

THE HEALTH ENGINEER



New Zealand Institute
of
Healthcare Engineering

The following came as an e-mail from Ernie Wilson on receiving his Life Membership certificate recently.

Hi Jim , I got a huge surprise yesterday when a Courier delivered a Framed Life Membership Certificate from the Institute. It is of course many years ago since I was Honoured with the Award but it enlightened the Honour when the Certificate arrived, and so I am writing to express my most grateful appreciation to the Institute.

I do enjoy reading "The Health Engineer" and understand what effort you put into it and I thank you for that. The Health Field has changed from my day but I see similar problems occurring , even with the changes the Headaches are still there.

So once again thank-you so much for sending the Certificate and I wish the Hospital Engineers, each and everyone of them every success for the future.

Kindest regards from Ernie Wilson



Ernie Wilson at Tauranga Conference in 1984

THE HEALTH ENGINEER

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Cover photo - President Doug Moller presenting Professor Swee Tan with a cheque for \$5000, see letter on page 19 from the Gillies McIndoe Research Institute

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome all members

Conference is looming again, this time in Lincoln, Christchurch..

The program looks great and the networking will be superb. I hope all members have got their registration and are booked and ready.

Don't forget the "Ho down" on Friday night!

This year has romped away, everyone has been extremely busy and yet your NZIHE Executive have managed to digest information from the strategic planning meeting in March and the Survey completed by the members.

Please take time to examine the results of survey. Yes, the results are predictable but they confirm our direction and gives us evidence to strengthen our conferences, meetings and exchanges.



The middle term of this year has brought me in touch with some interesting contracting situations. The common element being misinformation and ignorance of the standards we work to whether this being in the facilities area (ie AS/NZS3003:2011) or clinical engineering's AS/NZS 3551:2012.

Our survey showed education is important to you and we will continue to look at ways to increase its availability. But it is every members responsibility to know and understand these standards and to stand up and be counted in ensuring that these are fully implemented. Contracts should be compared "apple for apple" by the CEO or CFO who have a sound understanding of what is expected by our Health Standards. Standards are our "best practice" and we need to embrace their recommendation. A number of our members provide valuable contributions to the forming of the standards in both New Zealand and Australia.

I look forward to seeing and meeting as many as possible in November 20-22 NZIHE conference Lincoln Christchurch. "Thinking outside the square"

NZIHE President
Doug Moller

THE HEALTH ENGINEER

Contributions of articles and items are continually being sought for publication in this magazine, from members and associates.

These can include reports of events or meetings, business information, advertisements, letters to the editor, stories with or without photographs, new developments, comments and criticism, learned papers and items of humour.

The items are acceptable in any form such as hand written, typewritten, on disc, e-mail etc. Send, Fax or E Mail to:- 'The Editor' Jim Logan, 17 Baden Street, Levin 5510

Phone (06) 368 5152 jamlog@vodafone.co.nz

Note the fax is now obtainable at my home phone number only

2013 NZIHE Conference

THINKING OUTSIDE THE SQUARE

SPEAKER TOPICS

Medical gas safety

ChristChurch Hospital rebuild

New directions for medical device procurement

Managing in today's healthcare environment

Innovative hospital design processes

Christchurch city redevelopment – A new beginning

Anaesthetist training in 3rd world countries

New technologies in clinical practice

Sterile Service design to meet international codes

ANZEX Delegates

30 Trade Stands

Streamed Sessions Friday – with focused presentations

For more information please visit www.nzihe.org.nz

or contact Tony Blackler tony.blackler@cdhb.health.nz

REGISTER NOW!

