

Welcome to the Gasline Newsletter

Published monthly by LPG and Gas Associations of New Zealand

Gasline is published regularly as part of the industry's efforts to encourage the direct use of natural gas and LPG into households and small businesses.

Using natural gas and LPG as a direct energy source offers numerous cost, environmental and energy efficiency benefits. Gas New Zealand hopes to educate consumers and policy makers about the many advantages of making wider use of this strategic energy asset.

Don't miss out on accommodation for Queenstown forum



Attendance to this year's NZ Gas Industry Forum is expected to grow from last year.

Because of this, organisers are encouraging those interested in attending to book now as to not miss out on accommodation or flights.

This year's Forum will be held at The Millennium Hotel Queenstown from Wednesday 2 to Friday 4 November.

Online registration will be available from August, however, it is now possible to book accommodation, with the accommodation package provided by the Millennium.

LPG Association executive director Peter Gilbert says the forum committee expect to build on last year's attendance and is hopeful of attracting upwards of 130 delegates.

Peter says there will be a mix of senior managers from companies with an interest across the broad spectrum of LPG and gas interests, as well as officials and other stakeholders with an interest in the role of gas in New Zealand's energy supply sector.

The majority of the presenters over the two days have now been confirmed.

These include head of Elgas John Evans, head of research at Woodward Partners John Kidd, general manager of Gas Powerco Stuart Dickson, managing director of Energy Link Greg Sise, David Tyler of the World LPG Association, ASB chief economist Nick Tuffley, and head of business improvement at Contact Energy Andy Sibley.

As well as the main plenary speakers, there will be a range of technical presentations for the Friday morning breakout session and trade displays will be situated in the foyer area outside the main meeting room.

An emergency response planning workshop run by the Institution of Gas Engineers and Managers (IGEM) will take place on Wednesday, November 2, the day before the forum starts. [To read more about this workshop, click here.](#)

Peter says attendance charges will be kept to the usual low level.

"This helps ensure the Forum maintains its exceptional value-for-money status."

Delegates, who are employed by organisations which are members of either the LPG or Gas Associations, or who are individual members of the NZIGE, pay just \$556 + GST. Non-members pay \$667 + GST.

"For any organisation or individual who are not yet members of their respective industry bodies, it is not too late to join up and reap the benefit of the lower membership attendance rate."

For more information, email peter@lpga.org.nz

Kennedy Education Trust helps pay for engineering degree

The gas industry is always willing to help those looking to further their careers, says a recent recipient of the Kennedy Education Trust scholarship.

GMS Asset Engineer Grant Mills is in the second year of his engineering degree and is grateful for the support he has received from his industry.



GMS Asset Engineer Grant Mills

Grant is the recipient of the NZIGE and Kennedy Education Trust scholarships which have both helped him pay for his study and study-related costs.

"They help immensely with covering the costs of travel and buying study material. Doing this degree would have been hard without the industry's support."

Through the Kennedy Education Trust, Grant receives \$2500 per annum to use towards his studies.

"I'm based in Hamilton and do the majority of my study by correspondence.

"However, this year is a lot more involved and has required me to travel to Wellington for lab workshops and exams. The majority of the scholarship funds have been put towards covering these costs."

Grant has been involved in the gas industry for approximately 24 years, starting out as an apprentice plumber and gas fitter in Hamilton.

He later progressed to become a technical adviser for Genesis Energy. He is now a gas metering engineer for Vector Advanced Metering Services, the metering division of Vector Limited.

"It was always the direction I wanted to take and with this degree and support from the gas industry I am getting the opportunity to do it."

Thanks to Grant's work experience, he was able to skip the first year of the degree.

However, due to being out of the education system for 25 years, he had to complete some maths bridging papers before he could start.

The study entails information Grant needs for day-to-day tasks and offers a better grasp around asset management, and the designing and maintaining of gas metering assets.

He must complete three papers a year, each followed by a three-hour exam. He has three more years to go before finishing the degree.

"It has been pretty full-on, especially finding a healthy balance between work, family and study," says Grant.

"Having three children aged six to 11, any spare time for study is usually when they are asleep and it also helps having a very supportive wife."

Despite the busy schedule, Grant is determined to see it through.

"I am driven to stay in the gas industry and it has been fantastic in supporting me to do so."

He recommends anyone interested in studying or pursuing a career in the gas industry to utilise the support systems available, like the Kennedy Education Trust, as the industry is always willing to help.

Emergency response planning workshop confirmed for Forum



A training workshop by the Institution of Gas Engineers and Managers (IGEM) has been confirmed for this year's New Zealand Gas Industry Forum.

IGEM is the only engineering body for the Gas Industry that is accredited by the Engineering Council UK.

It is internationally recognised and a leading provider of knowledge to the global gas industry and provides world class training using experienced and qualified trainers.

The forum steering committee is pleased to be able to offer this training here in New Zealand at the New Zealand Gas Industry Forum in Queenstown.

