

President's Message

All quiet on the Southern Front

I've just finished a tour of South Island branches, including the West Coast. I gave my "Presidential view" of IPENZ, and in Greymouth and Nelson also presented a seminar on CPEng. The response, in terms of numbers and the generally positive attitude to the changes under way, was heartening. I admired the dedication of the two thirds of the audience who sat through both presentations. Everywhere I received the overwhelming impression that IPENZ is not only moving, but generally in the right direction.



We are certainly moving – ever since the Chartered Professional Engineers' Act became possible two years ago. Like any moving object, we are more responsive to changes of direction than an immobile mass, which can't overcome friction. I'm reminded of a fighter pilot named Pink Williams, who said: "Give me kinetic energy any day and I'll take his potential energy and shove it up his"!

Our recent membership survey indicated that the overwhelming reason members join IPENZ was – surprise, surprise – for "professional and qualification recognition". Even more interesting was the number of people who believed that IPENZ could be doing more in the areas of "visibility understanding and respect", "leadership on public and community issues", "sense of identity", and "ongoing professional development". When these factors were ranked according to the difference between perceived importance and IPENZ's actual delivery, then "visibility understanding and respect", "leadership on public and community issues" came in ahead of "professional and qualification recognition".

What this survey tells me is that we recognise a "social contract" between the engineering profession and the public whom we ostensibly serve. Society says, "If you do a good job, and we feel we can trust you, we'll put you on a pedestal, which will mean good rewards and recognition".

If the public and community can trust our leadership on issues around technology, then we as engineers will gain the "visibility, understanding and respect" most of us desire. To put it another way, we will garner respect only by demonstrating that we have broader interests than our own profit or gain.

Rob Wilkinson, Dist. FIPENZ, a past president of IPENZ, back in 1993 devised a principle of action for IPENZ members, on the basis that the social contract was "absolutely central to our thinking and action, especially in public affairs". He offered a simple test for evaluating any proposed action – "Does this decision or action increase or diminish society's trust in us?" and "Does it strengthen the contract?" If there is doubt in either case, then he suggested we should not do it, or should at least "slow down and see if we can reframe our response so as to respect and strengthen 'the contract'".

I agree with this approach. The trick will be how to regain any lost trust, and ensure that we are seen as useful advisers to the public. I think that we need to stand up and be counted a lot more. There are many issues on which we have remained largely silent. I'll try and change that, gradually, but I'd welcome your feedback. How can we better respond to the national (and local) issues of the day with a balanced technological view?

Gerry Te Kapa Coates
President

Practice College and web-based registers


The IPENZ Practice College became effective on 1 April 2003. This register contains the names of all members who have demonstrated their current competence by undertaking a competence assessment within the last five years.

Membership of the IPENZ Practice College is one of the IPENZ quality marks. It allows Members, if they so choose, to identify the practice area in which they have proven current competence. During the period for which their current competence is valid (up to five years after assessment) Members can include their practice area(s) in parentheses after their membership class in their post-nominals. For example, an engineer who had recently undertaken an assessment in the "Information" practice area may choose to use MIPENZ (Information) as his or her post-nominal. Members may include only the practice area(s) in which they were assessed as being competent – that is, only those practice areas displayed on the web list – in this way.

The registrants of the IPENZ Practice College can be inspected on the IPENZ website at http://www.ipenz.org.nz/ipenz/finding/Practice_college/search.cfm; their names, membership classes (including post-nominals), regions, primary practice area(s) are displayed, along with the years of their next assessment for continued membership of the College. The web list excludes those who have made a written request not to be registered in the Practice College. Searches of the web list can be made by name, region or practice area – or a combination of these parameters.

IPENZ has also set up web-based registers for CPEng, the International Professional Engineers Register and the membership register.

The CPEng register indicates whether or not a person is currently competent – it does not indicate in which practice area the registrant demonstrated his or her competence. Accordingly, searches can be made only on registrants' surnames and regions.

The International Professional Engineers Register displays the registrant's name, membership class if an IPENZ Member (including post-nominals), region and practice area(s). Searches can be made on names, regions and practice area(s). 

Progress Report: IPENZ Structural Task Force

The Scarry open letter to IPENZ has received extensive coverage in general, professional and trade media, so readers are likely to be aware of it. IPENZ through the Engineering Practice Board established a Structural Task Force to look at issues that have been distilled from the report by SESOC Chair and Practice Board member Dr Barry Davidson, FIPENZ.