20-22 November Lincoln University

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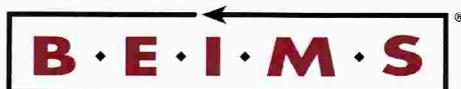
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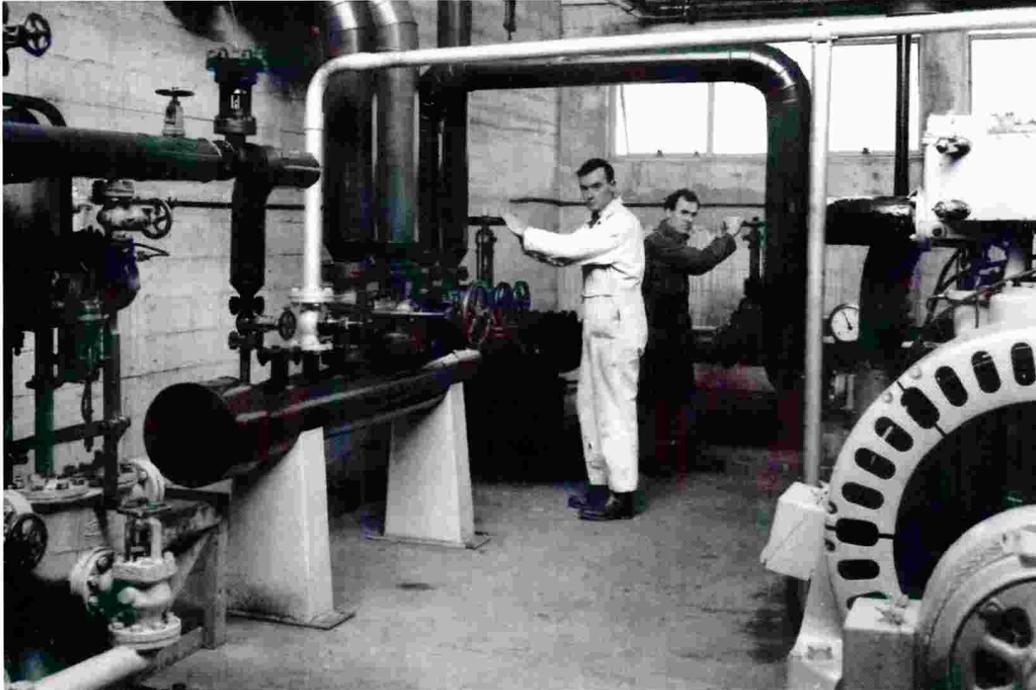
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LINCOLN COLLEGE [LINCOLN UNIVERSITY] - A YOUNG MAN'S DREAM FULFILLED!

By Lex Smith.

The Conference being held at Lincoln this year will bring back many happy memories, plus a few thoughts of sleepless nights wondering how I was going to cope or whether I had made the right decisions.



A young Lex Smith in the plant room at Lincoln College

After serving my time at the Hillside Railway workshops in Dunedin plus 18 months helping to build JA locomotives and many years of night school and correspondence courses, I went on to stints as Assistant Engineer at Ashburton Hospital and Shift Engineer at Makarewa Freezing Works and Dunedin Hospital.

Being supported by a loving wife [who still looks after me] who is a capable shorthand typist and secretary, plus two young children, it was the start of a life of great adventure, changes and challenges [not yet finished:]

I always remember my marine engineering instructor, Mr. Malcolm Campbell of Dunedin who ran classes for over 300 second and third class marine engineering certificates during his lifetime, saying to me "that it takes five years of experience in full charge and many sleepless nights before you feel that you can handle any situation. How true that proved to be! Technical problems all have

answers. Learning to handle people is the road to success. Lincoln was my training ground.

We arrived in Lincoln in December 1954 and were provided with a nice three-bed roomed house at a very reasonable rental.

That time was the beginning of a huge expansion programme. A new accommodation building had been completed – Hudson Hall named after a much respected retired Director. [Latterly due for demolition but was pressed into use after the earthquakes]. A new kitchen block and refectory and assembly hall were under construction, A brand new boiler house, complete with overhead coal storage fed by a bucket chain [a real pain until we modified it so it would stop breaking] Two Cochran Economic boilers [I think they were 5,000 lbs/hr at 250 p.s.i.] of which only one was installed and to be commissioned at that stage. Also one Sisson compound high speed steam engine coupled to a 75 kw alternator, with steam

