

## **CASTINGS**

# **NEWS & VIEWS**

**March 2007**

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### ***New Chairman Elected***

The CTNZ Inc Board of Governors elected Board member Tony Knight Chairman at its first meeting for 2007. Tony takes up this position succeeding Mike Alston who had earlier signaled his intention to step down having served 2 terms in the role.

At the meeting the five member Board thanked Mike for his great contribution to the association during his tenure as Chairman and in particular the leadership he had shown in chairing a successful 2006 Australasian Conference. Mike continues to serve the association retaining a position as a member of the Board of Governors.

Tony Knight is well placed to take up the leadership role of the New Zealand metal casting industry bringing with him a depth of international experience while also working at the front in the local industry. Tony studied cast

metals technology at Chesterfield College in the United Kingdom and worked at Rolls Royce in the UK where he managed the company research and development foundry for a short time and was Manufacturing Engineering Manager at the turbine blade manufacturing facility in Bristol. On arriving in New Zealand he initially worked as Foundry Manager with A.F. Fraser in Christchurch before moving north to his present position as Production Manager with A & G Price in Thames.

### ***Chairman's Message***



*New Chairman Tony Knight gives an enthusiastic thumbs up for the future of the New Zealand foundry industry*

My association with CTNZ started before I even came to New Zealand. It was through the CTNZ website that I initially made the contacts that would lead to my first position in Christchurch. Whilst in Christchurch I was immediately made welcome by the members of the Canterbury Branch which made the transition from the UK to New Zealand a little easier. When I was asked to join the Board I was glad to be able to contribute to the industry.

The drive and vision of our last chairman, Mike Alston, has had a very positive effect on CTNZ and as a result we have a trade organization that is in an excellent position to support the business and technical objectives of its members. I am confident that the current

Board of Governors and myself can carry on giving the same level of support to our foundry industry. Mike's efforts over the past years deserve our gratitude.

The role of the CTNZ in supporting the casting producers of New Zealand is important as, I believe it is vital we have a strong manufacturing base in New Zealand and a strong manufacturing sector will require a strong foundry industry. In the coming years we will face increased levels of competition from overseas and I firmly believe that we will not be able to compete on cost alone. Every foundry wanting to succeed will have to fight for and retain customers using quality, delivery and customer service to win and keep orders. It is my belief that New Zealand foundry industry has a long and successful future ahead of it.

Tony Knight  
Chairman

### **Update from Industry Champion**

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2007. In this issue we introduce a new Chairman and look forward to another year of increased association activity to build on the good work of 2006 and a very successful Australasian conference.

In January we held the first board meeting of the year which laid out our way forward for 2007. Among the topics of discussion included evaluating the 2006 conference which has been deemed a successful event by many and which more than covered its expenses by returning a small surplus. We also investigated the Metals Institute of New Zealand (MINZ for short) initiative; setting a venue for this year's annual conference; and set priorities for Industry Champion activity for the coming months.

If you wish to know more of the MINZ concept you will find it is discussed in more detail in an article included later in this newsletter.

I can reveal that the board has chosen Wellington for the venue for the 2007 conference and further details will be released as planning progresses. We will once again return to our proven formula of a weekend event aimed at content that will suit our operators as well as business managers.

Doug Harland concluded the 2006 conference program with a workshop that many members

made valuable contributions in. In this session the way forward to a revitalised industry was brainstormed. Work is almost complete on the report on this forum which will be sent out to members shortly. This document once completed promises to provide the impetus for the strategic direction of our association going forward, as the voice of our members.

Your opinions of what you would wish our association to achieve is greatly valued and as I work my way around the country visiting members I am keen to survey members' thoughts. You may also wish to provide comment for this newsletter, contributions are most welcome.

### **Associating With MINZ**

MINZ (Metals Institute of New Zealand) is a proposed new concept organisation with the purpose of becoming the overarching body of the New Zealand metals industry. CTNZInc, HERA, LAM-NZ and other metals based industry associations would become affiliates of MINZ which would act as a hub providing common services and strategic support for these associations while at the same time ensuring they retain their governance and financial autonomy.

There are a number of metals based industry associations in New Zealand, all individually catering for their own unique sector of the metals manufacturing industry and CTNZInc takes its place as one of the older more established organisations in this peer group.

One of the largest members of this group is HERA (Heavy Engineering Research Association). HERA has, over the years, performed well as an industry governed body and in recent years has played an ever increasing leadership role for the NZ metals industry, not only providing services for the heavy engineering sector but for the NZ metals industry as a whole. Also many HERA members engage in a multi-metals sector environment e.g. steel (heavy or light), stainless steel or aluminum and expect high level R&D coverage in all those areas.