The one-day training workshop on emergency preparedness will take place on November 2, 2016 at the Millennium Hotel, the day before the forum commences.

An IGEM industry expert in the field of emergency response planning will host the workshop.

The programme is intended to provide training on all aspects of the management of gas supply emergencies.

It includes input on the structure of emergency arrangements and guidance on the management of gas emergencies including the interaction with external organisations.

This is combined with syndicate work on a number of credible gas emergency scenarios...

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LPG and natural gas as alternative energy sources for the Pacific



LPG and natural gas could decrease Pacific Island countries and territories' dependencies on imported petroleum products to meet their energy needs.

A recent study assessing the potential and economic feasibility of LPG to meet medium-term energy needs in Pacific Island countries found significant opportunities for expansion.

The Pacific Island countries and territories face particular energy supply challenges due to their small, remote island economies, limited natural resources, and long distances to major markets.

Their dependence means they are heavily impacted by high or volatile global oil prices.

The study assessed the potential and economic feasibility of LPG, liquefied natural gas or compressed natural gas to meet medium-term energy needs in the Pacific Island countries and territories.

Commissioned by the Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF) and conducted in association with the Pacific Power Association and the Pacific Community, it was presented at the World LPG Association's Oceania regional summit in Queensland in May.

The study considered the end-use applications of electricity generation, process heating, maritime transport, land transport, and cooking and water heating.

Existing fuels considered for substitution include heavy fuel oil, diesel, gasoline, kerosene and traditional fuels such as firewood.

All Pacific Island countries already use LPG, mainly for household cooking but the study found there could be a greater use for it.

If the use of LPG was expanded to displace all cooking kerosene and biomass in the Pacific region, the current demand could double.

LPG is a cleaner burning fuel than biomass and kerosene, therefore providing both health and environmental benefits.

Solomon Islands Minister of Energy, Mines and Rural Electrification Hon. David Day Pacha explained in his address to the conference: "LPG has the advantage of being relatively simple to transport, whether it be by road tanker or in cylinders, which makes it accessible to remote communities to provide lighting, refrigeration, and heat to cook."

"The benefits to communities are significant as it enables activities to be performed at night including education, avoiding time spent collecting traditional fuels and removing the risks associated with open fires such as respiratory diseases."

Increased uptake would also improve economies of scale in supply chains, which in the case of the Pacific Islands, involve great distances and raised shipping costs.

In some cases, the capacity of existing port and storage infrastructure is sufficient but, in others, it would require some investment and expansion.

First Gas to bring new perspective to GANZ board

First Gas distribution manager René D'Ath is the newest member of the Gas Association of New Zealand Board (GANZ) and he hopes to contribute a new viewpoint to the gas industry.

Vector Gas Limited was renamed First Gas Limited on April 1, following the successful completion of the \$952.5 million purchase of the business by First State Funds from Vector Limited.

First Gas has also just acquired the Maui Pipeline from Maui Development Ltd for \$335 million. The company is now the owner and operator of one of the largest gas transmission and distribution networks in the country, responsible for supplying more than 20 per cent of New Zealand's primary energy needs.

"As a new company within the NZ gas industry, First Gas has some fresh ideas, perspective and motivation to establish a strong presence and turn on more consumers to gas as an energy source within the industrial and domestic sectors."

He says GANZ is an association that can assist with this to develop a common approach across the industry and hopefully realise synergies within industry participants and regulators.

René started in the gas industry in 1987 as a CP technician for Natural Gas Corporation.

He has since had various roles including managing GIS, Land Liaison, Engineering, Projects and HR, Consulting, and for the last nine years he has been in contracting.

His First Gas distribution manager role sees him based in New Plymouth. However, with offices, clients and service providers through the North Island, he spends a bit of time on the road.

First Gas operates more than 2,500kms of high pressure gas transmission pipelines and stations that supply natural gas from Taranaki to industrial consumers throughout the North Island.

It also operates gas distribution networks across the North Island. It operates over 4,800kms of pipeline that supplies gas to more than 60,000 consumers in North Island towns and cities.

Outside of work, René enjoys music and has a diploma in cartooning – something he says can be both useful and politically awkward depending on how and when utilised.

He and his wife Kathy have two sons, one in Sweden and one in New Plymouth, and a daughter in Melbourne.



First Gas distribution manager René D'Ath



...On completing the workshop, participants will have an appreciation of different types of potential gas emergencies, the structure of emergency arrangements, the structure of the emergency response, and interaction with external agencies including emergency services, government and media.

The workshop will be free to forum delegates who register their interest when booking for the forum. For those who just want to attend the workshop, the cost will be \$300 + GST.

Spaces are limited to 40.

To read more detail about the IGEM workshop, [click here.](#)

STORY IDEAS?

We are always looking for stories from both the natural gas and LPG worlds, as well as the wider gas community.

If you have any story ideas for Gasline please [email Daniel](mailto:Daniel).

Gas New Zealand is published monthly by The PR Company for the LPG Association and Gas Association of New Zealand.

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