

GAMAA's 53rd Annual General Meeting

GAMAA's AGM was held today 31 August and I am happy to report the following members were re-elected unopposed to the Executive Council:

President:

- Andrew Creek

Executive Councilors:

- Gareth Jennings, Rheem Australia

- Anthony Edwards, Robert Bosch

- Ross Jamieson, SIT Gas Controls

- Leon Bogers, Rinnai Australia

- Ian Forte, Electrolux Home Products

- Paul Allwood, Seeley International

- Peter Faase, DUX Hot Water

- Paul Bains, Comcater

President's Report:

Thursday 31st August 2017

GAMAA Annual General Meeting

Members of GAMAA, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to provide you with an overview of the activities of GAMAA through the preceding 12-month period and by chance this year being our 60th year of representing the gas industry.

We continue to represent the interests of our members and our industry generally to ensure the viability of our industry and the safety of all consumers of gas utilising the appliances, equipment and services provided.

Your elected Councilors have all continued to work positively in the wide and various sectors of the domestic and commercial gas industry, and have all achieved significant gains in the sector represented. Having each member elected as councilor continuing their portfolio responsibilities for an extra year has increased the potency of their deliberations.

Your Executive Committee comprising; Gareth Jennings [Rheem], Ross Jamieson [Sit Gas Controls], Leon Bogers [Rinnai], Paul Allwood [Seeley International], Anthony Edwards [Robert Bosch], Ian Forte [Electrolux Home Products], Peter Faase [Dux Hot Water], and Paul Bains [Comcater], are providing insights into a wide and effective coverage of our gas appliances. The enthusiasm and skill provided by each will ensure that we are well and strongly represented.

We have all seen the sentiment and intense pressure from various sectors which are challenging the continuing viability of gas as a viable fuel of choice for Australian consumers. You can be assured we are engaging with every level of Government to ensure our pro-active gas voice is being heard.

We have increased our ongoing work in conjunction with other gas focused associations and organisations to maintain our important position as a fuel of choice. These include:

- Australian Gas Networks (AGN)
- Energy Networks Australia (ENA)
- Australian Gas Industry Trust (AGIT)
- Gas Energy Australia (GEA)
- Australian Industry Group
- Standards Australia
- Gas Technical Regulators Committee (GTRC)
- Energy Safe Victoria (ESV)
- Australia Building Codes Board (ABCB)
- and numerous Government departments

At a recent Australian Gas Industry Trust board meeting (of which I continue as a board member), a joint submission from GAMAA and the ENA (Energy Networks Australia) was approved. The funding will be used to conduct national surveys so we can better understand how gas is used within the homes, the types and number of appliances in homes and the trends in new and/or competing appliances that could impact on how gas is used into the future.

Jointly we will be collecting information regarding household gas connections, appliance and connection trends and drivers.



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The intent of this study is to establish a baseline that can be used in ongoing benchmarking activities where the data will be updated annually to identify year on year movement in gas appliances across gas networks. The survey will provide for significant funding to conduct a joint survey of the penetration of gas appliances and equipment within the reticulated network.

Another AGIT funded activity is Gas Speak. Gas Speak 2017 will be held this year 11 to 13 September in Canberra at the National Portrait Gallery. The objective of Gas Speak is to encourage an awareness and knowledge of the gas industry in Australia by providing a forum for young people to present papers, chair sessions, conduct syndicate discussions and develop the art of self-expression and communication. Gas Speak has been a successful and highly regarded gas industry event since 1982. It provides an opportunity for organisations to develop their younger staff and their communication skills, industry awareness and industry networks. This is an extremely well regarded educational event and I encourage all our members to nominate young up-and-coming staff to apply.

It is very sad to record the death of one of the original founders of GAMAA. Mr Harold Seeley AM died in May this year aged 87. Harold was joint founder of Craig and Seeley and supplied domestic gas cookers to the Australian and New Zealand markets. Harold and the other numerous local cooker manufacturers in Australia founded GAMAA in 1957 to ensure that the Gas Utilities who also supplied and installed gas appliances were provided with the best and most suitable product. It is folklore that this association was also very effective in ensuring that the Utilities Senior Executives were treated to one Christmas lunch with GAMAA rather than seven separate celebrations with each individual manufacturer. Harold was President of GAMAA for 10 years, Chairman of the Australian Gas Association for several years and the only non-Chairman of a State Utility of the AGA. I was able to attend the funeral which as expected was a great gathering of many of the older 'gasies'.
Vale -Harold Seeley.

On another sad note, we saw the passing of Bernard Erica. Bernard was the former Managing Director of Rinnai Australia, Bernard aged 70 was diagnosed with terminal cancer in the middle of last year passed away 23 November 2016. Bernard will be remembered as a strong advocate for the development of gas appliances in Australia and was a long standing Executive Councilor of GAMAA.
Vale - Bernard Erica.

It has been a busy and exciting year, and we have been extremely well represented. Our hard-working members have again this year made some significant contributions to Standards Australia's gas and ancillary committees. Some of the projects our members are involved with are highly technical and set the benchmark for how gas appliances will be regulated and safely controlled for years to come. I wish to thank them all for the professionalism and enthusiasm to maintain and advance our cause.

All GAMAA Councilors and members recognise and appreciate the exceptional guidance and assistance provided by Ai Group's Membership Manager and our Executive Officer Jon Onley. Jon's attention to detail and the engagement with other Association executives provides us all with additional reach into our Industry. Our grateful thanks are extended to Jon and his staff.

I personally thank all who have contributed to GAMAA's success again this year for being recognised as the foremost gas appliance association in Australia. I especially want to thank our members for their contributions and who have actively promoted our ideals and expectations.

Andrew Creek
President
Mobile: +61 418 559 662

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