CTNZInc has paid little attention over the years to the function of generating Industry based research. This is an area where some of our peer group organisations have greater experience and proven success (LAM-NZ and HERA). CTNZInc could benefit by getting closer

to these organisations and learning the mechanisms for attracting public and private funding into industry sector research. Conversely some of these peer group organisations covet the regional meeting structure and active member support enjoyed by CTNZInc. Also there are aspects of the services supplied by the sector groups that are duplicated as each group attempts to provide the full range of their charter activities.

Considering these individual organization advantages and disadvantages it is clear wider NZ metals industry strategic and cross sector planning is required to gain efficient and maximum benefit for all. Also there is a need for increased metals industry sector development activities if the industry wishes to continue to play an important role as a local and global player in an ever increasing competitive environment. It is for these reasons the MINZ concept was first introduced.

MINZ is created for the purposes of:

- Creating a 'bigger' and more effective hub having an overall metals processing industry focus.
- Enabling existing and new focus sector groups such as CTNZInc to be voluntarily associated with MINZ in order to become more sustainable, effective and efficient so enabling higher performance and results. Associated groups maintain their focus and autonomy.
- Creating a mechanism for stable levy based funding for associated groups.

MINZ would be an overarching organisation that provides strategic planning, sector development and many, currently duplicated, core administration and technical services activities to the sector groups. All the while these organisations retain their individual boards, sector focus and autonomy – see attached flow chart at the end of this newsletter.

### **CTNZInc Hosts Lean Manufacturing Workshops**

In conjunction with the 2006 Australasian Foundry Conference October 2006 CTNZInc facilitated a visit to New Zealand by Lean manufacturing consultant Ralph Bingham.



*Ralph Bingham*

Over his three week stay Ralph presented his Journey to World Class workshop at three CTNZInc regional meetings including Auckland, Christchurch and Dunedin, visited six CTNZInc member companies conducting a three hours workshop at each and presented 2 papers at the 2006 Australasian Foundry Conference. All events were free of charge to CTNZInc members except for the cost of conference registration fees at the 2006 Australasian Foundry Conference.

Ralph has specific experience in applying Lean manufacturing principles to the Metal casting industry and is currently project managing a new \$90 million investment casting plant for Rolls Royce in the UK. In this series of workshops he provided examples of his experiences gained in applying the world class manufacturing techniques at such organisations as Rolls Royce aero engines and Howmet investment castings in the United Kingdom, Europe and the US. The visit was co funded through the World Class New Zealand Program of New Zealand Trade and Enterprise and Casting Technology New Zealand Inc.

As part of the visit Ralph was given the opportunity to network with senior members of the Metal Casting Industry in both New Zealand and Australia and other prominent manufacturing sector leaders.

### **Changes at Competenz**

In a move prompted by the requirements of the Tertiary Education Council Competenz has separated its ITO functions from its training delivery functions creating two separate organisations. This move is effective as of 1 January 2007.

ATNZ and CTNZ have been packaged together under a new organisation called Skills4work and will offer a national integrated range of

workforce training products and business services aimed at improving New Zealand workplace skills and productivity. Competenz continues to focus on its ITO functions of Standards setting, Quality assurance, Strategic industry leadership and provider management.

Resulting from this move Carl Davies becomes the CEO of Competenz and John Broadhead the CEO of Skills4work. Competenz, with a much reduced complement of staff will transfer its operations base to a Greenlane site while Skills4Work will stay at Central Park.

Further, we can report that the new Level 4 certificate in metal Casting Qualification has been registered and is now on the framework. The TEC number has been applied for against which fund to assist training to the qualification can be applied for.

Skills 4 Work is developing a brochure to promote the new qualification which was launched at the 2006 Australasian Conference.

## News, Views & Website Classifieds



Have you seen our website recently?  
[www.castingtechnologynz.org](http://www.castingtechnologynz.org)  
Do you have surplus plant and equipment?  
Are you looking for a specific item of plant?

CTNZInc offers a free service for Members to place ads in News & Views and on our association's website.

A number of member companies have unfulfilled job vacancies seeking staff with foundry trades skills. To assist in locating this additional talent CTNZInc have opened a foundryjobs email address and placed an advertisement on our website. The advertisement is aimed at providing a portal for those skilled foundry people wishing to come to

this country to lodge their CV. Members wishing to receive the list of those CVs please contact Steven Welburn. [swelburn@xtra.co.nz](mailto:swelburn@xtra.co.nz)

This website communications tool also regularly brings attention from around the world from organisations either looking for new suppliers of castings, suppliers to our industry looking for new customers or foundry people seeking work in this country.

CTNZInc would also like to offer member foundries the opportunity to present their capabilities on this site. We wish to run a "featured member company" page. Each month we would highlight on the home page the featured company and then link to an extended co profile and to your own website if you have one.

