

Welcome to the Gasline Newsletter

Published monthly by the LPG and Gas Associations of New Zealand

GASNZ FORUM 2022



**Register now for the Gas Forum:
9-10 March 2022**

We are pleased to confirm details for the postponed
2021 Gas Forum.

9-10 March, 2022
Wairakei Resort, Taupo

[Click Here to register](#)

A copy of the Forum agenda can be
[downloaded here](#).

NB If you registered for the October 2021 forum, you
will need to register again, as your registration was
cancelled and a refund paid.

IN THIS ISSUE

[Welcome to new LPGA President Ben Gerritsen](#)

[Farewell to Peter Gilbert](#)

[LPG Regulation Changes](#)

[Gasfitter apprenticeships going strong](#)

[Emissions Reduction Plan and Gas NZ](#)

[Kevin Daly Lifetime Member](#)

Welcome to new LPGA President Ben Gerritsen



Ben Gerritsen is an LPG and gas man in the broadest sense of the word. He was named New Zealand's Young Energy Professional of the Year in 2019, he serves on both the LPG and Gas Association boards and is a prominent voice on renewable gases, including hydrogen, biogas and bioLPG. At the 4 November AGM, Ben was elected President of the LPG Association, succeeding Cameron Jardine (Genesis) who completed the maximum service term of two years for the president role.

Ben is on the Firstgas Group executive team where he is General Manager, Customer and Regulatory. Joining First Gas in 2016, he drives sustainable growth at Firstgas Group, leading the strategy and engagement on commercial opportunities and public policy issues, and was closely involved in the acquisition and integration of the Rockgas LPG business and Ahuroa gas storage facility.

On being elected to the president role, Ben acknowledged the contribution of previous President Cameron Jardine. "Cameron's leadership through a period of considerable change in New Zealand's energy future, has been sure and steady. He was instrumental in encouraging the customer focussed Future Sure campaign to inform New Zealanders about the future of LPG and gas in their homes and businesses and has been an excellent spokesperson on these issues.

Looking ahead, Ben is excited about building a greater appreciation of the growing role of LPG in our energy system and opportunities to decarbonise using bioLPG and renewable DME.

"We've got some important milestones coming up next year with release of the Emissions Reduction Plan and work starting on the National Energy Strategy. These are great opportunities to tell our story and provide real solutions that help meet New Zealand's future demand for energy. I'm thrilled to be working with Janet and the rest of the LPGA Executive Committee to help position the industry well during this time of change."

Qualified in law and economics, Ben received his Masters of Public Policy from Georgetown University in Washington DC, where he studied on a Fulbright scholarship. Ben lives in Wellington with his wife and three children.

The following members are the elected Executive Committee representatives for the 2021/22 year:

- Robert Bruce, OMV
- Albert de Geest, Liquigas
- Nick Hannan, Elgas
- Neil Williams (replacing Craig Eagleton), OnGas
- Ben Gerritsen, Rockgas
- Cameron Jardine, Genesis Energy
- Brett Miller, Gameco NZ
- Ray Ferner, Rinnai NZ

Farewell to Peter Gilbert



Long standing Executive Director Peter Gilbert was formally farewelled last month by close associates and colleagues he has worked with over his time with the LPGA.

As Albert de Geest said in his speech, after three decades in LPG and gas: "We were all very surprised to hear that Peter did not want a gas BBQ. Which made his farewell present very easy to choose and we hope Peter recalls fondly his days as Executive Director whenever he throws a steak or sausage on the grill".

LPGA President, Cameron Jardine, and Rinnai Chief Executive, Ray Ferner were unable to travel to the farewell due to Auckland COVID travel restrictions, but sent video messages that were played at the event.

Peter Gilbert and retired LPGA member, Kevin Daly, were both made LPGA Life Members in recognition of their exceptional service.

LPG Regulation Changes

Changes to the Health and Safety at Work (Hazardous Substances) Amendment Regulations come into force on 5 January 2022.

