

CASTINGS

NEWS & VIEWS

September 2006

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Chairman's Message

We're only a month out from the conference so you should register right now if you haven't already. At last count we had over 120 people registered and new registrations are still flooding in. Visit our website at www.castingtechnologynz.org and you'll see that most of the movers and shakers in the industry will be there. The published list doesn't include dozens of people who have booked their rooms at the hotel but haven't registered yet. You certainly don't want to miss this opportunity to attend top-notch presentations, see the latest and greatest that the trade has to offer and network with your peers all at reasonable cost.

I'd like to draw your attention to the article on training initiatives by COMPETENZ. There is renewed activity and this article gives you a taste of what's just around the corner.

The New Zealand Foundry industry has good reason to celebrate the careers of two very influential foundry personalities with the retirement of Bernie Gillies and John Dickinson.

This newsletter includes a brief interview with John Dickinson, a name synonymous with foundry supply in this country. I am sure that you'll all join me in wishing them both a long and happy retirement.

We acknowledge the support of New Zealand Trade and Enterprise. They have assisted both our recent industrial tour of China and now granted CTNZ support funding under the World Class New Zealander programme. The World Class New Zealand programme is a practical programme that connects high-potential New Zealand sectors with the best talent in the world. To this end CTNZ have secured the services of Ralph Bingham, an expert in Lean Manufacturing methodologies as applied to the Cast Metals Industry. Any member wishing to tap into this world beating manufacturing knowledge please contact Linda Boland by the end of September.

If you haven't been to Rotorua recently you'll be amazed at the transformation into a truly international tourist destination. The conference organisers have done a fine job. The conference will be great. Please make the effort to attend. See you there.

Mike Alston
Chairman

**2006 Australasian Conference
Rotorua - 15-18 October**



If you haven't already done so register NOW for what is shaping up to be the biggest industry event for many years. Registration forms available on www.castingtechnologynz.org

This year's speakers line up promises to provide inspiration to delegates when faced with competing in our challenging trading environment. Speakers present their wisdom and experience in subject areas including: reducing casting defects; implementing World Class Manufacturing methodologies; competing in business in a challenging environment; presenting what is new in industry training; the latest advances in moulding and coremaking, melting and metal filtration; and challenging your thinking of how the future will effect your business and that of the metal casting industry as a whole.

There are still some spaces available for trade displays and we encourage you to get in contact with Steve Welburn now to secure your space – swelburn@xtra.co.nz

Registrations are being updated on the website every couple of days so check out whose coming and make sure your name is included!

Looking forward to catching up with you in Rotorua for what is going to be a very exciting conference.

Metal Casting Industry Lean Manufacturing Expert To Come to New Zealand



A great opportunity is offered to CTNZ members to meet and network with an acknowledged expert in Lean Manufacturing methodologies. Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia defines Lean Manufacturing as a management philosophy focusing on reduction of the seven wastes:

- Over-production
- Waiting time
- Transportation
- Processing
- Inventory
- Motion

- Scrap in manufactured products or any type of business

CTNZ have secured the services of Ralph Bingham an expert in Lean Manufacturing methodologies as applied to the cast metals industry to assist our members keen on introducing the world beating waste reduction methodologies into their operations. Ralph is a UK based consultant currently working on a three year contract leading a detailed factory design and layout team, responsible for building a state of the art foundry for a world-leading UK based turbine manufacturer. He is applying the lessons learnt over 30 + years to enable this to become a truly World Class facility. His credentials in the field of lean manufacturing include work with companies such as Alcoa, Howmet and Rolls Royce.

Ralph's visit to New Zealand is supported by New Zealand Trade and Enterprise's World Class New Zealand Programme and CTNZ. The World Class New Zealand network is about people making the world of difference to New Zealand industry. It is in response to government-led strategic objectives to connect high potential New Zealand-based businesses and sectors with internationally recognised experts in relevant areas for business growth, be they expatriate Kiwis or 'New Zealand friendly' foreign nationals.

The network comprises high-calibre professionals from around the world who generously contribute their time and expertise to help New Zealand sectors build capability and become globally connected. <http://www.nzte.govt.nz/section/11774.aspx>

Any member wishing to tap into this world beating manufacturing knowledge please contact Linda Boland by the end of September.

Steven Welburn

Training Update – August 2006

Competenz has successfully completed the unit review of 28 unit standards from the Metal Casting and Engineering Patternmaking domains. Copies of these current unit standards are made available on the National Qualifications Framework and the next review for these units is due by 2011.

Following industry feedback and inputs, Competenz has revised the existing National

Certificate in Metal Casting (Technology) Level 4 Version 3 and the Version 4 draft copy is now submitted to NZQA (New Zealand Qualifications Authority) for an evaluation.

This qualification forms a pathway to those who have completed National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering (Level 2) to specialise in Metal Casting and leads to the Mechanical Engineering qualifications at levels 5 and 6.