Those interested please contact Steven Welburn [swelburn@xtra.co.nz](mailto:swelburn@xtra.co.nz) 027 227 8886 or Linda Boland

## Trade Show

- "Safety In Action" 20-22 March, Melbourne

For further details on the above workplace health and safety event you can visit their website - [www.safetyinaction.net.au](http://www.safetyinaction.net.au)

## Hot Tip

Looking for those hard to get foundry pattern letters and symbols, Mark Duxfield came across this contact recently. You can order online and Mark says, "I have some samples and they are quite good". Check out the website for full details.

Tel: 0049 (0) 7771 919350  
Fax: 0049 (0) 7771 919351  
Email: [ott.modellzeichen@gmail.com](mailto:ott.modellzeichen@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.ott-sun.de](http://www.ott-sun.de)

## Business NZ – Planning Forecast

Attached for members' information is a copy of Business NZ's March Quarter Business Planning Forecasts.

Linda Boland  
Executive Assistant

# MINZ Services

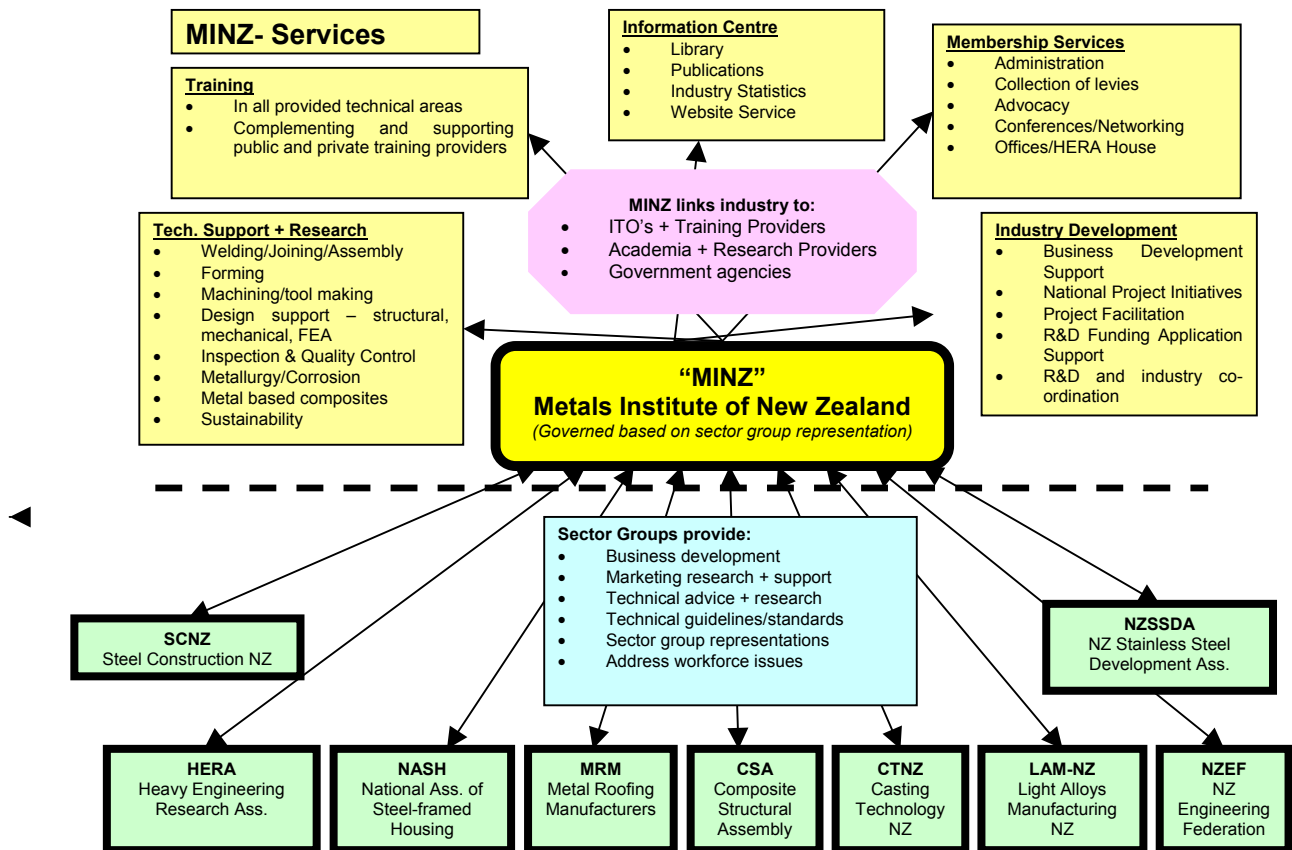


Diagram taken from “Creating the Metals Institute of New Zealand”  
by Noel Davies, Dr Wolfgang Scholz.