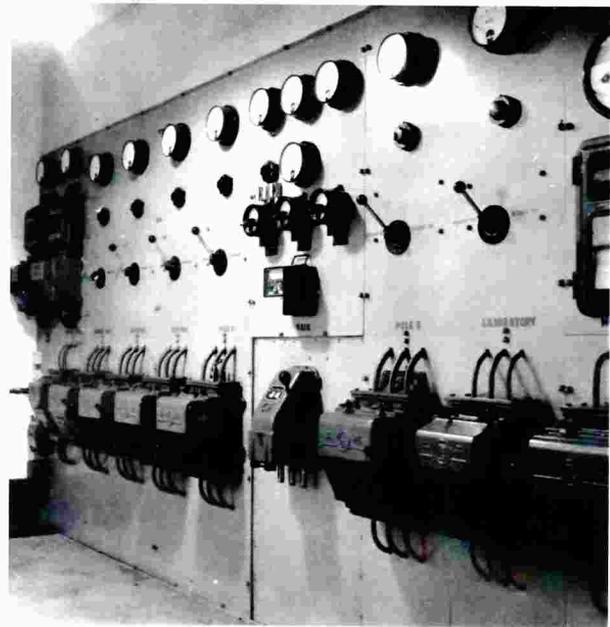
into the engine at 250 p.s.i., discharged at 30 p.s.i. I think it took about 3,000 lb/hr. It was intended for emergency power but I had other ideas. Back pressure generation should have been used extensively where low grade heat was required for heating and water along with higher pressure steam for sterilizing and laundry etc. Most larger hospitals, at that time, fitted the bill. Unfortunately the method sizing steam engines for engine driving certificates was based on circular inches of pistons with no relationship to steam pressure, length of stroke or r.p.m. While second class engine drivers could look after the boilers, a first class certificate was required to attend to the engine and they were as scarce as hens' teeth. There was huge shortage of qualified engineering trades people and the workers ruled the roost [or tried to]

I had been given three houses for key personnel and had to rely a lot on single men as there was plenty of single staff accommodation.

I had to establish a plan and programme to engage the necessary staff, to commission the boiler house and the brand new laundry plus the ancillary service that went with them.

Most College maintenance work had been contracted out without any real check on the cost. I made a great start with the Director and the Board when I authorised all services maintenance contracts and checked out charges for recent work. The College had been easy meat for several firms in Christchurch whom I persuaded to repay some of their recent ill-gotten gains back to the College.

There was a resident electrician named Barry Abley who soon became a very important part of our organization. He was one of the most talented men I have ever met and I soon had him promoted as our department's Chief Technician. Because of his talents we were able to install a complete ripple control system through the College and established our peak loads, rebuilt part of our main switchboard with double buzz bars enabling us to generate power and reduce our peak loads which occurred at the same time as that of the Springs-Ellesmere Power Board, about 11.30a.m. each day. [In those days ladies were cooking dinner at that time]



Lincoln College main switchboard.

Generating our own power was strictly against the law. The Engineering Manager of the Power Board agreed that we could test run the plant each day – this was saving us both money.

With Barry's help we designed and built equipment for the College and outside contracts, e.g. climate cabinets for the D.S.I.R. Grasslands in which they could grow three crops of wheat per year.

On appointment I was given some money and a piece of land opposite the laundry to build a Services Department Workshop. It had to go between two native trees which had to be saved. Dr. Burns, the Director of the College, loved native trees as I do myself. The workshop in the photo is still there, beside the laundry building – I think they are now part of a computer centre.

As the head of a Department, I was the only non-academic allowed into the senior common room for morning and afternoon tea etc, it being restricted, usually, to Professors, Associate Professors and senior lecturers. [Not bad for a 26 year old Hillside boy!]

I have visited Lincoln several times over the years and have seen much of my early planning brought to fruition. I would probably have stayed there had I not suffered badly from hay fever. Doctors told me I had to move before I became an Asthmatic.

