremendous effort that Clive put into the event securing a host of internationally renowned speakers including the President of Trinidad and Tobago as a plenary presenter.

In addition thank you to all the NZ board for supporting this event. I acknowledge that the commitment placed a significant time burden on many of you and the help given so freely by you all made the conference run smoothly.

Kennedy Wunsch Lecture

The 2012 Kennedy Wunsch lecture was delivered in Mount Maunganui, by Graeme Robertson to an audience of approximately 30 people. The lecture presented by Robertson delivered a stimulating insight into the early pulp and paper industry also included were his experiences during his time in managing research at the renowned Cawthron Institute.

Visits to Massey, Waikato and Auckland Universities by Sir William Wakeham were well supported and his sharing of the educational strategies being adopted globally in the training of engineers for the future was thought provoking and educational for all.

When in New Zealand, attending an International Safety Conference, Judith Hackitt gave a presentation on behalf of SCENZ IChemE to Senior Industry Leaders in Wellington. The presentation focussed on the current attitude to Health and Safety delivery from the perspective of senior company management with suggestions as to how the efforts in the area of improving performance could be positively reinforced at a senior level within the business community. The presentation was well received and we were lucky to be able to secure Judith for this presentation given her heavy international travel schedule at the time.

David Brown visited in late January 2013 and was able to meet with the NZ board in Auckland and Wellington and further renew contact with IPENZ in Wellington where we were able to give a short presentation to the Engineering Practice review committee and

discuss with IPENZ jointly marketing Chemical Engineering to schools and the wider community.

Regional Activities

There was again significant regional activity in 2012 at both national and regional levels. Activities in Auckland included a refinery visit to Marsden Point and University meetings. A Waikato BOP Branch joint presentation featuring the NZ Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) and IChemE was given by David Brown and Veronica Jacobsen of MBIE. This event was attended by 65 people. Brown presented a lecture titled "Why Chem Eng Matters" and Jacobsen the "NZ Government Technology Strategy" paper.

Regional activity in 2012 continued to grow and in addition to the above events there were successful regional group meetings held in Taranaki, Palmerston North, Christchurch and Wellington. In Christchurch it was encouraging to note that a joint event with IPENZ was undertaken with a visit to the Keratec facility.

It is suggested that moving significant events to the regions and not just holding them in the main centres serves the membership well and we hope that the holding of the AGM in New Plymouth, home of the Taranaki branch, reinforces our commitment to bring the participation activities to the people, who as members, sustain our organisation.

In Closing

I would like to personally, and on behalf of the board and membership, sincerely thank Catherine Muldoon our Executive Officer and Peter Slane Executive Director Australasia for their support and guidance over the last twelve months.

I would like to thank all the board members for giving me their willing support over the last two years, and especially this year Clive Davies and Grieg Wilson for their sterling efforts in getting CHEMCA 2012 over the line, it was a huge commitment and you both deserve individual mention for your efforts. The rest of the Board have all contributed significantly to the success over the last twelve months and, as the departing chair I sincerely thank you all for your help. To Brent Young, chair elect for 2013, should you be confirmed as the incoming chair I am happy to assist with the transition and offer you support through 2013. I wish you well for your term in office and look forward, jointly with you, to developing better and more focussed member services for our New Zealand members.

Finally, I again acknowledge important members of our community who are often forgotten in these reports and, without whose support and understanding little would have been possible. Our wives, partners, friends, colleagues, fellow members and employers who have enabled us all to be engaged with SCENZ-IChemE in New Zealand - without them we would not have been able to deliver for the wider membership. My sincere thanks to you all.

D H Platts 10-04 2013