



# THE INSTITUTION OF FIRE ENGINEERS NEW ZEALAND BRANCH

May 2006



## From The Presidents Desk.

In October 2003 I took over the reins from Peter Menzies as President of the New Zealand Branch. At the AGM in September this year in Christchurch, Brian Davey will succeed me as the new Branch President. Brian has been our Executive Director for the last 4 years and has done a magnificent job in that role. I am pleased and confident that Brian will lead the Branch into a new phase of consolidation and growth.

At the New Plymouth AGM three years ago I said I wanted to grow this Branch to ensure the *vibrancy* that has been a tradition of the NZ IFE is assured through the recruitment of new people. Our numbers have grown, largely through the excellent work by Peter Menzies and Graeme Quensell in recruiting Fiji members. Whilst this has been a very enriching addition to our Branch, more work needs to be done to get the NZ membership into real growth mode.

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I believe the work put in by the NZ Branch Council over this time has been the cornerstone of where we are today. For this I wish to acknowledge the individual and collective contributions of Branch Council. Without the dedication of this hard working body the organization would most definitely have floundered in my view. Instead, the decline has stopped, and growth is a reality.

With the change in Presidency and elections coming up for a number of Branch Council positions as a result of some councilors having served their maximum time, I would like to urge members of all grades to consider putting their hand up.

I know there are some excellent people out there who have demonstrated their commitment to the cause, with considerable skill.

A term or two on the NZ Branch Council can be a very rewarding experience, as well as help in career development generally. The International involvement of the organization means global connections that can

be both exciting and demanding, but well worth the effort.

Speaking Internationally, I attended the General Assembly meeting in Hong Kong in February. It was a fascinating insight to the Hong Kong Branch, without doubt the world leaders in developing Fire Engineers for the global fire protection industry. My report to Branch Council is included in this newsletter. We also sent two trainers to Fiji in December to assist the eager Fijians to study and hopefully pass the preliminary examination.

Over the past five years Branch Council, with the tremendous support and assistance of local Groups, has organized and run a series of very successful conferences. Last year, the Auckland group virtually run the show from inception to close off, doing a brilliant job. This year, the Canterbury group is organizing the conference in Christchurch entitled *Transportation Emergencies 2006*, again almost totally from a Group perspective. I believe this demonstrates the growth and strength of our organization in New Zealand.

The considerable skill and expertise gained in running these events adds to both individual and collective experience. In turn, this ensures the commitment to this form of CPD to our membership and wider community is not only conducted professionally but with reduced financial risk to the Branch. These events are big-ticket items in terms of financial commitment. Well done to everyone involved.

### **Report on the General Assembly meeting- Hong Kong 14<sup>th</sup> February 06.**

By: Murray Binning, President NZ Branch.

Meeting commenced 0930 hrs. Bill Stewart (Canada) in the Chair.

#### **Agenda item:**

2. Andrew Greig (SA) was nominated and elected vice chair of the General Assembly.

6. Board member Paul Richardson introduced the proposed changes to the Graduate grade, to be called 'Associate'. He explained the reasons for this being the need to avoid conflict with the 'Graduate' term used in the Engineering Council Division and engineering community in general. The new term also brought the IFE into alignment with other organisations. There were 2 options put forward by the Board on ways to implement this change. Following considerable discussion, the GA opted for the second option being:

### **Closure of Graduate grade**

- *AGM 2006-31.12.06: existing Graduates to be actively encouraged to apply for Member Grade.*
- *1.1.07: Graduate grade to be closed and revised designation to be implemented for new applications.*

This means that all existing holders of Graduate examination will continue to be called Graduates, with new entrants to be called Associates from 2007. The GA asked that **all** existing Graduates be written to fully explain the changes.

7. The 2006 Business Plan was introduced and reviewed by the GA.

Points of note:

- The GA acknowledged to the Board the huge task in preparing the plan.
- Board of Directors Chair, Denis Davis, asked GA reps to consider who within Branch should represent the IFE on external stakeholder matters.
- Important to view the comprehensive plan in "bite size pieces".
- BP & marketing plan will be posted on the website.
- Important for GA reps to consider how to take the plan forward with particular portfolio allocation within Branches.
- To be seen as a business tool for the 'whole organisation'.

8. Denis Davis introduced a current key initiative of the IFE being a 'Virtual Fire Research Academy'. This is a web-based concept in association with the British Steel Research Association who have extensive experience in hosting this type of concept.

In other words it is a technical school on the website which can be used by anyone.

