

Chairman's Report

Max Kennedy

03 Sep 2010

The 2009-2010 year was a watershed year for SCENZ. In November 2009 at a Special General Meeting, SCENZ voted (with approx 85% majority) to change its constitution to become SCENZ – IChemE in New Zealand, effectively a branch of the Institution of Chemical Engineers (IChemE). IChemE has recently become more internationally focused and this move provided members with a direct linkage to the international chemical engineering fraternity.

This, however, was just the beginning of the efforts required to improve services to members and to establish broader chemical engineering linkages. The Board has set up regional groups in Auckland, Waikato/Bay of Plenty, Taranaki, Manawatu/Southern North Island, and the South Island. Several of these regions had significant launch events including a visit by David Brown, the CEO of IChemE, to Wellington, a joint meeting with The Australian Pulp and Paper Industry Technical Association (APPITA) in Rotorua, meetings in Auckland and a very successful launch in New Plymouth. The Board values highly these regional activities. This has resulted in New Zealand having the fastest growth rate of members worldwide within IChemE, a notable achievement. The challenge of the coming year will be to provide a dedicated staff member and location for centralized administration to get more benefits out to members.

In terms of international presence, I took over the role of Chair of the Australian and New Zealand Federation of Chemical Engineers (ANZFChE) for 2009-2010. Board member Tim Dobbie will represent New Zealand and the Federation at the Asia Pacific Confederation of Chemical Engineers (APPChE) meeting in Taiwan later in the year. New Zealand also has an interest in the World Chemical Engineering Council (WCEC). An international presence is important not only as SCENZ-IChemE in New Zealand being a good international citizen, but as a means of ensuring New Zealand input into significant chemical engineering events. One very significant event being the annual Chemeca conference, which is scheduled for New Zealand in 2012.

SCENZ-IChemE in New Zealand continues to work with other like-minded organisations within New Zealand, the most notable being the Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand (IPENZ). SCENZ-IChemE in New Zealand is committed to developing this relationship, with activities such as supporting IPENZ's membership of ANZFChE.

Lastly a few thanks are in order. Thanks to retiring board member Brian Earl, a long time contributor to chemical engineering in New Zealand. Brian has provided the Board very wise counsel over the past year. Thanks also to Tony Harcourt who has provided dedicated service in the executive engine room and ensured things have run smoothly. Thanks to the board members who have put in a lot of voluntary effort. A special thanks to IChemE international, particularly Jan Althorp and David Brown who have been very supportive of New Zealand.

A final word to members, thanks for your enthusiasm and participation. Without these we would cease to exist. I encourage you to take advantage of what SCENZ-IChemE in New Zealand offers. Keep an eye on the IChemE website (www.icheme.org/NewZealand), as I am sure you will see things that will interest you over the coming year. Volunteers are always welcome if you wish to become more involved in your Institution then just drop us a line at nzmembers@icheme.org