The Task Force consists of people offering the following perspectives: ACENZ (President Adam Thornton, MIPENZ); SESOC (Dr Barry Davidson); a large structural consultancy (Richard Built, BCHF Auckland) a smaller consultancy (Roy Taylor, MIPENZ, ABUILDTM Consulting Engineers, Wellington); local bodies (Hugh McNaughton, MIPENZ, an engineer with experience on the Auckland scene), and the construction industry (Wayne Raymond, MIPENZ). The group is chaired by Ian Mills, FIPENZ who is the management representative on the Engineering Practice Board and runs a Wellington-based project management consultancy, Management by Mills.

The Task Force's terms of reference were set by the EPB with support from the Ministry of Economic development, ACENZ and the Building Industry Authority. These can be summarised as follows:

1. Identify any areas of structural engineering practice in which there is variability in the standards of practice.
2. Identify any structural engineering practices that are placing life or property at potentially unacceptable risk.
3. Develop recommendations to overcome shortcomings and identify if possible ways to implement these.
4. Provide feedback to the BIA and MED on the current review of the Building Act.
5. If appropriate propose a programme that IPENZ could implement to address the recommendations in section 3 above.

A rider was the requirement to consider issues that may require changes to the Building Act in time to prepare a submission prior to an 11 April deadline.

The Structural Task Force has met five times. At the last meeting they were joined by BIA reps and Professor Mander, Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Canterbury. Through *engineering dimension* and *engineering direct* Members' views have been sought on the Building Act and wider practice issues. Twenty three

communications were received on both issues from individual members and consultancies.

The Building Act deliberations ran to a tight timetable driven by the MED. A submission was prepared and submitted, and further submissions will be made when the Building Act Amendment Bill reaches the select committee stage.

Seven major recommendations have now been developed and are being incorporated into a draft report, which will be subject to peer review by the membership. IPENZ is grateful for the considerable time commitment made by the Task Force members. ☺

Service agreement with Cadastral Surveyors Licensing Board

In late May IPENZ contracted to supply administrative services to the Cadastral Surveyors Licensing Board. In effect IPENZ acts as their office, invoices their licence holders for their annual license fee, and supplies the practising certificate. Very few of the 600 or so Cadastral Surveyor licence holders are on our database for other reasons.

IPENZ's capacity to undertake this function was greatly enhanced by the design of the new database system. No major changes were required, though the appearance of invoices and practising certificates had to be customised. Most of the work involved occurs in May/June, a quiet time for activity related to IPENZ and Technical Group subscriptions, so it can be scheduled into National Office's workload easily.

Income from the arrangement means the overhead costs of operating the membership record system can be distributed across a wider range of users, creating economies of scale. IPENZ has opened up discussions with other small technical societies who are struggling to maintain their own database systems using part-time employees, so are interested in tapping into the resource that the new system provides. ☺

Bruce Smithson Bequest



The IPENZ Foundation has benefited from a handsome bequest from the estate of Bruce Smithson FIPENZ.

Mr Smithson attended Mt Albert Grammar School from 1924 to 1929, then studied engineering, first at Auckland University College and then at Canterbury College. He was awarded a Bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1933, and subsequently became a Registered Engineer.

In the 1930s he worked as a Public Works Assistant on various roading, irrigation and railway projects. He was elected to membership of IPENZ in 1940. From 1941 to 1945 he was employed by New Zealand Forest Products, working on the development of sawmills, preservation plant and the "Pinex" insulating board mill, where he became Assistant Mill Manager and Assistant to the Chief Engineer. He also carried out preliminary investigations into the siting and establishment of the Kinleith Mill complex, under the Chief Engineer and overseas consultants.

From 1945 until 1967 Mr Smithson pursued his career with the City Engineer's Department of Works and Services of the Auckland City Council, focusing on the bulk water supply system. He worked on the construction and operation of dams, filter stations and mains, and in consumer services administration.

From 1953 Mr Smithson was Deputy Chief Engineer Water Supply, until his appointment in 1966 to the post of Acting Chief Engineer on the resignation of the Chief Engineer to take up another post in the newly-created Auckland Regional Authority. In 1967 he was appointed Chief Engineer Water Supply to the ARA when it took over the bulk water system from the City Council. He continued in this role until his retirement in 1974. During this period he oversaw an intensive capital works programme that doubled the capacity of the water supply system, and continued well after his retirement. He was elected a Fellow of IPENZ in 1969. ☺

CPEng and International Professional Engineers Registrations

Assessment applications

Applications for assessment for Professional Membership, CPEng and the International Professional Engineers Register are shown in Figure 1. The totals include applications that were considered last year for CPEng and IPER registration effective from 1 January 2003.

