

Annual Report SCENZ-IChemE in New Zealand

Palmerston North 30 March 2012

Board Members

David Platts Chair, Max Kennedy immediate past Chair, Christopher Bloore Honorary Treasurer, Peter Gostomski, Rebecca McDonald, Grieg Wilson, Clive Davies, Paul Feltoe, Stephen Drew, Brent Young, Gerard O'Connor (Jan Althorp ex-officio).

Staff

The Board was fortunate to gain the services of Catherine Muldoon, a qualified Chemical Engineer as our executive officer based in Wellington. This appointment was made late in 2011. We operated for a significant period in 2011 without local administrative support.

Office Facilities

Due to restructuring at NZ Bio our shared offices facility's lease was terminated. We were fortunate to secure suitable premises in Thorndon and these facilities are now functioning well. We do encourage members to call in and see Catherine at our offices but please check first as she works part-time and could be away on Institution business.

The changes in both staff and facilities during the past year proved a challenge but thanks to the assistance of the local members, with logistics, we were able to transition our operation smoothly.

Financial

The management of the SCENZ –IChemE branch in 2011 took a significant amount of effort on the part of the UK team and our local board members. Reconciling the potential outstanding contingent liability issues with respect to past operations required input from both BDO locally and the UK Finance team. I am happy to report that despite the financial cost of this support we can now remove this contingent liability clause from our accounts statements

The detailed accounts are presented separately to this report for members' information.

Due to upcoming Chemeca 2012 conference our cash flow predictions indicated we should register with IRD as an organisation for GST purposes. This has been done; however, it did result in subscriptions invoices being sent out somewhat later than usual from IChemE. As a consequence this has slowed cash flow into the organisation for the beginning of 2012 Council and the CEO, David Brown, have again reinforced their financial commitment to the New Zealand Operations and we have a jointly agreed MOU to put before Members for noting at the 2012 Annual General Meeting.

Membership

Membership has again grown with a summary presented below.

| | Feb 2011 | Feb 2012 |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Fellows | 31 | 39 |
| Members | 97 | 103 |
| Associates | 90 | 113 |
| Affiliates | 90 | 94 |

We continue to see growth in membership. We acknowledge there is more effort required to engage with students, academics and the wider engineering communities. We need to develop a strategy that better targets students early on with the expectation this would lead to an increase in membership uptake in this grade. Our Executive Officer will focus on this area of our activities in 2012.

Activities

There was significant activity in 2011 at both national and regional levels. A highlight of the year was a conference day in Hamilton where over 70 people attended at Waikato University. This was a record for SCENZ –iChemE in New Zealand. A mixture of fast track Industrial papers and quick fire academic papers was well received by all participants.

In September 2011 we were pleased to host Sir William Wakeham, the President of IChemE, at events in Christchurch and Wellington. Visits to Canterbury University and meetings with MSI and IPENZ were featured.

Andy Furlong IChemE Director of Policy and Communications undertook a whistle stop tour of the regions and delivered several successful presentations on effective communication. The feedback received suggested that more such events should be scheduled.

Justin Blades IChemE Director Member Services, Marketing, and Regional Networks also visited us and met with members of government departments and Wellington region members.

The Kennedy Wunsch Lecture

The Kennedy Wunsch lecture this year was presented on two occasions in 2011 by Kevin Marshall. The first presentation of the lecture was at the Chemeca launch at Te Papa in Wellington and the second at the Conference day in Hamilton. The presentation on the history of Dairy Industry based Chemical Engineering was fascinating and well received on both occasions. The practice of giving these lectures on multiple occasions should be considered by the incoming board as should the criteria for selection of the invited presenters.

Regional Activities

Regional activity in 2011 continued to develop and in addition to main centre events there were successful regional group meetings held in Taranaki, Hamilton, Palmerston North and Wellington. Joint events were held with IPENZ and NZIFST.

Training Courses

IChemE successfully ran process safety courses in New Zealand delivered by local providers. It is hoped that more courses offering differing skill set presentations can be delivered in the future. To reduce overhead costs, perhaps these could be delivered in conjunction with Australian presentations.

Chemeca 2012

Planning is well underway for the event to be held at Te Papa Tongarewa from the 23rd to 26th September 2012. It is important for the success of this event that the board and the membership promote and support it. We are fortunate to have Gary Romano of Fonterra as conference co-chair with Clive Davies, Massey University. I encourage the membership to become engaged and support the conference by attending the event and encouraging others to do the same.

In Closing

I would like to personally, and on behalf of the board and membership, sincerely thank Jan Althorp currently Executive Director Asia Pacific for all her tremendous support and guidance over the last three years. Jan Althorp has decided its time to move on from IChemE to a new challenge and we all wish her well in whatever she chooses to embark upon in the future. Thanks Jan you will certainly be missed.

I would like to thank all the board members for giving me their willing support over the last year, especially Max Kennedy, the departing past chair, for his guidance on matters of governance and for his sound advice.

Finally I need to acknowledge important members of our community who are often forgotten in these acknowledgements and without whose support 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.

D H Platts 12-03 2012