



# IGE News

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## President's Report

Dear members

I was very pleased with the positive support I received from many of you towards my comments on the current state of industry training, apprenticeships and traineeships, along with a good response showing interest in sharing your expertise and delivering training.



The end of year is coming up quickly with the festive season upon us. The IGE Christmas dinner was held on November 30. Unfortunately numbers were down mostly due to conflicting functions. Diana also had to send her apologies with her work function being held on the same night.

We have had another visit from the IGE with the new President Richard Hadon and Chief Executive Officer John Williams attending the E21 conference held at Darling Harbour. I and four other directors joined them for lunch and discussed synergies between our two institutions. It was good to further strengthen our relationships with now the last three IGE presidents having met with the IGE and showing a genuine interest in the Australian gas industry.

By now you will have received the nomination forms for the 2008/9 board of directors. This being my second year as president means that all positions including the president are up for nomination. I encourage all members to take an active role in the election process.

The past presidents and honorary life members luncheon was held on September 6 it was great to see so many of the industry's finest gathered at the Bowlers Club, debating the state of the industry and reminiscing over the good old days. This function is one of the most memorable I attend and I am pleased that the IGE can continue to facilitate this get together.

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## Events

By the time you read this we would have had our annual Christmas Dinner, and I hope those who were able to attend enjoyed the opportunity to share some Christmas cheer.

Don't miss our next annual conference to be held at The Retreat Wisemans Ferry NSW 7th to 9th March 2008. Mark this date in your diary now, it will be upon us as quick as Christmas was this year.



## LP Gas Cylinder Safety Alert

### *What happened?*

Some 9kg LPG cylinders manufactured in China have been found to have a faulty valve. There have been a number of reported cases in Australia of the securing gland nut on these valves not being correctly tightened and allowing the contents of the cylinder to escape. In some cases this has resulted in serious fire and/or injury.

### *Key issues*

The nut having a left hand thread, can be undone during the process of manually turning off the cylinder valve. This may cause the valve assembly to loosen and separate, allowing immediate release of the cylinder contents under pressure with no real way of stopping the flow once started.

### *Recommendations*

All persons refilling these cylinders are requested to pay particular attention to the tightness of the gland nut. **Remember that this is a left-hand thread and is tightened in an anticlockwise manner.**

All valves on Chinese manufactured cylinders should be checked as a matter of course and any loose nuts reported to your local State Authority. Tightening should ensure that the valve gland nut is well-secured in place. **If in any doubt, do not fill the cylinder.**

For further information visit: [www.nrw.qld.gov.au/mines/petroleum/index.html](http://www.nrw.qld.gov.au/mines/petroleum/index.html)

Information courtesy of



## Gas Distribution Dull and Predictable ?

Victoria's Essential Services Commission has just set a new benchmark for gas distribution pricing in Australia by proposing, in essence, that gas distributors should charge less because they are "dull and predictable" businesses.

If the regulator's pricing decision is confirmed, the three main Victorian gas distributors (Envestra, Multinet & SP Ausnet) will be required to reduce gas charges by between 10.1% and 18.7% next year, and by between 1% and 3% in the following four years. The charges are paid by gas retailers, and represent about 40% of a typical household gas bill.

You can only assume the Victoria Essential Services Commission is an exciting and spontaneous place of business !

## ALPGA General Manager Retires

Ray North has announced his retirement from the Australian Liquefied Petroleum Gas Association after a distinguished five year career as General Manager.

Ray played a major role in the recovery of the autogas market. He was part of the task force that secured the excise concessions for autogas from the Federal Government, and the subsequent LPG vehicle rebate scheme was the result of ongoing lobbying efforts.

Our Institution is fortunate to have Ray on our board, and we wish him all the best in his future endeavors (working on his golf handicap).

## New Products and Innovations

### Raypak flexes its muscles with a new, tougher range of Power Vent gas water heaters

*Innovative, compact horizontal flue system ideal for all commercial environments*

Hot water heating specialist Raypak has released its new range of commercial Power Vent gas water heaters – and when the going gets tough, the tough gets going! With an innovative horizontal flue design, flexible water, gas and flue configurations and superior corrosion resistance, the Power Vent can be customised for the toughest of commercial building environments.

“Unlike most traditional natural draught flues that need to run to the top of a building, the Power Vent has been designed to allow horizontal flueing of up to 20m eliminating the need, in most cases, for a power flue solution,” explains Raypak product manager David Micallef. “With the flue discharging from the side, the overall height of the Power Vent has also been reduced by a massive 1100mm, offering a compact and modular design.



“The Raypak Power Vent is flexible and easily customisable. Not only can the flue outlet be configured left hand or right hand at the time of order, but we are also able to independently configure the position of the water and gas connections to adapt to individual environments.”

Bronze headers, a finned copper heat exchanger (cupro-nickel for pool heaters), stainless steel burners, a zinc, aluminium and magnesium (ZAM) alloy coating on the body and chassis and a fully powder coated exterior all provide superior corrosion resistance. The Power Vent is designed for the long haul!

“Servicing the Power Vent is also incredibly easy. Raypak has redesigned the outer jacket and some internal components to make access and removal of parts easier,” says David Micallef. “The electrical control panel is now located on the front where there is plenty of room for service technician access.”

Four models of the Power Vent are available (between 520 to 870Mj/hr input). The Power vent is ideal for large commercial users of hot water such as apartment blocks, hotels, hospitals, swimming pools and industrial operations and is suitable for both indoor and outdoor environments.

To find out more about the Raypak Power Vent, simply call 132 552 to speak with a sales consultant or request a brochure.

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We will follow those with other seminars culminating again with our AGM and Annual Conference in March 7, 8 & 9 next year.

I look forward to catching up with many of you at the annual conference.

Regards

Joe Calabrese

President

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## Membership movements

The membership movements adopted at the board meeting on 12th October 2007 are as follows:

**2 x New Members** (Peter Hankin, Fred Khalil)

**3 x Resigned** (David Flemming, Kim Leonard, Matthew Zoneff)

178 Subscribing Members

13 Senior Members

21 Honorary Life Members

**Total Membership 212**

There are currently 15 memberships for 2006 outstanding, if you have not renewed as yet, could you please help ease the financial burden of the Institution by paying your renewal fee ASAP

"HEY HARRY!"

by Thomas Ebert



"That was the quickest you ever found a gas leak Harry!"

**Did you receive this newsletter by post in black & white?**

**If you have a current e-mail address you could receive this in full colour while doing your part to save a tree and reduce our postage costs.**

**Send your e-mail details to the secretary or editor as listed below.**

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*Knowledge in the industry through experience and people*