Assessment outcomes

Applications for assessment include applications for some or all of Professional Membership, CPEng and the International Professional Engineers Register. Not all applicants apply for all of these registrations, but all applicants are assessed for all of them. Figure 2 shows the number of applications tabled at the Competence Assessment Board, and the number of applicants who were assessed as meeting the requirements for each of the registers.

CPEng and IPER Registrations

Figure 3 shows the number of registrants on each register at the end of each period. A number of candidates who undertook assessment late last year were approved as having met the standards for registration, subject to their making application, but not all applicants have taken advantage of this.

IPENZ Practice College


The IPENZ Practice College opened on 1 April 2003, and 755 members who had undertaken assessment within the last five years were included immediately. During May, a further 15 registrants have been added. 

Figure 1: All Assessment Applications

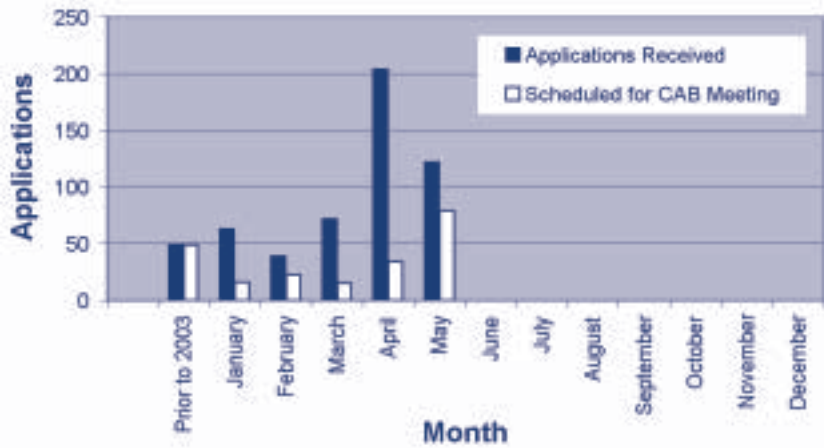


Figure 2: All Assessment Applications

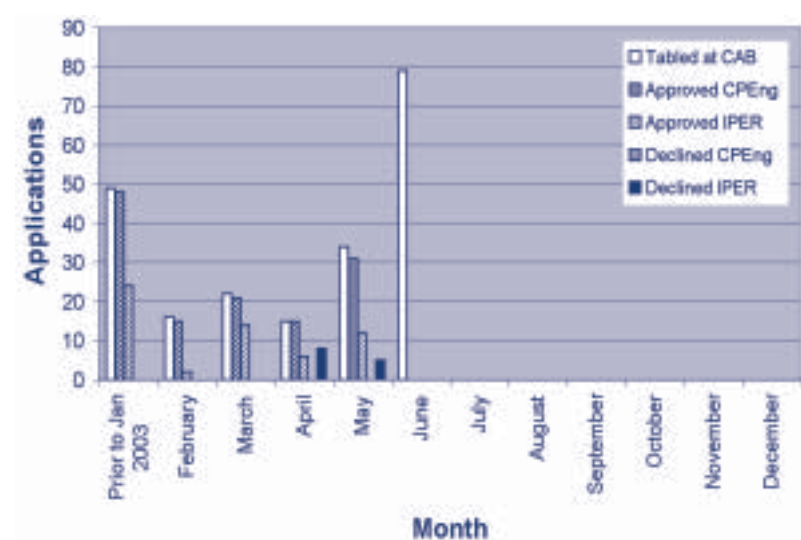
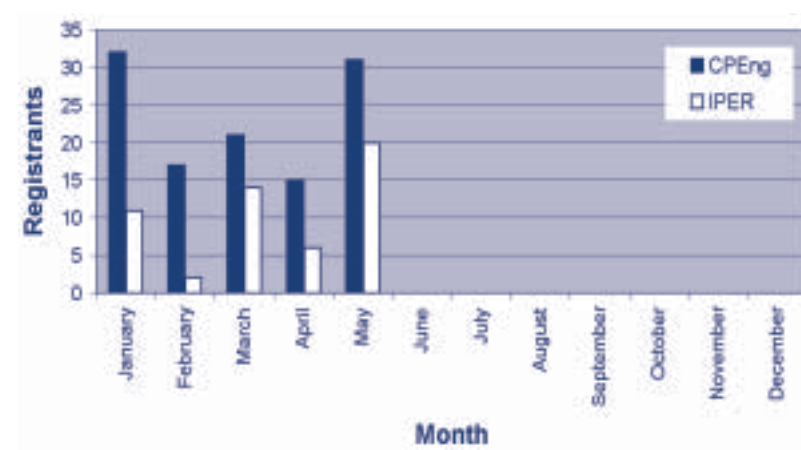