Competenz is currently working on developing Assessment Guides to help assist the Apprentice during his/her apprenticeship. Competenz is also working towards an Apprentice Manual – which explains the sign up process, assessment process, off job training and has a collection of the compulsory and high usage elective assessment guides.

Similarly, an Assessor Manual is being developed so the Workplace Assessor can maintain the same standard of assessment irrespective of the company where the Apprentice is working

To gather interest of a wider audience, Competenz is in the process of developing a coloured Pamphlet with all the relevant information – hopefully it helps our Companies/Apprentices understand our qualification better.

Competenz aims to have the qualification and its collaterals ready to be rolled out early 2007.

If you would like to know more about the revised Metal Casting (Technology) Level 4 Version 4 qualification please contact Sriyani Warusavithana, Qualifications Manager on 09 580 6830 or 027 482 3254. For copies of the current unit standards please visit www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search

*The above report was provided by
Competenz*

Auckland Regional Roundup

On 8 August 17 people attended a northern region technical evening held at HERA House in Manukau where Vladimir Ivanov a Metallurgical consultant with Auckland UniServices Ltd. present 2 studies he has recently carried out on casting defects. In both case Vladimir was able to show that the initial superficial visual assessment of the nature of the defect was incorrect and through the use of more in depth analysis of microscopic

examination and chemical analysis the true nature of the defect was revealed giving process engineers a real chance of solving the problem. The first study which was entitled “Gas or Shrinkage?” was recently presented in the July 2006 Castings – News and Views newsletter. The second study was based on a Nickel Plating Failure on a cast motorcycle wheel. The topic created some good discussion from those attending.

*The above report was prepared by
Steven Welburn*

John Dickinson Retires

The Dickinson name has been associated with nickel sales in this part of the world in some way for 84 years and whether an Electroplater or Foundryman if you were using nickel you would know the name Dickinson as associated with Mond Nickel and Inco. So when John Dickinson recently retired from Orica-Chemnet it was more than a work retirement it was the end of a legacy. John’s grandfather began supplying electroplaters with electroplating nickel anodes in 1924 and progressed to supplying both nickel and nickel magnesium to foundries for the manufacturer of SG iron. Over the years however John has personally sold just about everything in consumables and capital plant the cast metals industry requires.

After beginning his working career with Wrightsons, John joined his father Charlie in the family firm in 1974. When the opportunity came in 1987 the family sold the company to Laporte and John continued with them in a marketing role. In 1996 the business was sold to Fernz and then to Orica Chemnet in 2002 and John continued in sales and marketing with each of these organisations. But John’s industry involvement has been more than as a supplier, he has been executive committee member for the New Zealand Metal Casting Industry Association and the subsequent CTNZ and was committee member for the NZIF.

Talking to John recently he recounted a number or memorable events in his career including his involvement in the start up of the Tiwai point smelter and the significant installation of shot blast equipment at the site. John recounts the days of being a sales rep during the “car-less” days era where in order to cover the distance around clients he had to carry not only goods but a 4 gallon tin of petrol in the boot. And then there was the time that the authorities decided

in their wisdom that it was safer to enforce ferro silicon to be shipped in sealed steel drums rather than the traditional wooden create. John recounts watching a foundry manager from a well known Christchurch foundry carrying out a stocktake by walking over the top of a two high 30 tonne stack of ferro silicon packed in sealed drums when the lid blew off one and knocked him to the ground.

John also remembers names of the past, the icon foundries that have gone including Methven in Dunedin, Humes, William Cable, the Hutt Valley railway work shops Stainless Castings, Alloy Steel and more recently the Ford alloy wheel plant. But it is the people he will miss the most, the industry names like Clive Jennings, George Dyson, Cliff Davis, Bill Scutts and the characters like the late Fred Robinson and another recently retiree Bernie Gillies. Picture a foundry conference in Queenstown and in particular a conference entertainment event where having the opportunity to ride a bull Bernie Gillies gets on backwards and hangs for dear life on to the tail. Well you had to be there.

John in his retirement has a new project of building a house with his wife Noelene in Hamilton and is passionate in his role as honorary fisheries officer where in this role if you were quick you would have seen him on the recent real time TV series.

Have a great retirement John and no doubt we will still see you at the occasional foundry meeting.



Fernz Chemicals Western Evening 1999
John doesn't normally dress up like this!

CTNZ Website

Have you checked our new website yet??

It is important that we have your correct company detail so please take a moment to log onto www.castingtechnologynz.org to check that your company's information is correct. Please send any corrections or other improvement suggestions to lboland@businessnz.org.nz

Trade Fairs

- Aluminium 2006 – 20-22 September, Germany.
- The Safety Show – 17-19 October, Sydney

Seeking.....

We have had a request from a gentleman in the UK who is trying to track down Maurice Gibbons. Maurice emigrated to NZ from the UK about 35 years ago to work in a NZ foundry – quite likely as a metallurgist.

If you know Maurice or where he might be living, please contact John Swarbrick – john.swarbrick@waengineering.co.uk

Linda Boland
Executive Assistant