This proposal has been put to the UK Government to fund, which will cost in the order of 50-60 thousand pounds annually to run. Apparently the Government assist these types of initiatives for the first year or two to assist technology advancement. They either sink or swim from there.

9. Denis Davis provided the GA with an update on the partnership with International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA) for the supply & distribution of these world-renowned publications. There is opportunity for Branches to 'on sell' these publications to their members and retain a considerable proportion (35%) of the sale. (We simply need someone to pick this initiative up within our Branch)

10. New website. Now up & running and allows Branches to have material added to the site instantly. Encourage members to access the new site & use it as a day-to-day tool.

**11.** Peter Holland is currently reviewing the Journal branding.

**12.** Andrew Comer presented a proposal for the Australian Branch to be able to process new member applications directly within Branch, without going through Head Office. He pointed out that the current (UK) application is too detailed and not entirely relevant in this part of the world

Paul Richardson responded for the Board saying there is a current proposal for a pilot program involving a number of Branches (including Australia) to self-administer. He explained however that is important for the Board to be satisfied standards are maintained and remain consistent worldwide.

**13.** I raised the issue of examination dissatisfaction with the NZ Branch by some of our membership (Roy Warrens letter previously circulated). I explained that the NZ Branch Council had carefully considered this issue and support the call for examination scripts to be returned to candidates, or at least improved feedback be provided.

I did not get the support of other GA reps on this one, as there does not seem to be an issue outside of NZ.

Bill Cox, Examinations Chair and BOD member responded by saying the issue had again been considered by the BOD and the consensus was not to alter the existing format. He explained that they have checked within the UK and virtually no organisation returned scripts to candidates, except in lead up exams. The IFE exams are considered final papers and as such the IFE is not out of step with other organisations. He also refuted any allegation of scaling in the IFE marking process.

I have asked Bill to correspond further with me on this point so I can communicate directly to the members who have raised this issue.

**14.** I proposed that the current objectives statement of the Institution be reviewed as a discussion point. Brian Davey had suggested we might wish to consider this in light of the current business orientated environment the organisation has to work under.

Denis Davis explained that this was in fact done in 2002 and that it is relevant and reflective of the modern business environment.

I queried where was this to be found. It appears nobody actually knew, so Ellen Jessett is to investigate and circulate.

I suggested that the mission statement needed to form part of the proposed business plan as an opening direction.

This was agreed and carried.

**15.** Shan Raffel (Aust) outlined difficulties the Australian Branch was experiencing with administration and proposed a full time Australasian secretariat to cover this part of the world. He saw this as an initiative which could only assist the Institution grow. I provided support for this proposal, explaining volunteerism was becoming very difficult in this day and age where everyone was simply too busy.

Denis Davis explained the Board would support this proposal but questioned how it would be funded. He explained the Institution was running very close to the bone financially, but also offered some ideas how this could be paid by Branches agreeing to print and circulate their member's copies of the FEJ.

He said it costs the Home Office 6000 pounds annually to post the journal out to members in Australasia (about 2500 members). This money could go towards funding a secretariat??

I suggest this is worth considering, with further talks with Australian IFE.

**16.** I raised the issue of promotional material not forthcoming from Home Office, as per 6.2 of their business plan. Also pointed out the NZ branch was in fact in the process of producing our own promotional presentation through an external agency.

I suggested that this was a priority in our view as we were always in need of such resources.

I also pointed out that there was a need for such material resources to be truly reflective of the Institutions international perspective.

Denis Davis agreed this was urgent but explained nothing had yet been done from a Board level.

I agreed to keep the Board advised of our progress in this respect. (Perhaps we could get some funding out of them)

**17.** Ellen Jessett introduced a recent BOD resolution that has been approved which is intended to assist student members engaged in full time undergraduate study to have their membership fees waived for the first year.

**18.** Jim Marsden reported on the recent meeting of the UK working group. Minutes were circulated to GA members during January.

**19.** I proposed extending the GA meeting to two days. This is because the GA is not currently functioning effectively and a lot of the day's business is taken up with Board issues. The BOD meets for two days, so why not the GA?

This was well supported and passed by the GA unanimously.

20. The Hong Kong Branch nominated Charles Chow (Past President of HK Branch) to take up the position of International President Elect 2006/07. The GA & BOD fully supported this nomination. (The next International President Bill Cox takes up the 06/07 year in July. I asked him to come to NZ during September to attend the conference in Christchurch. He is considering this request)

21. 31<sup>st</sup> March is the closing date for Board nominations = 4 vacancies.