Figure 3: CPEng and IPER Registrations



IPENZ recognition

for New Zealand's first concrete gravity dam

At a ceremony conducted by Wellington Regional Councillor Chris Laidlaw on Sunday 25 May, the Korokoro Dam in Wellington's Belmont Regional Park acquired an IPENZ Heritage Plaque. The plaque was unveiled by the Chair of the Regional Council Margaret Shields assisted by IPENZ Past President Dr Rob Aspden, Dist. FIPENZ and Chair of the National Committee for Engineering Heritage, who was standing in for President Gerry Coates. Noted dam historian and IPENZ Member Bob Offer outlined the history of the dam and its significance for New Zealand's engineering heritage.

The plaque will be incorporated into a sign-board and viewing platform being constructed at the dam with financial support from IPENZ and the New Zealand Society for Large Dams.

The dam was engineered by Samuel Jickell, who was Borough Engineer to the Borough of Petone. It was constructed to provide Petone with water for fire fighting, for which the borough's artesian supply did not provide sufficient pressure and volume. The waters of the Korokoro stream were already used to drive a turbine at Petone Woollen Mills. The Borough's proposal brought the threat of legal action, and a special Act of Parliament was needed to empower the Borough to compensate

the mill. The compensation involved the building of a small concrete dam in the lower reaches of the stream to replace the existing totara timber one, a guarantee of a minimum flow at this dam, and the provision of a gas engine to overcome water shortages due to drought.

To the best of our knowledge the dam marks the transition from masonry to mass concrete in New Zealand dam building. It is the first of a number of major concrete gravity dams, which were to become the "backbone" of New Zealand's hydro-electric generation and water supply systems. It is also notable for its use of a "stepped" spillway, where the energy of the water is partially dissipated by successive drops.

Samuel Jickell was born in 1856 and trained as an engineer in England, coming to New Zealand about 1883. Initially in private practice in New Zealand, after venturing to Australia he had returned to New Zealand by 1890 as City Engineer Nelson, having been elected a corporate member of the Institution of Civil Engineers London in 1889. From 1901 to 1904 he was Borough Engineer at Petone. The Borough records concerning the dam are meagre but it appears he received a bonus

equivalent to one year's salary for the successful completion of the dam. Mr Jickell moved to Palmerston North Borough Council in 1904 where he was responsible for, among other works, the building of a concrete gravity dam on the Turitea Stream, which he later raised in height (it has recently been raised again with an earth dam addition).

Samuel Jickell was foundation President of the Institute of Local Government Engineers of New Zealand in March 1904 and played a major role in the affairs of the profession. He was an innovative engineer with an interest also in the Palmerston North Operatic and Dramatic Society. He was said to be fond of pink gins. He returned to private practice in 1919 and died in 1939. He is commemorated by Jickell Street in Palmerston North.

The IPENZ Engineering Heritage website www.ipenz.org.nz/heritage has more information about the Korokoro Dam and other items of New Zealand engineering heritage. If you know of an item of engineering heritage that is not recorded on the site, feel free to propose it for inclusion, simply following the instructions on the website. ☺

Earthquake-proof building system

Research to develop a completely new modular, seismic-damage-resistant building system has been awarded \$3.1 million in Foundation for Research, Science and Technology funding over the next six years, plus another \$1.3 million from industry sponsors.

The research team will be drawn from academia, the structural engineering design profession and the building/manufacturing industry, under the leadership Professor John Mander who holds the Chair in Structural Engineering at the University of Canterbury. Much of the computation and experimental research will be conducted in the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Canterbury laboratories under his direction.

Energy efficiency analysis, design and experimental investigation will be partly sub-contracted to Dr Larry Bellamy MIPENZ of Ensys Limited, while Holmes Consulting Group, led by Professor Des Bull FIPENZ, will develop and ratify the proposed design strategies.

Manufacturing and construction research will be led by Mr Len McSaveney MIPENZ of Fletcher Building, who are providing 30% co-funding.

