



IGE News

Volume 8 Issue 1

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President's Report

Dear members

This is my first report to you as a free agent. As some of you might know I have left Alinta after 32 years in the gas industry and with the same employer, all be it eight different names over that time (can you recall them all?).



I have now started my own business UtiliTrain Pty Ltd and am very pleased to say that life so far is good on the outside. I am very fortunate as are many of you, to work in an industry which is disappointingly suffering from significant skill shortage. These skill shortages are so significant that I am now trying to entice a number of retired colleagues back in to the industry to join me in training a new workforce. Let me know if you are interested in some part time work!!! My plans to relax for a few months were short lived and I have been working every day developing some new training programs delivering training and assessing individuals.

Although good for my business, it sadly reflects the state of our industry. We need to start developing our people, we need to start training and looking to the future. It is time for the large Energy companies to follow smaller companies like Macarthur Gas and put back into the gas industry. To my knowledge Country Energy is the only utility in NSW with any gas trainees at the moment. I will work with the IGE to bring people together to help solve this dilemma.

We will be running awareness sessions in conjunction with other organisations, our first is with Alinta on the changes to the NSW Natural Gas industry and the services Alinta provides.

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 upcoming awareness sessions, and at the Christmas Dinner on November 30.

Regards

Joe Calabrese

President

IGE Patron

Sir Eric Neal who has been Patron of the Institution since March 2002, and Honorary Life member since 1986, has, because of business commitments, found it necessary to relinquish the position of Patron of the IGE, but I am pleased to say he is in good health and we thank him for his contribution over the years. Sir Eric has had a long and distinguished career in the gas industry and was a former Governor of South Australia. Sir Eric always found time for the institution and had attended many conferences when his other activities permitted.

NSW Network Update

The Natural Gas market in NSW has been going through continual change since deregulation created retail competition, and consumer choice. As if that hasn't been enough change for installers to cope with, add the changes to the network owner / operator over the last 2 years, and it wouldn't surprise too many that most Plumbers don't know who to contact for information, that alone begin to understand how to obtain a new customer connection, or a meter upgrade when installing additional loads.

As we write Alinta shareholders have voted to accept a Babcock and Brown / Singapore Power offer, so you could assume there is still some way to go.

Alinta as the current Network owner and Operator of the majority of NSW gas networks are making a effort to inform installers of the connection procedures and their obligations. The IGE has worked with Alinta to assist in the process of disseminating information to installers, and will hold information sessions covering:

NSW Gas Market Framework and pending changes

Connection to Natural Gas

Licensed Gasfitters Obligations

Installation Design

Basic Metering Equipment and specific requirements of Alinta

Gasfitting Rules

Appliance Approval

Industry Training

The IGE will notify effected members by direct mail once dates and venues are confirmed, Alinta will also mail out information to licensed Plumbers (non IGE members) inviting them to attend.

We also intend to provide further information in future issues of IGE News.

If any members are experiencing similar confusion with the connection process in other states, please let the secretary, editor, or any board member know, and if there is enough concern we will attempt to address the issue with the relevant Network Operator to provide similar support.

Elgas, Putting it Downunder!

Cementing their market leadership with another “Australian first” innovation - Easygas Downunder.

Elgas have developed and begun installing underground LPG tanks to service the needs of its domestic customers. The entire home’s LPG supply is conveniently and safely located in a specially designed polyethylene canister installed below the ground. Gas is increasingly becoming the fuel of choice for most discerning households and provides a range of valued benefits throughout the whole home.

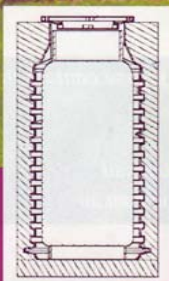
Elgas Easygas Downunder offers significant benefits over many conventional LPG services

- All that is visible is a discreet lid covering the concealed cylinder. This avoids the concerns over aesthetics and storage issues with above ground cylinders
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Elgas Easygas Downunder The new way to store LPG

The beautiful, safe underground way of storing LPG for all your gas hot water, heating & cooking needs.

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A specially designed polyethylene canister is installed below the ground just inside your property boundary. A 90kg gas cylinder is housed underground in the protective canister and installed by trained and certified specialists.

ELGAS
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Membership movements

The membership movements adopted at the board meeting on 10th August 2007 are as follows:

2 x New Members (Kevin Howe, Lewis Nottidge)

2 x Resigned (Barry Rich, Ronald Seath)

179 Subscribing Members

13 Senior Members

21 Honorary Life Members

Total Membership 213

There are currently 17 memberships for 2006 outstanding, and 95 for 2007, if you have not renewed as yet, could you please make this a priority.

Checking the Gas Meter

Two gas company servicemen, a senior training supervisor and a young trainee, were out checking meters in a suburban neighborhood. They parked their truck at the end of the alley and worked their way to the other end. At the last house a woman looking out her kitchen window watched the two men as they checked her gas meter.

Finishing the meter check, the senior supervisor challenged his younger co-worker to a footrace down the alley back to the truck to prove that an older guy could outrun a younger one.

As they came running up to the truck, they realized the lady from that last house was huffing and puffing right behind them. They stopped and asked her what was wrong.

Gasping for breath, she replied, "When I see two gas men running as hard as you two were, I figured I'd better run too!"

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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