22. The Australian IFE together with Chief Fire Officer Grant Upton (a Kiwi) of the Adelaide Brigade provided a presentation to the GA and BOD to have the General Assembly meeting in March 2007 held in Adelaide. This would be alongside the World Police & Fire Games and joint FPA/ IFE conference. This was formally proposed and supported.

23. The GA reps provided a brief bullet point briefing of activities/ business within their Branches.

Meeting closed at 1700hrs.

### **Report on Fiji Trip from Peter Menzies.**

Gareth Hughes and I left New Zealand on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December bound for Nadi. We felt mildly confident that we had put together a package that would assist the Fiji members to prepare themselves for examinations. This was to prove to be the case with all three presentations.

We were met at the airport by Paulisi Tuiwai and taken to our motel. Pauli has been coordinating the affairs of the IFE in Fiji since I was last there.

The first training sessions proved that the material we had prepared, "hit the target" and by the time we had delivered it three times, we had it down to a fine art.

Similar to the last time I visited, the 'Fire Service' is resource poor, but heavy on enthusiasm and good intentions. The poor results last year were due mainly to a lack of study resources. I am pleased to advise that this situation is now vastly improved due mainly to the new CFO from Australia and the proactive board of Governors.

The notes and presentation Gareth took with him were so admired that he left them over there. As a University graduate, Gareth has been involved in examinations for many years now and provided some excellent tips for candidates. The subjects he excels at include 'How Adults Learn' and 'Examination and Study Techniques'.

Prior to leaving, I prepared a mock Preliminary Certificate examination based on what information I could get from the Home Office. While a lot more work still needs to be put into the examination, it is my belief that this paper should now be completed in parallel with the syllabus and used more. This is something Branch Council can surely do amongst ourselves.

The National Fire Authority Chief Fire Officer has made it clear (because of our courses) that he will repay anyone passing the Preliminary Certificate examination with their examination fees. He will also credit them with the theory portion of their senior fireman rank.

A Fiji qualified fire fighter earns something like F\$7,400.00 pa so F\$60.00 for IFE membership F\$109.00 for the exam and F\$75.00 for a 'Red Book' is a considerable investment for these individuals to make. We have recommended that they concentrate their study in groups of two's or three's to maximise the use of resources.

There is still huge interest in joining the IFE in Fiji. On the day we were leaving, a District Officer spoke of a deputy principal of a high school who wants to join and sit our exams. The fire service have already identified him as a possible source of instruction in the future. The District Transport Officer (chief mechanic) has already joined and wishes to sit our exams.

Those attending the three sessions this time made it clear that they that they are happy to remain under the umbrella of the New Zealand Branch. They also indicated that they wish to form a Fiji Group associated with the New Zealand Branch. While it seems they receive a high degree of 'OZAID' for equipment, they are keen for the Kiwi's to look after their examination preparation.

The National Fire Authority operates a Memorandum of Understanding with CFA in Australia. Madam Chair, the Chief Fire Officer and I spoke about the possibility of the Authority entering into an agreement similar to the one we have with the New Zealand Fire Service. We all felt that this was a step in the right direction and should proceed.

### **Summary:**

1. It is recommended that we authorise the establishment of a Fiji Group as part of the New Zealand Branch. The Group will be administered from Suva by Paulisi Tuiwai. He has the complete backing of the Board of the National Fire Authority and the Chief Officer.
2. I recommend the New Zealand Branch of the Institution set up a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Fire Authority of

Fiji. Both the Chief Fire Officer and the Chair of the Board are prepared to sign such a document.

3. There is a new administration running the National Fire Authority now and they are most supportive with what we are doing for their people. Moral is at an unbelievable high with all staff participating in all sorts of things such as the preparation of the 2006 Corporate Plan and selective 'Special Tasks' such as arranging supplies and designing new fire stations.
4. Members of the Fiji fire service still give up their days off to travel and attend these seminars we provide. I can but suggest that any member of the New Zealand Branch holidaying in Fiji would be made most welcome, if they made themselves available to deliver even an hours presentation. With the hospitality of the Fijian staff I am sure the visit would be made most memorable.
5. Pre Course Phase I Training Manuals issued to the New Zealand Fire Service staff contains excellent training data not previously available to the Fijian's. Once the New Zealand employee completes the Phase II training, they are issued with more comprehensive information, leaving the Phase I material on the shelf. If a number of these manuals (10, 15 or 20 of them) could be collected up and sent to the Fiji Group of the IFE, this would provide a marvellous training reference for them.
6. Whilst in Lambasa, we were called upon to assist the Fiji Police with a fire investigation. The Police (SOCO department) were most impressed to complete the investigation and receive the fire investigation report all in one day.
7. I need to note the contribution Gareth Hughes made during this trip. He was an instant hit with all Fijian staff and his contribution was very well received. He fitted in well with all those we mixed with and was a bit of a hit with the Board.
8. I would not hesitate to recommend Gareth return to Fiji next year with another University educated member of the Branch; maybe this time an educator.
9. It should be noted that the mosquito's in Fiji during December are about the size of a "4 litre Holden station wagon" and have a liking for 'Menzies' blood. Gareth got away bite free.

