

# CASTINGS

# NEWS & VIEWS

JANUARY 2010

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Also enclosed; the December edition of the BNZ - Business NZ PMI, a monthly survey of the manufacturing sector and an article by Phil O'Reilly 'Clean and Green' - that ran in the NZ Herald over the holiday break and received positive business feedback.

## Message from the Chairman

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and prosperous new year. Looking back over 2009 I feel CTNZ has achieved a lot, firstly we have secured the services of Bill Lovell in the role of industry champion in the first quarter of 2009, which

has allowed us to once again become more proactive in our support of members.

CTNZ has held a most successful conference in Dunedin and is planning another in Wairakei in August this year and we are planning to hold an Australasian conference in Queenstown in 2011.

CTNZ is having continuing talks with Competenz and other training providers to find ways to improve the training of Metal Casting apprentices.

CTNZ has supported the concept of a proposed NZ Light Metals Alliance where groups pool together and share services and resources. The Board is also supporting a proposal to set up a co-ordination role for metal casting in NZ where there will be co-ordination between academia and industry.

As a Board we will be continuing to look at ways we can improve our services to you our members.

*Tony Knight*

Chairman Casting Technology NZ

## 2010 CTNZ Conference

The dates for the 2010 CTNZ Conference are 6 to 8 August 2010 **put these dates in your diary now**. The venue for the conference is Bayview Hotel in Wairakei. Our Industry Champion, Bill Lovell, is working to arrange a visit to the Geothermal Power Plant in Wairakei.

## Employment - Job Vacancies

From time to time we receive enquiries from overseas people with foundry trade skills wishing to seek employment in New Zealand. Here are the current enquiries:

- Mr S E Gojer from India with a valid work visa for NZ. He has a total of twenty years experience in Ferrous Foundry.
- Henry Frear from the USA is seeking International internship in New Zealand. He would like to hear from a foundry or company involved with metal casting that would be willing to sponsor him. He has course work relating to manufacturing, has work experience on the family ranch, and has involvement with the American Foundry Society.

Members wishing to receive the CV of either of these job seekers please contact Bill Lovell at [bill.lovell474@gmail.com](mailto:bill.lovell474@gmail.com).

### Conferences, Courses and Events

#### **HERA – Welding Supervisor Course.**

**When:** 12-16 April 2010

**Where:** HERA House,  
17-19 Gladding Place  
Manukau City

The next Welding Supervisor Course will be held at HERA House on 12-16 April 2010. The course leads to qualification to Australian Standard AS 2214: Welding Supervisor–Structural Steel.

This qualification for those who are supervising structural steel fabrication designed to NZS 3404 and welded to AS/NZS 1554. Holders of this Certificate will have the comprehensive working knowledge of how to economically and efficiently meet all welding requirements of these standards. The course duration is 1 week.

For further information please refer to the HERA webpage:

[http://www.hera.org.nz/Event?Action=View&Event\\_id=21](http://www.hera.org.nz/Event?Action=View&Event_id=21)

or contact HERA:

Email: [welding@hera.org.nz](mailto:welding@hera.org.nz);

Telephone: 09 262 2885

#### **Metal + Metallurgy China 2010 and Casting China International 2010**

**When:** May 11-14, 2010

**Where:** China International Exhibition Centre (New Venue), Beijing. China

Held for more than 20 years Metal + Metallurgy China attracts leading industry players throughout China and the world with top-selling products and the latest technology. Casting China International is a place to showcase the latest finished casting products. The combination of foundry and metallurgical equipment and their end products provides a comprehensive display of productivity solutions for the metal industry under one roof.

Website: [www.mm-china.cn/](http://www.mm-china.cn/)

#### **GIFA – The Bright World of Metals**

**When:** 28 June – 2 July 2011

**Where:** Messe Dusseldorf – Germany

The four international technology fairs GIFA (*International Foundry Trade Fair*), METEC (*International Metallurgical Technology Trade Fair*), THERMPROCESS (*International Trade Fair for Thermo Process Technology*) and NEWCAST (*International Castings Trade Fair*) will once again present themselves on a joint platform. There will be a similar comprehensive support programme with numerous congresses, trade symposia, seminars conferences, special shows and technology forums.

For further information go to: [www.gifa.de](http://www.gifa.de)

### Social Survey from Statistics NZ

New Zealanders are satisfied with their overall well-being.

The first New Zealand General Social Survey (NZGSS) shows that 86 percent of New Zealanders are satisfied with their life overall. The NZGSS gives information about key social and economic outcomes across a number of areas of life.

