



CASTINGS

NEWS & VIEWS

SEPTEMBER 2009

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Also enclosed; the July edition of the BNZ Capital-Business NZ PSI, a monthly survey of the services sector.

Message from the Chairman

Our conference this year was held against the backdrop of the most significant financial crisis in living memory and as such it was gratifying to see so many members in attendance. Many member companies are suffering reduced trading levels and whilst the view looking forward is still not yet that encouraging, we should remember that much of the technology that the world takes for granted relies upon the skill and artifice of the foundry man. We have a skill and an industry in which we can be proud.

We were fortunate to secure the services of Bill Lovell in the role of industry champion in the first quarter of 2009. This has allowed us to once again become more proactive in our support of members. The most significant

result of Bill's activities so far was the 2009 conference. During the

second half of this year Bill will focus on member visits and co-ordinating activity with the Board to actively support, represent and publicise the foundry industry whenever the opportunity presents itself. As Bill visits please share with him your thoughts on what we as an organisation can do to help both yourself and the New Zealand foundry industry in general, both through this tough trading period and in the longer term.

It is still not envisaged within the medium term that the possible amalgamation with HERA to form MINZ will take place. If the possibility is discussed in the future then all the relevant aspects will be evaluated and if the Board think that a merger would be advantageous, the members of CTNZ will be canvassed for feed back before any firm conclusions are drawn.

Casting Technology New Zealand itself remains in a strong financial position and is strongly placed to support the industry now that the services of an industry champion have been secured.

I would like to thank the Board for their invaluable support, Ian Close, Warwick Fyfe, Gordon Muldrew and Mark Duxfield. Regrettably both Mark and Warwick have decided to resign their positions on the Board and it is very appropriate to express a special thanks for their commitment and support for Casting Technology New Zealand.

Thanks are also extended to Dawn Wratt and her colleagues at Business New Zealand for there continued support.

Tony Knight
Chairman Casting Technology NZ

2009 AGM

The 2009 Casting Technology New Zealand AGM was held at the Southern Cross Hotel in Dunedin on Sunday 9 August.

The Board for 2009/2010 elected at the AGM is as follows:

Ian Close	Casting Shop Ltd
Thomas Russell	Industrial Alloys
Tony Knight (<i>Chairman</i>)	Maxiome Ltd
Gordon Muldrew	Metcast Services Ltd
Robin Stanley	Pyrotek Ltd

2009 CTNZ Conference

The 2009 CTNZ Annual Conference was held in Dunedin during the weekend of 7th-9th August. The event started with a bit of a jolt for me along with others realising that the taxi fare from the airport to the city was almost the same price as the airfare from Auckland!

We were greeted by fine weather which stayed for the whole weekend albeit a bit cooler at night.

The 2009 venue was the Southern Cross Hotel, which was handy to the main shopping, casino and tourist sites and also had the most comfortable beds.

We kicked off on Friday afternoon with a well attended industry tour of 'Kiwirail's', Hillside Workshops which was very informative and interesting.

This was then followed up in the evening by a trip to Carisbrook stadium to watch the local Otago boys get well beaten by the visiting Southland team. The traditional 'pie and pint' was replaced by an assortment of beers, wines, pies, hot dogs and chips.

Then it was back to the hotel, for some of us into those dream beds and for others to continue the socialising and visit the casino.

The main business session was opened on the Saturday morning with an address by CTNZ Chairman, Tony Knight who welcomed delegates and set the scene for the programme to come. Twelve presentations were delivered by 11 speakers during the day covering various topics in support of the main theme. Phil O'Reilly, CEO Business NZ gave a lively presentation on the 'State of Industry-

Domestic & International' which was very much to the point driving home initiatives of innovation, productivity and education. To follow up were presentations from both Canterbury and Auckland Universities with innovative topics. There were 2 very different presentations by the keynote speaker Dr Kyle Metzloff, Professor of Industrial Studies, University of Wisconsin-Platteville, USA. One was a technical paper and the other showed Kyle's enthusiasm for educating younger people into the industry. A lively discussion topic was the 'Competenz' presentation: Training-Metal casting Level 4 with an extended question and answer session which rounded off the day's events. Sprinkled amongst these were also very valuable and interesting technical and supplier presentations.

The feedback from attendees was that sessions were not only relevant and informative but were presented in a passionate and motivating style offering delegates much inspiration for improving their operations.

Whilst the delegates were hard at work absorbing this information, the partners programme took a small group on a tour of Cadburys chocolate factory followed by lunch at 'Salt' restaurant in St Clair.

The Saturday evening conference dinner function was held in the Carlton Dining room at the Hotel and was very enjoyable. Many delegates took advantage of further networking opportunities at the bar after the dinner or ventured into the casino as I did to donate money.

Although there was some tardiness amongst the members there were still good numbers attending the AGM held on Sunday morning.

Many of us then dispersed into the area to take advantage of the tourist attractions for a few days. I took the opportunity to hire a rental car for a similar price as the taxi fare and we drove up to Oamaru stopping at 'Fleurs' for lunch, the Moeraki Boulders and the Whitestone Cheese Factory before returning to the airport for an evening flight home.

While the number of delegates was slightly down, those attending gained a lot during the weekend. Most agreed that the conference was a great success.