The aim is to devise a new system using modern high performance precast concrete materials – structural frames (beams, columns and structural walls) and floors. The non-structural building envelope will consist of energy-efficient precast concrete panels, which can be dismantled and reused in a modular way.

Professor Mander says it is hoped the research will create a structural frame and flooring system that is immune to seismically-induced damage "in contrast to present designs in which life-safety is maintained, while damage is permitted". Other benefits will include faster, more economical construction and lower heating/air conditioning operating costs. ☺

Rob Wilkinson (Dist. FIPENZ) recently turned up a copy of the presidential address he delivered in 1994 (published in the IPENZ Journal for April 1994). In particular the section on the future of the Institution gave him some satisfaction, since so much progress has been made in the intervening ten years. The section, entitled "The Future Institution", is reprinted in full below.

What will IPENZ be "Beyond 2000" if it has responded to the challenges I've outlined tonight? The outcome is uncertain to predict, so I'd rather present my vision.

Beyond 2000, IPENZ will be a healthy active society with a growing membership. The growth will arise from inclusion of a wider range of practitioners in new fields of engineering endeavour; from enthusiastic young people and not least from an increasing attractiveness of the profession to women.

For this growth to have been achieved, IPENZ will have developed a strong identity in various constituencies of the community. This will be achieved by establishing strong and effective links with business, government, education, other professional bodies and the community.

For business, IPENZ qualifications will be recognised as the hallmark of the competent and current professional who is subject to ethical requirements and who is required to maintain their continuing professional development.

For government, IPENZ will be regarded as a reliable source of professional opinion on a range of socially significant policy issues. The opinions will be varied, stimulating and helpful to the development of policy. IPENZ will also be a self-regulating profession operating under a generic act covering professional associations passed in 1996.

For the educational community, IPENZ will be a recognised standards-setting body and training organisation spanning the generic aspects of the higher levels in the qualification framework. IPENZ will also be a significant factor in the resurgent interest in technology education because of the success of its Neighbourhood Engineers programme and its superb mentoring system for people entering into engineering education programmes.

For other professional organisations, IPENZ will be a source of inspiration as to how to change direction and become a vital and significant body. It will be known as a vigorous supporter of joint continuing education programmes, and as a contributor to their processes of institutional change as they grapple with the new ethic of sustainability.

To the community, IPENZ will be seen as an outwardly-focused organisation truly serving the public interest and responsive to its concerns about rapid technologically-driven change. This will be achieved through the clarity of our communication on issues of the day. It will also be known for its high ethical standards and its genuineness in dealing with public complaint. In particular it will be respected for its contributions to public policy debates, its work with young people, its flourishing volunteer service programme and its internationally recognised leadership role in tackling global environmental problems.

None of this future can unfold without the members. IPENZ will be a vital lively organisation supporting its members at each stage of their professional lives and providing them with access to a huge range of opportunities and services through its global network of relationships with other professional bodies. In particular members will have many opportunities to both receive and give of themselves.

Learned society access will include not only specialist New Zealand-based groups centered on particular strengths in New Zealand engineering, but also participation in many similar societies within other national organisations.

Membership will include receiving publications, often electronically, and participation in 24-hour-a-day computer-mediated meetings – and even occasional face to face contact!

Networked groups will have developed to focus on particular global problems and there will be constant flow of information and experience toward those parts of the world with special needs.

It is possible to dream on along these lines but I must close. Suffice to say that I envisage IPENZ as a vital New Zealand engineering society with a sharp outward focus, a service orientation and as a nett contributor to the global network of like organisations who have joined together to enable their members to "Respond to the Future" in their own unique and varied ways.

As IPENZ changes to become the society I have envisioned, it will be responding most effectively to the plea from the future for engineers to "make the difference": in governance; knowledge and learning; the environment, and in the lives of children. ☺

TENZ/ICTE 2003

Enhancing technological literacy



Conference
30 September – 3 October
St Paul's Collegiate
Hamilton

Technology Education New Zealand (TENZ) and the International Conference on Technology Education (ICTE) are holding their first joint conference in Hamilton. TENZ is a professional network established to support and promote the development of technology education in New Zealand. ICTE promotes international co-operation in the development of Technology Education.

TENZ/ICTE 2003 is administered by IPENZ in support of the Institution's goal to create a positive profile of engineering careers and to help schools implement the technology curriculum. The conference hosts the Engineering Educators Forum, which will focus on national engineering and technology education policy.

An important aspect of technology education is promoting links with the technological community. TENZ/ICTE 2003 invites you to tell your story of a technological project to delegates at the conference, so teachers can hear first-hand from an expert about an innovative technological development. Your presentation will enhance teachers' understanding and appreciation of the relationship between technology and society.

