

**Letter from the Chair**

The Foundation's inaugural chair, Tony Gibson, has a message for "all engineers wishing to advance their profession":

Let me ask these questions:

- Are you concerned about the profile of engineering in society, about getting people to understand that it is engineering (some would say engineering alone) which turns science into sustainable wealth, well-being and quality of life?
- Are you concerned about encouraging our brightest young people into engineering careers?
- Are you concerned about recording the great things New Zealand engineers have achieved (often as yet unrecognised)?
- Do you want to encourage engineering research?
- Do you want to help the restoration of individual engineering careers, or to help engineers and their families recover after a life-accident?

If you have said "Yes!" to any of the above then I would urge you to begin regular giving to the work of this Foundation as it advances these objectives.

Already, the IPENZ FOUNDATION has begun to address the issue of careers by granting the two inaugural IPENZ FOUNDATION Scholarships (see article)

Fill in the attached form, and return it to continue to help for posterity.

Remember that as we older members look back in gratitude, we can help younger members to look forwards in hope.

And younger members contributing can help their own futures, and those of their colleagues. The IPENZ Foundation is a fund enabling all New Zealand engineers to both give and receive.

Act now to help the IPENZ Foundation, and in so doing help yourself, your colleagues, and the engineering profession to build a better New Zealand.

**Tony Gibson**

Chairperson  
IPENZ FOUNDATION.

**Up and Running**

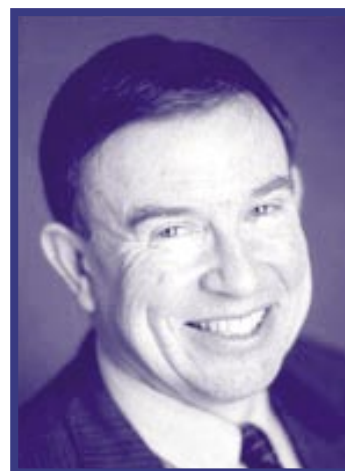
The IPENZ Foundation is up and running, after several years' planning and consultation. It is continuing the Benevolent Society's original work of providing relief to members and their families in the form of grants, and has also begun to perform the wider public-good functions envisioned for it – the first IPENZ scholarships have been awarded

The funds that belonged to the Benevolent Society will be transferred to the Foundation around the end of September, and the intention is to maintain at least the previous level of funding for the purposes of rehabilitation and relief for Members and their families.

In addition to the role taken over from the Benevolent Society, the Foundation is also charged with promoting

- the profile of engineering and technology
- engineering careers
- the recognition of engineering heritage
- engineering research.

The Foundation Trustees are currently preparing a business plan outlining activities for the coming year to meet these objectives.



**Tony Gibson FIPENZ (Chair)**

## Canvassing Membership Support – the Dissolution process

The Benevolent Society was set up simply to help IPENZ Members (and their dependants) should they fall upon hard times – or “distressed circumstances” in legal terms. It has always served a worthwhile purpose, but the development of the social welfare system addressed some of the needs it had previously met. It also became difficult to match grants to actual needs, as the tight legal definition of “distressed circumstances” severely constrained the grounds on which grants could be made.

The practical way round this problem, it was decided, was to dissolve the Society, and transfer its assets to a new charitable trust with broader objectives that took account of contemporary realities – the IPENZ Foundation. Again because of legal constraints, this proved more difficult than it sounds, and took longer than expected.

The dissolution of the Society required the explicit written consent of at least 75% of its members. Given that all Members of IPENZ automatically belonged to the Benevolent Society, this was always going to be a major undertaking. The issue was not opposition to the move so much as logistics and overcoming inertia, though a small proportion of Members expressed concern that the worthwhile work of the Benevolent Society might not continue. They can rest assured that it will.

It proved necessary to undertake a vigorous follow-up campaign to persuade enough Members to complete and return the forms provided. Because of the legally binding nature of the consultation this had to be done exactly as specified. National Office staff processing the forms found many inventively incorrect ways the form could be filled – and then there were the illegible replies that were impossible to record...and of course, the follow-up calls to Members who genuinely believed their replies to have been valid.