*This conference report was supplied by:
CTNZ Industry Champion, Bill Lovell*

CTNZ Website
www.castintgtechnologynz.org

Web Express (Bruce Gordon) in Auckland have made a very generous offer to revamp our website to a more user participant system. This will enable the executive and members to access and contribute information in a secure medium. This will greatly improve our image and communication particularly with overseas enquiries. For an insight into the type of work that Bruce produces, have a look at his website; www.webexpress.co.nz. If you are contemplating doing any website work, CTNZ would recommend that you give Bruce a call.

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 names of three:

- Brian Reynolds a qualified patternmaker from South Africa with many years experience in the foundry industry.
- Tom Rusk from Ontario, Canada who has 15 plus years experience in many aspects of foundry work.
- Elvis Hidalgo, a Metallurgist currently working in Malaysia, very interested in obtaining employment in the foundry industry in New Zealand.

Members wishing to receive the CV of any of these job seekers please contact Bill Lovell at bill.lovell474@gmail.com.

Conferences and Events

Synchro32

Manufacturing Software for Foundries
A complete overview demonstration will be conducted of Synchro. The software is entirely specific to the requirements of the casting manufacturer.

Auckland: Rydges Hotel
Tuesday, 22 September - 10am – 2 pm
Christchurch: Rydges Hotel
Thursday, 24 September - 10am – 2 pm
Email: info@synchro32.com

A reminder of the **Australian Foundry Institute National Conference & Expo "Breaking the Mould"**

27 – 30 September, MCG Melbourne.

Contact John Richards at Conference Plus

Tel: +61 3 9330 2813

Fax: +61 3 9310 3643

Email: enquiries@conferenceplus.com.au

For more information, please go to

<http://www.afivic.com.au/afi2009/>

Go Global Conference

September 30 First of a kind.

Export New Zealand/Business NZ is holding an international business forum, Go Global. Go Global is focused on celebrating international business success and innovation. It is an invigorating, practical and high level experience, which shares the secrets behind Kiwi businesses achieving success around the globe. No ordinary conference; this event will include a unique interactive setting, with businesses, government officials and MPs talking together in an informal, constructive environment. The line up of world-class speakers includes Sir Ken Stevens, Jonathan Ling, John Allen, Gerry Brownlee, Tim Gibson, Chris Hopkins and Tim Groser.

When: 30 September, 8.30am – 4.45pm

Where: Hyatt Hotel, Auckland

You can get tickets and more information from www.nzgoglobal.co.nz or Call Zoe Timbrell on 09 367 0919 or 027 497 1234.

It is being held in conjunction with the New Zealand International Business Awards, which will take place later that evening.

see: www.nzte.govt.nz/awards

Shot Peening Workshop in Dordrecht

MFN (Metal Finishing News) is most likely the world's only publication entirely focusing on peening, blasting, cleaning and vibratory finishing! MFN has a circulation of over 5300 issues and is distributed in 67 countries.

You are probably aware that MFN does plenty of workshops about Shot Peening around the globe.

When: 13 - 15 of October 2009 they have organised a local workshop in Dordrecht, Holland. The workshop will be held in English.

MFN is a partner in education in Nadcap and all of our courses are approved by the FAA.

Furthermore MFN is an official sponsor of FEMS (Federation of European Materials Societies).

For more information, please go to www.mfn.li/workshops or contact them directly at info@mfn.li.

Metal + Metallurgy China 2010 and Casting China International 2010

When: May 11-14, 2010

Where: China International Exhibiton Center (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/

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

Emissions Trading a Step Closer

Divisions in the select committee on emissions trading are concerning, but there is enough common ground to work towards consensus, according to Business NZ. Chief Executive Phil O'Reilly says among the divisions there are still positive areas of agreement. "With the exception of only one party, all others support a trading scheme.

"There is positive discussion around allocation of credits, international linkages and transition mechanisms and some support for including intensity standards in the scheme. These must all form a part of the scheme's overall toolbox.

"Intensity standards are required to recognise companies that are high emitters and are often already operating at international best practice environmental standards but need the ability to grow without being unfairly penalised. But competitiveness at risk must not be downplayed. Now is not the time to be leading with our chin in the absence of action by our trade competitors. Businesses are up for doing their fair share but careful calibration of the transition into the scheme is needed. Business wants certainty around a fit for purpose emissions trading scheme, to be able to invest with confidence in a sustainable future, and we have a positive expectation that the Government will finalise a deal that uses the best from all parties' positions," Mr O'Reilly said.

Review of Qualifications System

Business NZ is part of a working group reviewing the qualification system to ensure it meets the needs of the economy and labour market, and is relevant to and well understood by all who use it. NZ currently has approximately 6000 qualifications, and there is duplication within these.

The review process includes looking at ways to strengthen the employer voice both:

- In the development of new qualifications linked to business needs and
- In making sure when qualifications are reviewed that they are relevant to business needs.

Business NZ continues to work with officials and other stakeholders to ensure qualification development and review processes genuinely reflect the views and requirements of business.

Qualifications need to contain easily understandable learning outcomes that provide a fair reflection of the knowledge, skills and competencies gained by the qualification holder.

If you would like to know more about this project, please contact:

Carrie Murdoch on 04 496 6566.