The conference takes place from 29 September to 3 October and the one-hour presentations are scheduled throughout the afternoons of 1 and 2 October. A brief description of the development of a project and your role in it will be required for the conference programme.

If you would like to find out more about presenting at TENZ/ICTE 2003 please contact Angela Christie, email tenz@ipenz.org.nz or 0-4-474 8981

For more information about TENZ/ICTE 2003 and to register online visit the TENZ website www.techednz.org.nz ☺

High honours for Sir William Pickering

Sir William Pickering, Hon FIPENZ, has enjoyed a distinguished career in space research that took him to the USA in the 1930s and kept him there, but he has always maintained contact with the country of his birth and the New Zealand scientific community. Now 92 years old, he continues to attract high honours in New Zealand.

Already the holder of an honorary knighthood under the former imperial honours system, Sir William has now received the highest honour accorded under the current system – the Order of New Zealand – in the 2003 Queen's Birthday Honours. This was an honorary award since Sir William is now a US citizen.

Sir William has also been honoured by Canterbury University, seventy-five years after he began his studies at Canterbury College. The University has conferred on him an Honorary Doctorate of Engineering at a special graduation ceremony on 18 March this year, where an oration was delivered by the Dean of Engineering, Associate Professor Alex Sutherland FIPENZ.

Professor Sutherland outlined Sir William's signal contribution to the exploration of space as Director of Caltech's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. In this role he oversaw the Explorer satellite programme, the Mariner space probes to Mars and Venus, and the exploration of the solar system by the Ranger, Surveyor and Viking spacecraft. Much of the JPL's pioneering success has been credited to his inspiring leadership.

The occasion attracted more than 1500 people, and Sir William's 40-minute

address prompted a standing ovation. He has received many honours from various countries, but noted that "there's something very special about being honoured in one's original home". He credited Canterbury University with preparing him well for advanced studies and then work at the prestigious California Institute of Technology, and pointed out that he would have returned to New Zealand after completing his tertiary studies, but for the shortage of suitable jobs here in the 30s.

During the same visit to New Zealand, Sir William also unveiled a plaque dedicating a memorial plaza to his work and that of Sir Ernest Rutherford in Havelock, Marlborough, where both men received their primary schooling. The plaza was established with the support of IPENZ, the Royal Society of New Zealand and Canterbury University, and displays information about both distinguished scientists on large poster boards. IPENZ was represented at the event by Distinguished Fellow and Past President Rob Aspden. ☺



Building Act – possible c

The Cabinet Committee has made policy decisions concerning the Building Act. Brief summaries are available in the media, but the detail is all-important. Below are the proposed changes, as indicated on the Ministry of Economic Development website. The wording is that used by the Minister of Commerce reporting the recommendations:

It is recommended that the Committee:

note that the Hunn report recommended that a national system of registration of builders and building related trades be investigated;

note that officials advise that voluntary registration will not provide adequate incentives to remove incompetent building practitioners from the market;

agree that a competency-based national register of licensed building practitioners be established;

agree that individuals not companies be licensed;

agree that there will be three ways to be licensed:

- recognition of registration under the appropriate competencies under the Chartered Professional Engineers of New Zealand Act 2002;
- recognition of registration under the Architects Act;
- licensing by the Building Practitioners Board;

agree that on-going competency testing be required at a frequency to be set out in rules;

agree that building designers and key building trades be licensed;

agree that independent qualified persons who undertaken building warrant of fitness inspections and certifications be licensed as building practitioners;

agree that the Building Act provide for regulations to be developed that specify the categories of building practitioners;

agree to establish a statutory board of seven experts whose functions will be to:

- set minimum standards for licensing a building practitioner in a range of categories;

- set the standards for demonstrating current competence that is required for continued licensing and the frequency with which assessments must be made;
- licence building practitioners;
- discipline licensed practitioners;

agree that the registry will be part of the government department with responsibility for administration of the Building Act;

agree that the Board will set the minimum standards and frequency of assessment by rules;

agree that the rules be approved by the responsible Minister;

note that rules for upfront and ongoing demonstration of competency will have to have regard to the purpose of the Act and the Building Code and this will enable the Minister, who has to approve the rules, to ensure that such as disability are appropriately considered;

agree that the Board may delegate its function to an accredited body;

agree that where a building practitioner fails to meet the minimum standards their licence will be suspended for up to 12 months to provide time for retraining;

agree the register will include contact details and details of disciplinary action;

note that the Board will only act on complaint;

agree that the grounds for discipline will be:

- negligence;
- incompetence; and
- dishonesty in seeking a licence;

agree that in disciplining building practitioners the Board may:

- deregister;
- suspend a licence;
- censure;
- order retraining; and
- fine up to \$5000;



Susan Levick – PA / Desktop Publisher

Our new PA/Desktop Publisher joined the fold in mid-April. Susan Levick comes to IPENZ from the NZ College of Management where she was responsible for co-ordinating the College's public programmes. She has a strong PA background, and sees her career developing in the design field.

