

New Zealand Insulators, 2014

January

Our factory started full production on the 6th of January to keep up demand for NZ and Australian customers. The LV & MV catalogues were delivered to all our customers and we took delivery of our first full container shipment of glass disc Insulators from GIG in the Ukraine. To help with demand we appointed two new staff to join us in the Temuka factory.

February

Alan our new maintenance engineer starts getting our "Grand Old Lady" back into the best condition we can. Staff photos get updated on our website and Valentine's Day at NZI slipped by with limited recognition... One extruder has a catastrophic failure (after 30 years service), so it's off to A&G Price in Thames for a major rebuild. NZI Super15 rugby sweepstake gets underway and Rayleine celebrated 35 years with NZI (a milestone in any ones standards)

March

We celebrated with Roydon in recognition of 30 years working for NZI. Temuka pottery release a special limited edition NZ Native Bird range and a select pastel range specific for Merge Fashion in Newmarket Auckland.

April

Our first staff update BBQ breakfast gets underway and provides a good test for the new Masport BBQ. We secure a large order for insulators to be sent to China (they wanted the NZI product due to the quality) Easter Bunny appeared at NZI just in time for a long weekend. John Uden celebrates 30 years of service with NZI and Chris relocates from Alexandra back to Auckland (via Melbourne, for a scheduled regular visit to NGK Stanger) over the Easter Break.

May

We finalise the purchase of Mt Somers mine to secure another long term clay resource. Our Low Voltage department extends their product range with new LV panels. We add another three permanent staff in the Temuka factory, plus create another three new part time roles.

June

NZI exhibit our updated stand at the EEA conference at Skycity Auckland. New clothing and PPE designs/styles developed for the Temuka site along with updated and additional H&S practises to support future safety on our site. Our financial year ends with a good result across the business, celebrated with a staff breakfast BBQ to overview the outcome.

July

1st month of the new financial year and we got off to a good start, a couple of new positions created in the factory to monitor QA and product routing. The new "speckled" product range of Temuka pottery developed specifically for Merge Fashion in Newmarket Auckland starts to get some traction.

August

Some flash new glaze pumps help the Wax and Glaze team keep up with production under the watchful eye of Gary A. New enhanced Temuka Pottery website goes "Live" (massive amount of work was involved with that). Peter Q takes out the Super15 Rugby competition (not the first time either). Dave Chambers celebrates 33 years with NZI. We up the level on H&S across all NZI sites and start a new safety programme. Our directors get a chance to visit Temuka to see all the changes we have implemented. After 21 years of partnership, we passed the EFEN agency back to the German mother ship so we could focus on our other core brands.

September

We release the Forest & Bird sponsorship series "South Island Tomtit" design. The automated scrap blunger in the turning line grinds to a halt and takes 12 hours to get repaired, creating a mountain of scrap for removal by hand afterwards. The SF & Netzsch extruders remind us how expensive this gear is to maintain and keep fully operational.

October

NZI exhibit at the 2014 Connexis (was ESITO) Annual Linesman Competition in Christchurch, our last chance to show case South Island manufacturers before the competition returns to Hamilton next year. Temuka Pottery sponsor the "Cure kids" challenge with 26 teams having a party morning in Temuka, each hand glazing a plate with the finished items going up for auction on TradeMe to help the fundraising effort.

Staff photos get updated on the NZI website (new PPE starting to become the normal now).

November

Hobbiton Movie set supported a specially developed range of Temuka pottery again this year, building on previous orders, it's a special release so keep an eye out for it.

Chris travels to Melbourne for his last trip of the year to meet with NGK Stanger management for discussions and factory inspections to help build our business relationship and efficiency. NGK Stanger is an important partner to the NZI business and always a pleasure to deal with.

December

Last minute rush of orders and deliveries required before Xmas, much the same for everyone. At least we have holidays to look forward to and celebrate a busy, busy year. Last minute adjustments are made to the new 2015 catalogue (we have rolled the MV & LV catalogues into one) – these will be out any day soon, keep an eye out for them.

We are all looking forward to our staff function including a quiz night event with dinner and drinks to celebrate another great year in the history of NZI.

Thank you all for the support during 2014 and we all hope 2015 is another year to remember.

Chris van der Werff
General Manager