Other key findings from the NZGSS include:

- Around 1 in 7 people said they did not have enough money to meet their everyday needs.
- Almost three-quarters of people lived in households that recycled all or most of those things they knew could be recycled.
- Over 90 percent of people agreed that it is good that people in New Zealand can have different values and ways of living. However, 1 in 10 people had been discriminated against in the past 12 months.

- Less than half of people lived in households that had stored enough water for three days in case of emergency.

### Auckland Branch Meeting

Recently appointed CTNZ Board member, Tom Russell, has decided to reincarnate the regular branch meetings in Auckland.

The first meeting was held at HERA House on Tuesday evening 1 December; this was well attended by around 30 people.

A presentation by Tony Knight on Direct Solidification and single Crystal Casting was very interesting and judging by the questions asked obviously had the interest of the audience. Coupled with refreshments and a light supper it made for an enjoyable evening and the opportunity to catch up with people in the industry.

Tom is planning regular meetings this year. The dates will be advised.

### Holidays Act: light at end of tunnel

A report on the review of the Holidays Act has been sent to the Minister of Labour. Details are not able to be disclosed, but changes to Relevant Daily Pay and clarity around the process of selling the fourth week of leave are two expected features.

If you have any questions, please email Paul Mackay Business NZ:

[pmackay@businessnz.org.nz](mailto:pmackay@businessnz.org.nz) or call him on 04 496 6553.

### Possible Personal Grievance changes to ER Act

Discussions are continuing between Business NZ and the Department of Labour on possible changes to the Employment Relations Act, but as with the Holidays Act deliberations, no public information is currently available.

The CTU does not support any change and it is still not known whether or not the Government will carry out its election promise of opening up collective bargaining to non-union employees.

However, it seems that a real concern for many employers is the complexity of the personal grievance provision of the

Employment Relations Act, particularly those relating to dismissals.

The good news is that the Prime Minister, in his speech to the recent CTU Conference, indicated that the Minister of Labour is going to look at the processes in place for personal grievances, following concerns about their 'potential abuse and costly nature'. It is therefore very much a case of watch this space.

### Ullrich Aluminium Plant Upgrade Opening

On 11 December 2009 Ullrich Aluminium officially opened a \$10million upgrade to their Hamilton extrusion facility. Gilbert Ullrich used the opportunity to showcase the manufacturing industry potential to NZ Prime Minister, John Key, government officials and several hundred invited guests.



*Bill Lovell with John Key PM at Ullrich Aluminium Plant Upgrade Opening 11 December 2009*

48 trade exhibition stands represented Ullrich clients, suppliers and research and development providers. Casting Technology took advantage of the opportunity to share some of the Light Alloy Manufacturing Group stand and exhibited a fully machined Aluminium Alloy cast in A356.2E/ET7 engine block currently being exported to USA.

Visitors to the stand were impressed with the quality of the items exhibited and the fact that they were being manufactured in NZ for export.

Gilbert Ullrich took the opportunity in his opening speech to stress the difficulty that the NZ manufacturing engineering industry faces competing globally with little government assistance or acknowledgement that the industry is of value to NZ exports

## Competenz Proposal for Metal Casting Level 4 Qualification

In the latter half of 2009 Competenz undertook an assessment of the training it currently provides. Casting Technology Industry Champion, Bill Lovell, met with Competenz representatives Sriyani Warusavithana and Matt Allfree early in December to discuss the draft assessment results and how they could affect the Metal Casting training.

Because of the small numbers of apprentices (14) it is difficult for Competenz to provide an acceptable level of training and they have suggested that Metal Casting be incorporated as a strand of Mechanical Engineering training or Manufacturing Engineering training or integrated as part of both. Competenz has asked for our input in achieving this. I would appreciate comments from our members to my email: [bill.lovell474@gmail.com](mailto:bill.lovell474@gmail.com)  
*Bill Lovell, Industry Champion*  
Casting Technology NZ

## Metals NZ Proposal

After the post 2008 decision of the government to not support metals industry sector groups via the generation of additional levy schedules for their funding, it is unlikely that the originally proposed Metals Institute of New Zealand (MINZ) concept can be realised due to lack of strong and stable income streams. However, there is continued interest from the sector groups to create a metals industry sector overarching body.

The original MINZ committee consisting of representatives of CTNZ, HERA, LAM-NZ, NASH, NZSSDA, and SCNZ met on the 7<sup>th</sup> Oct 2009 charged with the task to come up with a recommendation for a way forward to create such a body.