Susan has the unenviable task of looking after Virginia Burton and Jeff Wastney with her exceptional PA skills.

She is the liaison person for organising the committee meetings managed by Virginia and helps Jeff with the preparation of CPEng-related materials. But that's not all; she's also been thrown into the world of publishing. Susan is responsible for the desktop production of this publication (*engineering dimension*), the weekly *engineering direct*, and other DTP tasks as they arise. Her interest in learning more about graphic design should serve her well.

Outside of IPENZ Susan spends much time re-decorating her home, which required a total re-vamp. She is especially proud of the kitchen which she designed herself. She also keeps herself busy with dance classes in American Jazz and Tap and designs the programme for the dance school's recitals.

Susan loves to shop, and when she can't get to the shops or the credit card is full, she gets to engage another passion which is sewing, and sometimes designing, her own clothes. To attest to this, since mid-April, we've not seen Susan in the same outfit twice! When she's not working, dancing or armed with a paintbrush, she likes nothing more than burying her nose in a good book.

We welcome Susan to the world of IPENZ.



Sheree Kyle – Assistant Competence Assessment Administrator

Meet Sheree Kyle. She is our new Assistant Competence Assessment Administrator, working part-time here at IPENZ. Sheree's role entails assisting with the administration of assessments for Professional Membership or registration on the Chartered Professional Engineers, International Professional Engineers Registers. This work involves database data-

entry and queries, emailing applicants and assessors, preparation and mailing of documents and preparing files and documents for filing. So Members will no doubt hear from Sheree at some stage.

Originally from Napier, Sheree moved to Wellington four years ago to study at Victoria University. She graduated in May this year with a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Psychology and Criminology. As if that wasn't enough, she went back to Victoria to study part-time this year and is now doing Honours in Psychology, due for completion at the end of next year.

Sheree thought that part-time study would be more beneficial, giving her the opportunity to gain some work experience, mainly to keep the Student Loan down. She says she finds her job at IPENZ very stimulating and enjoys working with our friendly staff. High praise indeed!

In her spare time, she enjoys playing a variety of sports and is currently playing in an indoor soccer team.

Sheree is a valuable member of the IPENZ team, and we enjoy having her with us.

Changes to the CPEng Act

agree that all building work over an amount specified in regulation that requires a building consent be done or supervised by a licensed building practitioner;

agree that owner builder be supervised by a licensed building practitioner;

agree that licensed building practitioners be required to certify their work is Code compliant;

agree that it will be an offence for an unlicensed building practitioner to provide certification;

agree that the Board be given 12 months to develop the rules;

agree that a five year period be provided before the requirements begin;

agree to amend the Chartered Professional Engineers of New Zealand Act 2002 to allow the registration of categories of engineers under that Act;

note that the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement will apply to licensed building practitioners;

direct the Ministry of Education and the Tertiary Education Commission report back to Cabinet on training implications by 30 December 2003;

direct the Ministry of Economic Development to report back on financial implication by December 2003;

note that the Building Act Amendment Bill has a priority of 2 on the 2003 legislation programme and is planned for introduction by 30 July 2003; and

invite the Minister of Commerce to issue drafting instructions to Parliamentary Counsel Office to give effect to the amendments listed above.

The rationale provided in support of these recommendations was as follows:

Amendments to the Chartered Professional Engineers of New Zealand Act 2002

The CPEA only allows for chartered professional engineers to be registered under that Act but other categories of engineers exist. Some are registered under other outdated legislation and some are not registered at all. IPENZ would like to be able to register other categories of engineer under the CPEA, but not as Chartered


Professional Engineers. They are seeking an amendment to the CPEA that would make this possible. Titles for these categories of engineers have yet to be established.

These proposals have not been consulted on. Officials advise that this proposal has merit. It would provide engineers with a choice of registers that best suited their needs and allow on-going competency assessment and quality control to apply to a broader range of engineering practitioners.