The LPG related amendments:

- Address changes to the requirements for intervening walls to be 240 X 240 X 240 fire rated, which has created compliance issues for many LPG sites.
- Recognise previous certification to the Dangerous Good Regulations for existing LPG sites, rather than refer to the HSNO transfer notice. Again, this was causing significant issues for LPG sites constructed pre 2004 under the Dangerous Goods Regulations.
- Recognise the Separation distances for cylinder filling stations containing class 2.1.1A liquefiable gas installed before 1 April 2004, recognising certification under the Dangerous Goods Regulations.
- Fixes the issue of requiring tank separation distances on sites constructed prior to September 2010 to comply with the HSNO Regulations, rather than AS/NZS 1596 as introduced in the 2010 amendment and caused problems for intermediate sized tanks.

The new regulations are expected to be available on the Worksafe website soon.

Gasfitter apprenticeships going strong



Confidence in gasfitting as a career continues to grow as New Zealand's gas industry looks to a renewable future, with the number of apprentices increasing by five per cent between 2020 and 2021.

New Zealand's leading plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying apprenticeship provider, Master Plumbers, is educating and providing professional development for its members and trainees about renewable gases such as hydrogen and how they will transition into use.

Greg Wallace, Master Plumbers CEO, says the organisation strongly believes carbon-neutral gas fuels will be a strategically important part of New Zealand's energy resources in the future and renewable gases will still need qualified gasfitters.

"Research and development for carbon-neutral gas alternatives is accelerating worldwide, and existing outcomes already point firmly to a sustainable future for the gas industry. It's encouraging we're seeing the number of apprentices choosing gasfitting as a trade continuing to grow; we also need to ensure industry training evolves to meet a renewable gas future," he says.

There are several pathways to the gasfitting trade, with most apprentices training in a qualification pathway that combines plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying (PGD).

"There's been a 60 per cent increase in the number of apprentices beginning their PGD training from 2020 to 2021, alongside gasfitting-only apprentice numbers growing by 5 per cent. We look forward to working with the Government and the wider sector to ensure we have a steady stream of future-ready apprentices coming through the training system as we move toward a carbon-neutral future," Greg says.

Emissions Reduction Plan and Gas NZ



On behalf of the LPG Association and Gas Association of New Zealand, Gas NZ submitted on the Carbon Emissions Reduction Plan discussion document. Focussed on green gas. The submission's main recommendation was that government work with industry to develop a renewable gas mandate, says Chief Executive of the LPG and Gas Associations, Janet Carson.

"If we had a Renewable Gas Mandate in place that says a certain percentage of gas we use had to be renewable then it would give investors that certainty of market to commit to projects.

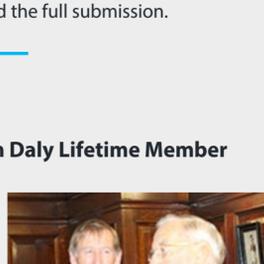
"A renewable gas mandate is consistent with the government's sustainable transport biofuels mandate proposal. Adopting a similar mandate for gas as has been proposed for transport fuels aligns with government's response to a similar set of circumstances to address hard to abate emissions, its desire to repurpose existing infrastructure, and challenging economics of low emissions alternatives even with a relatively high carbon price," Janet said.

The industry has invested in feasibility studies and pilot projects that support the viability of phasing in renewable LPG and gases into existing New Zealand energy networks.

There are substantial opportunities for the circular economy in the 'waste' feedstock needed for renewable LPG and gas, while at the same time providing regional prospects for industry, local communities, iwi, and Māori businesses, to be part of a carbon zero future.

The submission was supported by the Hospitality Association, the Bioenergy Association and Business NZ. Please see [here](#) to read the full submission.

Kevin Daly Lifetime Member



Awarded lifetime membership LPGA for services to the LPG industry, Kevin Daly played a significant role on the LPGA's technical committee and was chair of the committee for nearly 20 years.

Most of Kevin's tenure as Technical Committee Chair spanned the transition from the Dangerous Goods regime to the HSNO regime in 2004, to the transfer from the EPA to WorkSafe in 2015 and the 2017 HSWA HS Regulations.

Those that worked with Kevin comment on his quiet, considerate approach to chairing the committee and liaising with regulators. His commitment to finding the "right way" to do things guided his technical committee input, and unsurprisingly, his understanding of the Regulations and Standards was impressive.

Kevin is well respected by industry and WorkSafe for his decades of service.