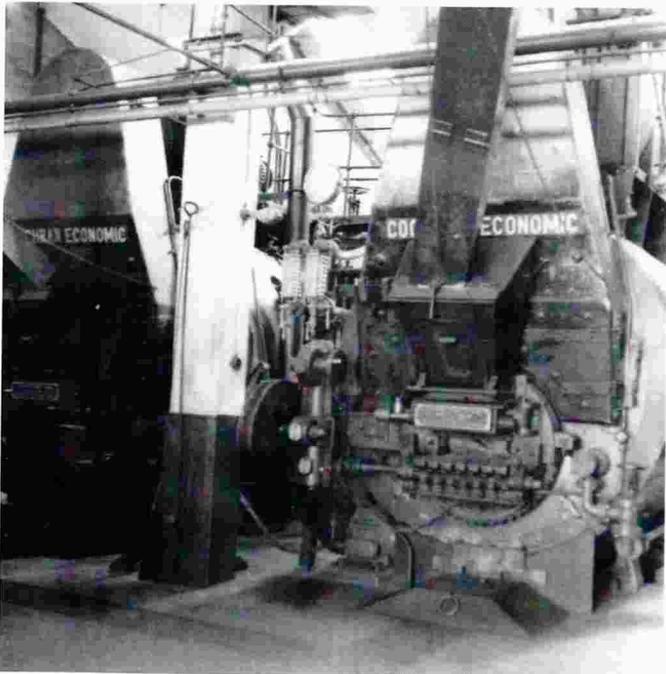
When I resigned to go to Dannevirke Hospital, I was asked to appoint my replacement. Thirty people applied for my job and I gave the Board three to choose from, and I am pleased to say, that they chose the right one, who stayed there while most of the future developments were carried out, and who retired at the same time as I did.

When I was asked to choose my successor, I was given my file to look at including all the applications that were made along with mine.

I was amazed to find that I was the youngest out of fifty applicants including several hospital engineers, two of whom were my fellow shift engineers at Dunedin, both now deceased.

The College Board interviewed four of us. The Board included three Cabinet Ministers and one M.P. I remember the Hon. J. McAlpine, saying to me "You will enjoy being out there – it is a great place to bring up children". And so it proved to be! [Our third child, our son, was born in our first year at Lincoln] The interview took place in the Board room of Canterbury University.

We look forward to being on our old stamping-ground in November.



The Cochran boiler.



The services workshop building.

Hudson Hall.



CHRIS FORD

9th April 1943 – 16th August 2013

Long time IHEA stalwart, Chris Ford, succumbed to complications of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma on Friday 16th August 2013. Sadly, and amazingly, Ali is also battling non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and we wish her well through her own treatment challenges.

Chris' contribution to the public health hospital engineering / facilities management field in South Australia shouldn't be underestimated. He joined Flinders Medical Centre (FMC) in 1974, a major hospital in the south of Adelaide, moving from the Port Stanvac oil refinery where he spent his early years as an engineer. He was there before FMC opened, he established the building & engineering services department and no doubt helped define the services and infrastructure requirements that have served the Hospital so well in the ensuing years. He oversaw a huge range of major & minor capital works across the site over nearly 35 years and saw the hospital grow into the modern, critical health facility that it is today. Chris had a strong commitment towards the provision of safe, modern facilities that made FMC the place to be when your health is at risk.

Chris was the ANZEX delegate to New Zealand in 1980 and experienced a conference at Greymouth and many other parts of New Zealand. This visit was the start of a long friendship with his wife Ali, Allison and I.

Chris was well-known – and will be sadly missed – by many people across Australia as he was a very

