



THE INSTITUTION OF FIRE ENGINEERS NEW ZEALAND BRANCH

July/August 2006



From the Presidents Desk

This will be my last article as your President. Brian Davey succeeds me in September at our AGM in Christchurch.

It has been a great pleasure and learning experience serving as President of the New Zealand Branch as well as your General Assembly representative.

I encourage all members of the New Zealand Branch to consider committing to a term or two either as a Branch Councilor or on your local Group committee. You will be amazed how rewarding this can be and how many doors may open in terms of your own personal development.

I would like to speak about the role that Groups play in the affairs of the Institution, and in particular the proposed amendments to the constitution that Branch

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Council is placing before the membership. This is to be proposed for resolution at our AGM in September.

I know I can speak on behalf of the entire Branch Council in saying the Groups are really the life blood of the Branch. Whereas the Branch Council is responsible for the overall governance of the Institution nationally, we simply do not have the time or energy to drive everything on a local basis. The Groups need to do this, and historically have done so very well. Quiz competitions, seminars, running conferences, lecture nights and examination study groups are all activities that Groups have engaged in throughout the country. Branch Council totally supports the concept of Groups and encourages their development wherever possible. Currently there are three active groups (use to be at least seven) being Auckland, Taranaki and Canterbury, with work being done at the moment to re-establish the old Waikato Group into a wider Bay Waikato Group. Lets keep our fingers crossed on this one...

Groups have to operate under the 'Model Constitution for Groups', as set down by the Home Office, just as

the NZ Branch has to operate under the 'Model Constitution for Branches'.

All members of the Institution have to occupy one of the recognized grades i.e. Student, Graduate, Member or Fellow.(refer Memorandum and Articles of Association, By- Laws and Standing Orders 2005)

Traditionally the Groups have collected funds through the charging of a nominal subscription, totally independent to the Branch. Over time considerable funds have been accumulated within the Groups. Whilst this has been good for the Groups it hasn't always been so good for the Branch, in that Branch Council have operated with very small bank balances, often having to beg or borrow just to fund meetings of the Council.

Branches are totally reliant on membership subscriptions for our revenue, of which 50% has to be forwarded to the Home Office.

Presently, not everyone who belongs to a Group is a member of the NZ Branch. This is contrary to the constitution which Groups are obliged to work under. It also means some members are not contributing to the national governance of the Institution, placing an unfair burden on those who do.

Previously Branch has been put in the position when promoting big ticket events of having to borrow funds off Groups, as there simply has been no money in Branch accounts.

The proposed amendment to the NZ Branch Constitution, which has been endorsed by the Board of Directors pending approval by the NZ membership, is to ensure this imbalance is addressed. **All members of the NZ IFE will need to belong to the NZ Branch, and occupy one of the recognized grades.** Groups can continue to operate as independent units and charge their subscription for local membership. Branch Council can also return a portion of the subscription collected to assist Groups develop. Currently this is done by way of conference contributions of many thousands of dollars.

I firmly believe that to protect the Branch and ensure the Branch is not exposed to financial hardship as has been the case in the past, this amendment is necessary and in the best interest of the Institution.

I encourage all members to vote in favor of the resolution.

Again, it's been a pleasure being your President. I sincerely thank the Branch Council who have worked very hard and supported me in this role. I wish Brian the very best and am confident we will continue to grow the Institution.

Murray Binning. 2006.

Pack your bags we are off to Canterbury

September 13th – 15th 2006.

Pencil this year's conference in your diary. More details available at www.tranzland.co.nz.

Another well-organized conference is coming thanks to the Canterbury Group .

The International President, Mr. William Cox, Med, BSc, CEng, MEI, FIFireE. has confirmed that he will come to the Conference to meet members and take part in the proceedings. Also the secretary of the Fiji Group intends to be present.

PLEASE REGISTER ASAP AS TIME IS RUNNING OUT.



STOP PRESS

Just in from Brian Davey.

Hi All,
just a preliminary update following attendance at the GA, AGM and conference in Cardiff, (Murray will provide a more comprehensive report when he gets back). Two things that I believe will provide opportunities for the NZ Branch:
1. The UK Fire Service College is exploring accreditation of the NZFS to conduct some of their courses, these could be a joint IFE/NZFS program, but still requires discussion with the NZFS
2. Continuing Professional Development. I had considerable discussion with the UK office and a rep from the Engineering Council on how we can formalize this with quality CPD programs for awareness, learning and/or education. I see some opportunities again with the NZFS, (see recent road show for new Evac Regs

The UK office have a high regard for both Peter and Murray and the enthusiasm that the NZ Branch has, Nina and I were welcomed warmly when we visited the office and I certainly now have a better understanding (as they do) of the difficulties and opportunities that exist.

The International President, Bill Cox and Leader of the GA, Peter Holland are looking forward to attending our AGM.
Brian.



Brian (President Elect) photographed at the General Assembly AGM in Cardiff.

This article will shed some light on the phenomenon and perhaps lead to some changes in vehicle design. Peter A Sloan, AFAINZ, ACLA, MIAAI, of Auckland, is a life member and Past President of the IAAI NZ Chapter. The article is reproduced here and is titled “Wake Up Call to Auto Makers World Wide”.

IFSTA (International Fire Service Training Association) Publications

The IFE now has access to the full range of these publications. Members are urged to check out the list of manuals that are available on the IFE UK Website (www.ife.org.uk)

A special discount has been negotiated for Overseas Branches provided they are prepared to deal directly with the publishers (IFSTA). To this end we will coordinate any orders from NZ and Fiji members and deal directly with IFSTA for the discount. Freight costs are significant from the USA, therefore we would prefer to order larger quantities to keep this cost down. NZ and Fiji members need to contact , secretary@ife.org.nz with their orders. Discounts of up to 35% can be achieved if we coordinate our orders this way and send a bulk order from NZ. Check out the complete list on (www.ife.org.uk)

Automobile Crashes.

Every Firefighters worst nightmare is to arrive at the scene of a MVC where vehicles have ignited and persons are trapped. With kind permission of Peter Sloan, we have reproduced an article that he has written for the “Fire and Arson Investigator” publication earlier this year.