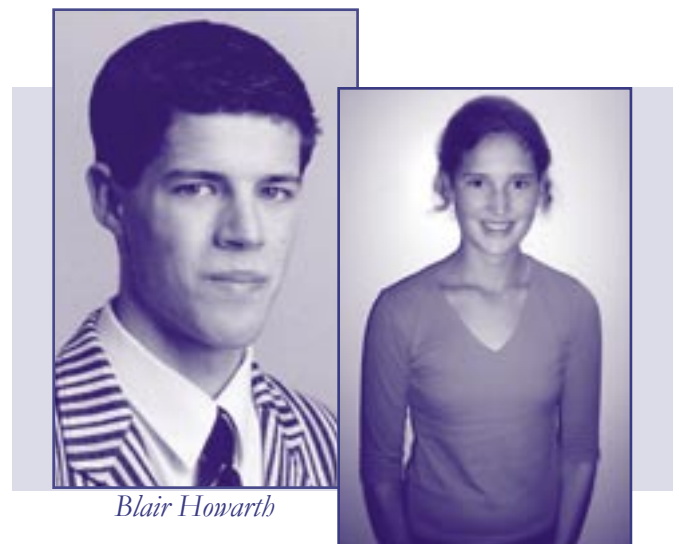
The requisite 75% consent was finally recorded early this year after a huge effort by National Office's permanent and casual staff.

*The last Dissolution form is processed.*



## The Foundation's Objectives

- to educate New Zealanders on the role of technology and engineering in sustainable economic, environmental and social development
- to encourage New Zealand school leavers into tertiary education in engineering and technology
- to educate New Zealanders on significant engineering and technological achievements that form part of New Zealand's national heritage
- to further, in New Zealand, the development and practical application of scientific knowledge in engineering or technology for the wider public good
- to assist, in New Zealand, Members suffering hardship due to physical or mental sickness, disability or incapacity to participate in education or rehabilitation programmes that enable them to resume a career
- to promote the relief of poverty, in New Zealand, among Members or their dependents arising from age, physical or mental sickness, disability or incapacity or death of the Member concerned.



*Blair Howarth*

*Josephine McVittie*

## IPENZ Foundation Scholarships – first awards

Josephine McVittie and Blair Howarth are the inaugural recipients of the scholarships for professional engineering studies awarded by the IPENZ Foundation. The Foundation is a charitable trust, and one of its objectives is to encourage school leavers into tertiary education in the fields of engineering and technology.

Two scholarships were offered, each for the sum of \$5,000, for the specific purpose of covering tuition fees. One is targeted at students from the Taranaki region, and is called the “Taranaki Scholarship” to reflect this preference, though students from elsewhere may apply for both scholarships. Candidates are selected on the basis of academic merit, motivation and interest in a career in engineering.

Josie is now studying at Auckland University, and Blair is enrolled at the University of Canterbury.



## Inaugural Patron – William H Pickering

As the inaugural patron of the IPENZ Foundation, Sir William Pickering was a singularly apt choice. His distinguished career embodied values that are central to IPENZ and to the Foundation in particular.

On the one hand there was a commitment to scientific and technological innovation and excellence that knew no boundaries – intellectual, national or indeed terrestrial. His achievements as the charismatic director of America’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory have been documented extensively – one of his many claims to fame was having figured twice on the cover of *Time* magazine, when JPL’s *Mariner* spacecraft reached Venus, and then Mars.