Altogether a most successful visit.

Peter Menzies  
Past President  
New Zealand Branch



**Recipients of the Preliminary Certificate with Peter Menzies and Gareth Hughes.**

**Stop Press.** The Memorandum of Understanding between the NZ Branch of the Institute of Fire Engineers and the National Fire Authority of Fiji, has just been approved, by the NZ Branch and The Executive Director of the Fiji Fire Service. More on what the Memorandum means later.



**Gareth Hughes instructing Students**

## Update on 2006 Annual IFE Branch Conference and AGM.

**Date;** 13 – 15 September 2006.  
**Venue;** Jade Stadium, Christchurch.

*Transportation Emergencies 2006, is a two day Conference for those involved in preventing, planning for, responding to and recovery from land transport emergencies.*

The conference will provide both workshop and lecture style presentations along with a variety of trade stalls and vendor exhibits. Attendees receive Continuing Professional Development (CPD) certificates for attending the conference. In addition to the informational sessions there will be plenty of opportunity to meet and chat with other attendees on topics of common interest.

Speakers include:

**John Conklin** - Emergency Management Co-ordinator for the City of Miami. John's experience is extensive and ranges from hazardous materials response to managing USAR teams.

**Peter Holland** - Chief Fire Officer of Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service in the UK.

**Erica Seville** – Research Fellow University of Canterbury Resilient Organisations Project..

**Andre Dantas** - University of Canterbury Resilient Organisations Project.

**For more Information and Registration forms, check out the website; [www.tranzland.co.nz](http://www.tranzland.co.nz)**

### Examination Report

**Branch Council congratulates the following members who were successful with the 2005 Examinations.**

#### **FIJI LAUTOKA**

##### **Preliminary**

Tora, Jovesa Logaivau

#### **FIJI SUVA**

##### **Preliminary**

Ali, Rashid  
Delanbatiki, Nemani  
Naivedru, Navitalai  
Nakaruru, Timoci Tagicaki  
National Fire Authority

Tuicicia, Waisea Junior

#### **NEW ZEALAND, AUCKLAND**

##### **Member**

**1 pass** Menzies, Glenn FS  
New Zealand Fire Service

##### **Graduate**

**2 passes** Jefferys, Alaster  
Graeme OPS2A FES New  
Zealand Fire Service  
Rusbridge, Kenton David FES  
HRM

**1 pass** Callister, Roger Millar  
OPS2A New Zealand Fire  
Service  
Gardner, Geoffrey Alan Peter  
FES New Zealand Fire Service  
Gibbons, Jeremy Robert HRM  
New Zealand Fire Service  
Morrison, Robert James HRM  
New Zealand Fire Service  
Munro, Angela FES New  
Zealand Fire Service  
Robinson, Steven Barry FES  
New Zealand Fire Service  
Sanders, Marcel Gerardus FS  
New Zealand Fire Service  
Thomas, Dennis George FS  
New Zealand Fire Service

