

New Zealand Insulators, 2015

January

Full production in the Temuka factory started on the 6th of January to keep up with the forward demand for NZ and Australian customers. The 2015 NZI catalogue was delivered to all our customers. Helping with demand we appointed two new staff to join us in the Temuka factory. Everyone enjoys our first staff BBQ breakfast update of the year.

February

We invited Worksafe NZ onto site for a voluntary inspection of working conditions and machinery, we agreed on some changes to improve safety (it's an ongoing challenge for everyone but certainly worth it).

NZI Super15 rugby sweepstake gets underway. Our Directors visit our Temuka site; it's always nice to have our owners on site. All Team Leaders have a few days offsite for training and team building sessions. We employ another two new employees to help build our production capability. Our major project to upgrade old PLC controllers to a modular electronic system gets underway on all 8 kilns.

Our first shipment of Bussmann 11kV expulsion fuses get delivered to eager customers.

March

Another Quality Audit completed and Telarc confirm our accreditation renewal of AS/NZS ISO 9001:2008. (which we pass with flying colours). The Temuka Pottery business is sold to a consortium of 3 businesses that are well established in the pottery business in NZ. It's the end of a long affiliation of pottery for NZI but now we can focus on Insulator production and our core business lines.

April

Staff hearing tests are completed and records updated just in time so we could hear Easter Bunny hopping through the factory with a basket of goodies. 100 years of the ANZACs certainly a time for us all to remember. Daylight saving ends – a sign winter was on the way.

May

Everyone gets organised to receive their annual winter clothing issue, merino and Hi Vis jackets were the popular choice. Some good weather provided a chance for us to mine an annual stock from the NZI owned Kakahu mine (access is always weather dependant).

June

EEA conference was held in Wellington (after two years in Auckland); NZI were present with an updated exhibit – once again a good event.

We add another maintenance engineer to our staff to assist with our internal maintenance program.

Snow in Temuka at 3 o'clock in the afternoon – it's officially winter.

Our financial year ends with a good result across the business, celebrated with a staff breakfast BBQ to overview the outcome.

July

We relocate our engineering workshop from one end of the factory to the other to help facilitate a need for more space by one of our tenants. We ordered a 48" double sieve from the UK to assist quality improvement in the slip room and provide a level of duplication in case of mechanical breakdowns.

Another regular shipment of product sent to NGK-S in Melbourne helps continue our strong business relationship.

We introduce an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) into NZI – just in case we need some help at some stage, we think it's best to be prepared (and hopefully not need it).

August

Kumeu distribution centre gets additional storage racking to hold another 170 pallets of stock. A couple of new Crown hoists for Temuka help move product around. The pug room filter press hydraulic pumps get a well-deserved overhaul.

September

We transition our e-mail system over to an MS Exchange Server, certainly helps with our system efficiency, even if it had our IT Manager pulling his hair out. Scott's Timber in Geraldine delivered the last shipment of wooden insulator boxes to NZI. After 70 years of working closely with NZI they are now closing down, it's sad to lose another NZ manufacturer. Daylight saving starts and we are all looking forward to summer.

October

Some organisational changes created a new role of Operations Director at NZI to focus on Finance, H&S and QA this position is now part of the management team. NZI exhibit at the 2016 Connexis Annual Linesman Competition at Mystery Creek Hamilton. Unison Hawkes Bay were the top linemen and Northpower were top Cables jointers – well done. Once again time to update staff photos on our website. Our new CNC lathe which was developed and built on site in Temuka gets into full production, this is certainly helping our efficiency and yields.

November

The All Blacks bring home the RWC, we all feel like champions. Chris takes his final trip to Melbourne for 2015 to meet with NGK-S, as always it's a very important trip and a great chance to overview the year and plan for 2016. The Price extruder (pug mill) continues its "running in" program after a major rebuild – all ready for some trouble free extruding now...

December

Last minute adjustments to the new 2016 catalogue (these will be out any day soon) so keep an eye out for them. Time for a Christmas function, festivity dinner & drinks celebrating another great year in the history of NZI. We also have a breakup BBQ scheduled for the 23rd – management team are the cooks...

Over the year we celebrated these staff milestones, all celebrating their place in the NZI 25 years plus club:
Heather G – 28 years, Rayleine – 36 years, Roydon – 31 years, Debbie C – 25 years, Robin B – 49 years, Warren C – 35 years, Dave J – 39 years, Craig J – 31 years, David C – 34 years.
I reckon that's a fantastic effort – well done team.

Thank you all for the support during 2015 and we all hope 2016 is another year to remember.

Chris van der Werff
General Manager