Our understanding is that officials are now preparing the schedule of changes in an omnibus Bill or Bills which will go to the House, and then on to a Select Committee in the normal way. They will have reasonable priority as the Government wants the package through this calendar year.

The current competence ethos that applies to the engineering profession under the CPEng Act is to be applied to all Building Practitioners. Those holding CPEng will in effect have a licence under the Building Act to provide services relevant to the Building Act in areas of practice within which they are competent.

Further registers under the CPEng Act would give all those offering engineering services access to a statute-backed current competence registration system. The proposal to broaden the CPEng Act has not yet gone through normal consultation by officials, which means that it is at greater risk of modification during the processes ahead. Our understanding is that a separate process will take place regarding the future of the Registered Engineering Associates Act.


In general, we believe that we have seen sensible decision-making by Government, which acknowledges the diversity of engineering practice, and will support a wider range of engineers who provide good quality engineering services. The devil is in the detail, and IPENZ will continue to interact with officials to help get the detail right. The responsible way in which IPENZ has implemented the CPEng Act has apparently been recognised in the proposed changes. 

A more formal Construction Industry Council

The Construction Industry Council (CIC) has taken another step towards representing the broad interests of those in the building and construction sector. Formed originally as the Construction Liaison Group, a loose affiliation of organisations, it has now become an incorporated society and expanded its membership. It held its inaugural Annual General Meeting last month and set in place a new business plan. At the meeting Mr John Pfahlert, Chief Executive of the Contractors Federation, was elected Chair and John Gardiner, IPENZ Deputy Chief Executive, Vice Chair.


The CIC took a leading role in representing the sector during the crisis following the release of the "Hunn Report" on weathertightness commissioned by the Building Industry Authority. CIC initiatives have included the development of a sector research strategy, policy work on the review of the Building Act and the promotion of a national policy for the build environment.

The CIC now includes IPENZ, Contractors Federation, Master Builders Federation, BRANZ, Standards New Zealand, Certified Builders Association, Association of Consulting Engineers, New Zealand Institute of Architects, Cement and Concrete Association, New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects, New Zealand Planning Institute, Pavement & Bitumen Contractors Association, Building Industry Federation, Site Safe, Building and Construction Industry Training Organisation, NZ Institute of Building Inc., NZ Institute of Quantity Surveyors, Property Council of New Zealand, NZ Institute of Building Surveyors and the Building Officials Institute of NZ.

The CIC website www.nzcic.co.nz is hosted by IPENZ as part of its contribution to the CIC's operations. 

Board highlights

The IPENZ Board met on 11 May prior to the annual planning day involving the Board and staff on 12 May. The outcomes of the planning meeting will be communicated to Members in other news items. The Board meeting included the following items or outcomes:

- The Board welcomed its newest member, Rhonda Hill, who has been appointed for a two-year term.
- An increase in CPEng applications was noted. The 200 received in April are placing severe pressure on staff and assessors, and we expect about the same number each month until the end of year.
- The financial performance of the Institution to date was favourable relative to the predicted budget deficit; we overcame CPEng start-up costs, to the extent that a small surplus may be possible, opening up opportunities for undertaking new activities.
- The creation of a new senior staff position was approved, to improve service to Members in respect of continuing professional development opportunities and access to new engineering knowledge.
- It was agreed to seek recognition of fire engineering as a distinct practice area within the APEC Engineer Agreement, and therefore in the IPENZ Practice College.
- A Board sub-committee was formed to examine staff accommodation, recognising that we are fast outgrowing the present National Office and that Member foot traffic to National Office is so low that a permanent "home" for the Institution in the sense envisaged in the 1960s is now less meaningful.
- A bequest of considerable size was notified. See news item on page 2. 

NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY ON LARGE DAMS
One-day symposium



Dams – Consents and Current Practice

Wellington Festival & Convention Centre
Tuesday 26 August 2003

Water for a range of industrial and domestic uses is stored in reservoirs formed in river valleys by dams. The symposium draws together elements related to the use of dams, including consent responsibilities, flow regulation impacts, dam safety assurance, tailing dams, emergency management, together with recent events and case histories.

Details: Derek Wilshere – Technical Secretary, NZSOLD
Ph 0-4-562 7920 / 0274-303 596 email derek.wilshere@xtra.co.nz

Registration <http://www.ipenz.org.nz/nzsold/symposiums.htm>

Cost \$365 (+GST) or \$410 incl GST



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