#### **NEW ZEALAND, CHRISTCHURCH**

##### **Member**

**1 pass** Trowbridge, Louise  
Campbell FES New Zealand  
Fire Service  
Yusaf, Omar FES New  
Zealand Fire Service

##### **Graduate**

**1 pass** Hobbs, Richard FS

#### **NEW ZEALAND, GISBORNE**

##### **Preliminary**

Hindmarsh, Edwin Charles  
New Zealand Fire Service

#### **NEW ZEALAND, NEW PLYMOUTH**

##### **Graduate**

**1 pass** Dombroski, Michael  
Dean HRM New Zealand Fire  
Service

#### **NEW ZEALAND, ROTORUA**

##### **Member**

**1 pass** Flay, Warren Desmond  
FS New Zealand Fire Service

### **Graduate**

**4 passes** Hogan, Barry John  
FS OPS2A FES HRM New  
Zealand Fire Service

**1 pass** Carter, Geoffrey FES  
New Zealand Fire Service  
Geenty, Timothy Patrick  
OPS2A New Zealand Fire  
Service

### **Intermediate**

Bannister, Mathew James  
Cassie New Zealand Fire  
Service

## **NEW ZEALAND, WELLINGTON**

### **Member**

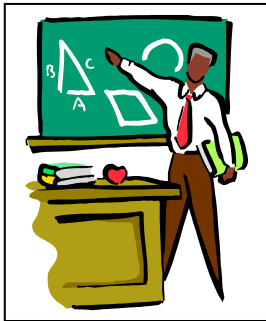
**1 pass** Hughes, Gareth David  
FINV New Zealand Fire  
Service

Lockyer, Brett Graeme FS  
New Zealand Fire Service

### **Graduate**

**2 passes** Gold, Craig James  
OPS2A HRM

**1 pass** Bristow, Grant  
Stewart HRM New Zealand  
Fire Service  
Hughes, Gareth David FES  
New Zealand Fire Service



## **News from around the Board Table.**

### **New Member to Companion Grade.**

It was with pleasure we were able to see the NZIFE Branch President, Murray Binning award Jack Maddox with his well deserved certificate. Jack's lifetime contribution to the IFE in general and to the NZ Branch was recognised at the end of the AGM in Auckland last year. The Companion Grade is awarded by the Home Office to members nominated by their Branches' and it recognises outstanding service to the Institution. There

are not many of these Grades awarded worldwide, we now have two recipients, Jack and Peter Hughes. Peter received his recognition last year. Well done Jack!

### **Budget Update.**

The Executive director circulated a brief report on the financial position which included remittance to the UK of subscriptions (\$15120.00) and other significant expenditure items due since the February statement. The Branch is in a good position financially.

### **Conference Report.**

Bruce gave a progress report on the Christchurch conference. The program is about 70% confirmed and is on track. The venue, Jade Stadium is confirmed for 13 – 15 September. It was also suggested that the possibility of inviting the International President to the conference as a presenter. Murray will also invite him the the 2006 AGM, if he is able to attend.

### **Examination Report.**

Gary advised that although the numbers sitting were down, the % attending on the day had increased. Following discussion on the declining numbers, it was agreed that Branch council would invite Gareth Hughes to the next meeting on 13 June and have show the presentation he did in Fiji with a view to using him to promote the examinations in NZ.

### **Promotional DVD.**

Nina Densley presented the draft promotional DVD for increasing membership to Branch Council. This was preceded by a discussion on the digital story concepts, elements and potential to engage people using the power of voice, images, video and music. Branch Councillors provided feedback to Nina who was authorised to include the suggestions made and prepare changes to the promotional pamphlet to align with the key themes of the DVD. Gary Ward, Peter Menzies and the ED are available to assist with the story boarding as this project progresses. It was estimated that the additional cost would be approximately \$1500.00. There is an opportunity that Nina could attend the next General Assembly meeting and repeat the presentation on behalf of the NZ Branch.

### **Branch Council Elections.**

Nominations are called to fill three vacancies on Branch Council which will become vacant from the AGM in September. Murray Binning stands down but will remain as Past President. Rex Alexander is due to stand down and is not available for reelection, and Graeme Quensell is also due to stand down but available for reelection. This is three vacancies with one eligible for reelection.

**Nomination forms are on the Website and included with this newsletter.**

**Notice of Amendment to Constitution.**

Notice is given that an amendment to the Constitution will be voted on at the AGM in Christchurch in September.

#### **Explanation.**

Branch Council believe that all membership to the IFE, for whatever purpose, need to be fully paid up members of the Branch and occupying one of the official grades of the Institution. Otherwise these people are using the IFE branding etc without contributing to the overall administration costs of the Branch. i.e. they are being subsidised by those paying full IFE membership subs.

#### **Amendment.**

##### **8 Groups**

**(b) All members of Groups shall be financial members of the New Zealand Branch and occupy an approved grade i.e. Fellow, Member, Graduate, Technician or Student.**

**(d) Group Secretaries will as soon as possible after 1st January, forward to the Executive Director a list of members of the Group, with their addresses and membership numbers.**

**(g) Branch Council may by resolution, return to Groups a percentage of membership fees received from their members to assist the conduct of the Group affairs.**

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