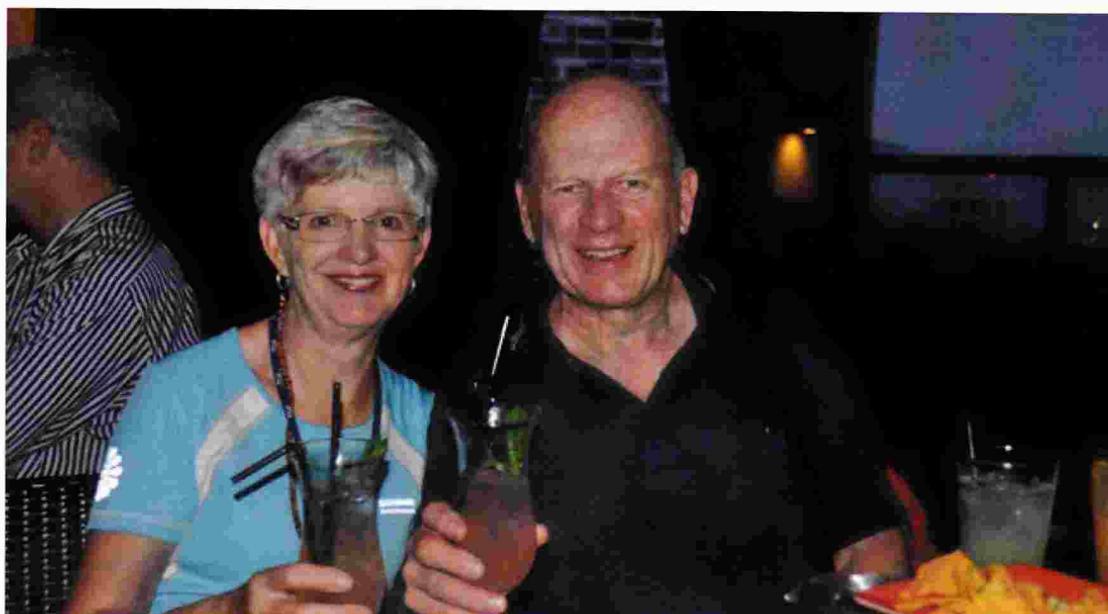
major contributor to the life of IHEA since joining back in 1975. He had an illustrious history with IHEA:

- 1975: Joined IHEA as a SA-based Victorian member (there was no SA branch at that time)
- 1979: Instrumental in the creation of the SA branch
- 1979: Became a Senior Member of IHEA
- 1980: Aust delegate to attend NZ Hospital Engineers conference.
- 1983 – 1986: National Vice President of IHEA
- 1984: Became a Fellow of IHEA (FIHEA)
- 1986 – 1989: Elected as National President of IHEA

Chris performed every role imaginable at a South Australian Branch level - President, Vice President, and Committee Member – and, even after nearly 40 years of contributing to the organisation, he was still putting in, supporting the local branch as Treasurer.

Given his dedication to IHEA, his support of his staff, his calmness and goodwill towards his peers and fellow health workers and his mentoring of fellow hospital engineers & facilities managers, Chris was widely respected and was acknowledged for his knowledge and dedication to his profession. He was the calm voice of reason - he demonstrated how to be unflappable and just “get on and do it”.

Tony Blackler



Below is a letter from the Gillies McIndoe Research Institute acknowledging our special contribution and their offer to have it recorded on the Honours Board in their new premises.



GILLIES McINDOE
RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Pioneering future treatment of cancer

3 October 2013

Mr Max Christensen
New Zealand Institute of Healthcare Engineering Inc
C/- Building Services
Hutt Hospital
Private Bag 31 907
Lower Hutt

Dear Max,

The Gillies McIndoe Research Institute

We are writing to you to acknowledge the special contribution New Zealand Institute of Healthcare Engineering Inc has made to the Gillies McIndoe Research Institute (GMRI).

It is a pleasure for us to confirm that, after a tireless 15-year campaign involving a large number of people, the research team will soon have its own dedicated laboratory premises.

This is a vital milestone for us. We have completed the design and are now proceeding with the fit-out of a laboratory in a building owned by Capital & Coast DHB next to the Wellington Regional Hospital in Newtown, Wellington. We are looking forward to moving into this dedicated facility, with state-of-the-art equipment, allowing us to make more rapid progress in the search for a better treatment for cancer and disfiguring conditions.

The GMRI's new premises will have an Honours Board showing our major supporters. If you are agreeable for New Zealand Institute of Healthcare Engineering Inc to be recorded, would you please complete the attached reply form and return it by 31 October using the enclosed return envelope, or by email to us on info@gmri.org.nz

Our research work is, of course, an ongoing process and we continue to rely on the generosity of many people and organisations to ensure the GMRI has a sound future.