The following recommendations were made:

**That the following main objectives are desirable for a cross sector body**

- Cross sector advocacy role (single powerful voice to government, industry stakeholders, and clients of the industry).
- Project based activities (case by case funded by interested parties) such as:
  - Metals industry conference
  - Sustainable steel/metals council
  - Targeted promotional activities such as website, advocacy campaigns.

- That the proposed name be "Metals New Zealand"
- That the group should become an incorporated society.
- That the Governing Board members of the organisation be the sector group board nominated representatives of the sector groups/associations.
- That the Chairman of the organisation should be nominated from the Governing Board members.
- Potential administration/secretariat could be by rotation between participating organisations, but that in the start-up phase this role is carried out by HERA.
- That the recommendations should be considered by the Executives of interested associations at their next meeting.

CTNZ Executive has voted to move to the next level and join Metals NZ as long as the commitment doesn't mean there will be a major constitutional change. We will attend the meetings and maintain a watching brief as it develops. The next meeting is 2 Feb. I would appreciate any comments from members to my email:

*Bill Lovell, Industry Champion*  
[bill.lovell474@gmail.com](mailto:bill.lovell474@gmail.com)

## Small Business Advisory Group

CTNZ congratulates Mark Duxfield (Wade Engineering) on his appointment to this group. We look forward to working with him to promote our industry.

*Press Release by NZ Government at 8:41 am, 23 Dec 2009*

The nine people appointed to the new Small Business Advisory Group provide a wealth of talent and experience, Minister for Small Business Maurice Williamson says.

Announcing the appointment of the group today, Mr Williamson said its members came from a diverse range of sectors and regions, but the most important factor they had in common was hands-on experience in small business.

"Direct experience on the ground and strong networks within the small business sector,

were the most important things we were looking for," Mr Williamson said.

"We want to hear the advice of people in real small businesses, which can be very different from what big business, officials or academics are telling us."

Over 220 applications for the positions were received, and the following nine members have been appointed:

- Graham Dockrill, Canterbury  
*information technology & export*
- Rae Finlay, Canterbury  
*events management*
- Jeannette Samundsen, Hawke's Bay  
*food manufacturing & health services*
- Mark Duxfield, Auckland,  
*manufacturing*
- Nancy Beck, Auckland,  
*horticulture & export*
- Peter Clinton-Baker, Nelson,  
*tourism*
- Herani Demuth, Wellington,  
*education services*
- Bryan Nunweek, Auckland,  
*building services*
- Suzanne Hall, Northland,  
*health services and manufacturing*

Members have been appointed for a term of three years from 1 January 2010.

Mr Williamson said the Small Business Advisory Group would provide a business sector view on the development of policy relating to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and provide a deeper understanding of how the Government can work most effectively with SMEs.

### AUT Facility Available for Members

CTNZ Industry Champion, Bill Lovell visited the AUT Centre for Advanced Manufacturing Technology (CAMTEC) and the Rapid Prototyping Lab to view and discuss the facilities available.

CAMTEC is NZ's leading technology centre dedicated to developing industrial innovations for competitive advances in the following manufacturing fields:

#### Metal Casting

- NZ's only casting technology lab (rapid sand mould printing to HPDC to novel semi solid processing)
- Ferrous and Non ferrous alloys

- Casting simulation (fluid flow, solidification, stress).

#### Materials processing

- Materials processing of Aluminium, Magnesium, Titanium alloys, Steel, ADI and Plastics
- Molten metal industry audits (shop floor hydrogen gas and inclusion assessment tools)
- Metallurgy (processing, tooling, galvanising, microstructure, property, failure, interfaces)

#### Industry Training

- Defect troubleshooting
- Die design
- Lean Manufacturing
- Six Sigma
- Manufacturing Management
- Foundry best practice

#### Rapid Prototyping Lab

Rapid Prototyping is a technology for creating complex three dimensional prototypes in very short times. This allows product concepts to be rapidly tested from an aesthetic, ergonomic or engineering point of view.

The AUT Rapid Prototyping Lab can produce parts in a variety of materials including plastic and aluminium.

CTNZ members should take the opportunity to discuss either of these facilities and possible research funding options with Darius Singh; [darius.singh@aut.ac.nz](mailto:darius.singh@aut.ac.nz)

### Board Members Email Contacts

Should you have any queries or require assistance, please feel free to contact a Board member.

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The CTNZ Board take this opportunity to wish you all every success for 2010.