
December 2016

Rounding out 2016



Greetings All,

We enjoyed a great end to the UK Branch's Social Events Calendar for 2016 at the Joint IPENZ and Engineers Australia (EA) Christmas Soiree, this year hosted by EA in the splendid surroundings of Australia House. Next Year (2017) it's our turn again; please stay alert to announcements in the Branch Newsletter.

During 2016 we provided opportunities to take part in a range of different types of events. These included: a Technical Talk on the earthquakes in Nepal; a tour of those parts of London featuring the diverse engineering works of Marc and Isambard Kingdom Brunel; the Annual IPENZ Barbecue at Henley-on-Thames; and a Graduates' Evening for those moving towards becoming Members of IPENZ ... noting that the new membership structure would mean that Graduates are Members and would then be moving towards becoming Chartered Members - [click here](#) for more information about those changes.

On behalf of all New Zealand engineers wishing to work in the UK, we have engaged with the NZ High Commission and the UK's Construction Industry Council (CIC) in our efforts to ensure that Brexit really does mean that NZ engineers have the same opportunities to work in the UK as currently enjoyed only by those from European Union countries.

We have maintained close relations with EA, the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE), and Engineers Ireland (EI). Thanks to their efforts we are able to offer Branch members a larger number, and wider range, of events.

Events to put on your new 2017 Calendar, please: The UK Branch's AGM and Technical Talk on Wednesday 1 February; HKIE's Chinese New Year Lunch on Saturday 18 February, and IPENZ's Annual Barbecue on Sunday 3 September. News of more events to follow, including site visits, a Regional Visit (involving a weekend on canal boats in the North-East of England?), Technical Talks and the Christmas Soiree.

Thank you for your support during the past year and special thanks to my Committee for their work during the past year.

With Best Wishes to you all for a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year,

Jonathan

Obituary – Graham Withers

We have the sad news to report that, Graham Withers, a stalwart of our IPENZ UK Branch, passed away over the summer on 3rd August 2016. Graham, who was 75 years old, died suddenly of a heart attack at his home in Sherborne, Dorset.

We have been in contact with his good wife, Jenni. After Graham's retirement, he and Jenni had moved to Dorset, from Reading, to be near family.

Graham was an active and leading person in our branch, being Hon. Secretary for many years, and Chairman for two terms. He was responsible for organising some great social events and site visits for members, and generally holding the committee to task and making sure the values of the branch and our rules were adhered to.

Our IPENZ Summer barbeques, at the Withers residence, were a great event, and Graham's planning list of things to do and not to do for the summer barbeque are still used today – possibly less alcohol now, though.

Graham and Jenni moved to New Zealand in April 1968, working for Sir Alexander Gibb for eight years on the great hydro-power and tunnel schemes at Tongariro in the North Island, and living in Turangi. Their two daughters, Susan and Louise, were born there, and they all had a great love for New Zealand. As Jenni recently said, "It was the most wonderful time of my life". Jenni warmly told us how Graham's employers quietly screened her before they got married for potential suitability of being the wife of an engineer on assignment in New Zealand – how times have changed!

Graham's affection for New Zealand and engineering drew him into the IPENZ UK Branch fold in 1987, and we were able to benefit immensely from his knowledge and enthusiasm.



Recent events



We held the annual summer BBQ, from the grape vine; everyone had a great time enjoying one of the last warm days of the summer, at a great location on the water's edge. Next year's date has been booked and invites will follow in the new year - what better way to get over the winter blues than to plan your summer BBQ early.



A spontaneous idea at an early committee meeting, led to the organisation of a boat tour of some of London's bridges, followed by a visit to the Brunel Museum, with a few drinks to top a great day off.



Last month we joined up with Engineers Australia for the annual Christmas Soiree, held at Australia House. For many members this was their first visit to what is a very impressive building. The five D's of Christmas were all great here, dinner, drinks, dessert, discussions and delightful times. A good turn-out of New Zealanders led to plenty of sporting banter through the night.

Member Achievement

We would like to congratulate the following members to the Branch who have achieved professional recognition over recent months.

Hayden Scott-Dye

Brendan Attewell

Ian Sisam

Ryan Swanston

Pieter Vanderpoel

Branch Contacts

Chairman: [Jonathan Gammon](#)

Honorary Secretary: Robert Lorimer

Honorary Treasurer: Judy Henderson

Committee Members: Andrew Delugar – Ex-Officio Chairman
Ian Kirker, David Bigwood, Liam Duff, Fritha Bevin McCrimmon

Newletter Editor: [Richard Parkinson](#)

Branch Support: Selwyn Aickin – webmaster and Dropbox administrator
[John Matthews](#) and Paul Howard - professional practice/competence development

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