On behalf of the GMRI, we sincerely thank you for your most valued support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Baines', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Paul Baines
Chair
Gillies McIndoe Research Institute

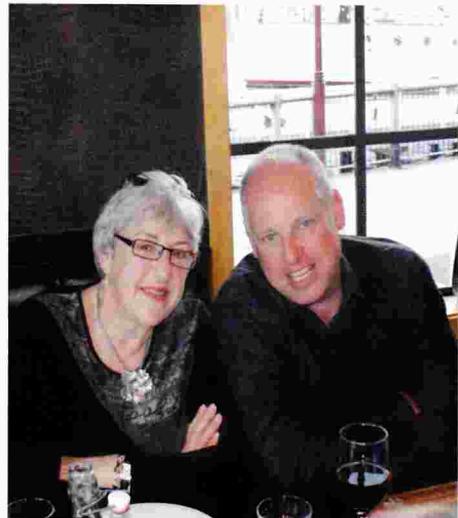
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Swee Tan', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Professor Swee Tan
Director
Gillies McIndoe Research Institute

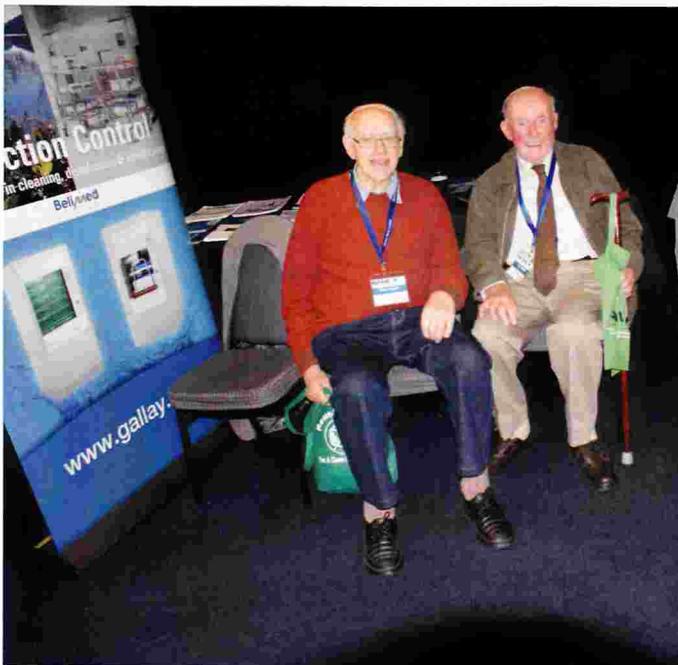
SOME "OUT TAKES" FROM THE QUEENSTOWN CONFERENCE LAST YEAR.



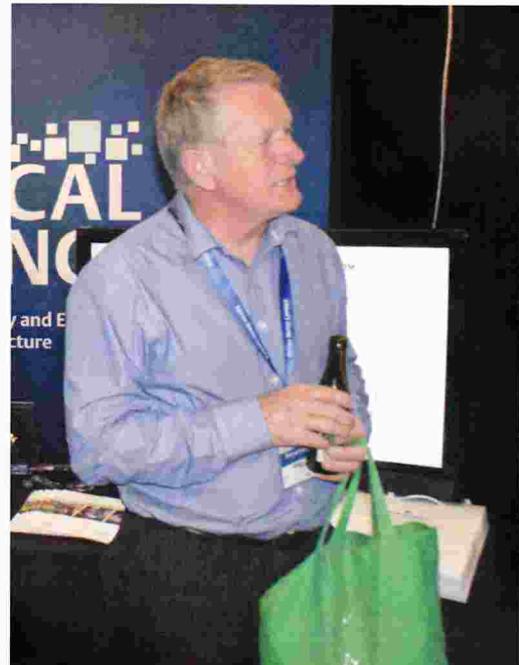
Kevin Moon at full throttle.



Allison and Nigel enjoying dinner.



Two old codgers resting up.



Warren thinking about where to go next.



Ladies ? No way.



What a real braw lot!