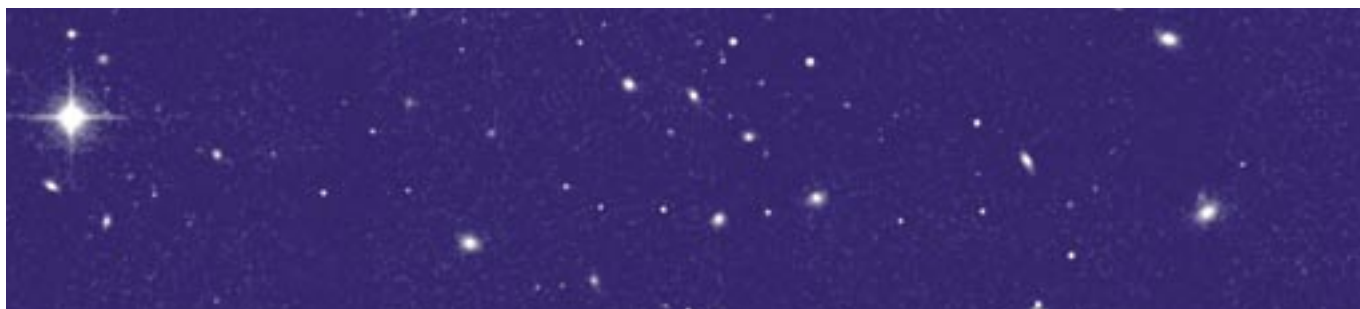
Other notable JPL achievements under Sir William’s direction were the *Explorer* satellites, which discovered the Van Allen radiation belts; *Pioneer II*, America’s first probe to orbit the moon; and *Ranger VII*, which first photographed the lunar surface. His achievements represented outstanding people skills as well as technical expertise, including leadership at JPL and diplomacy in the Cold War environment. Numerous honours, including an honorary knighthood, from various governments recognised the international importance of his work.

The knighthood was an honorary one since Sir William had long been a US citizen – as was his Order of New Zealand, the highest honour under our system, bestowed in the Queen’s

Birthday Honours just last year. This brings us to the other aspect of his contribution that is especially pertinent. While he was an American citizen, and feted internationally, Sir William never forgot his New Zealand roots. He acknowledged them proudly, crediting Canterbury University with preparing him well for his advanced studies and work in the USA, and noting that only a lack of suitable jobs here prevented his return.

On his many visits to New Zealand he was extremely generous with his time and energy in support of scientific and technological learning and endeavour. He visited his old school, Wellington College, and talked to students there. IPENZ benefited first-hand from Sir William’s generosity on his last two visits to New Zealand. In 2002, at the age of 91, he delivered two addresses to the IPENZ convention, one of them the public Newnham Lecture. Then the following year he returned to receive an honorary doctorate from Canterbury University – “There’s something very special about being honoured in one’s original home,” he said in his 40-minute address, which was received with a standing ovation.

Step out of the lift into IPENZ’s National Office and you encounter a reminder of Sir William’s generosity – a 360-degree panorama of the surface of Mars, photographed by a robotic exploration vehicle. He donated it to IPENZ during his 1992 visit, and it is now a fitting tribute to his memory.



# IPENZ Foundation Trustees



## **Tony Gibson FIPENZ (Chair)**

Tony is an IPENZ Past President and is currently a consulting engineer in Auckland.



## **John Cunningham FIPENZ**

John is an Auckland-based venture capitalist, and a former President of IPENZ.



## **Brian Cashin MIPENZ**

Brian Cashin has degrees in civil engineering and law. He is the Building Industry Authority's principal legal adviser.



## **Carolyn Thomas-Lewis MIPENZ**

Carolyn is a Wellington-based consulting engineer specialising in waste management. She has been active in the profession here and in the United States.



## **Steve Gentry Dist- FIPENZ**

Steve is a company director and retired consulting engineer. He was New Zealand's first President of the International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC).



## **Warwick Bishop FIPENZ**

Warwick is a former Chief Executive of IPENZ, now retired. An electrical engineer by training, he was the Chief Executive of the New Zealand Meat Producers Board.



**Executive Officer: Fiona Gavriel (IPENZ Director – Operations)**

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# Donate to the IPENZ Foundation

Yes, I would like to support the work of the IPENZ Foundation

I would like to make a donation for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ and enclose  
my cheque payable to the IPENZ Foundation

or

Please debit my credit card:

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Name on card is: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Type:  Visa  Mastercard  American Express  Diners' Club

Please return this form (and cheque if applicable) to:

IPENZ Foundation

PO Box 12-241

WELLINGTON

- I would like to become a regular donor to the IPENZ Foundation.  
Please send me an automatic payment form.

A receipt will be forwarded for all amounts received.

## Mailing Details:

Member No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

