

## AGA Annual General Meeting - Report

AGA's 53<sup>rd</sup> AGM was held on Thursday 29 January 2015 at its Head Office at 66 Malcolm Road, Braeside.

There was an encouraging member response to the AGA Board election, with AGA membership including local and international industry stakeholders representing manufacturers and suppliers from the following sectors:

- Domestic gas appliances
- Commercial gas appliances
- Gas components and controls
- Camping and leisure gas products
- Electrical appliances
- Plumbing products
- Gas cylinders and gas canisters

Attendees were provided with a summary of significant events, highlights and achievements over the previous 12-months as well as details of the financial performance of the company.

As required under the Constitution, members were asked to elect a new Board for the next three years. Four of the five existing Directors offered themselves for re-election, the exception being Andrew Creek. The AGA Chairman, Chris Devlin, acknowledged Andrew's considerable service and contribution.

With the three independent Directors being re-elected unopposed, an election had been required for the two Full Member – Certification Holder positions. Standing again for one of these positions, was Phil Hubbard (Swift Appliance Group Pty Ltd) and he was joined by two new candidates – Leon Bogers (Rinnai Australia Pty Ltd) and Frank Seeley (Seeley International Pty Ltd).



From Left to Right: Phil Hubbard, Leon Bogers and Frank Seeley

The successful candidates were Phil Hubbard and Frank Seeley, with the final Board composition confirmed as Chris Devlin, Colin Bickell, Chris Wealthy, Phil Hubbard and Frank Seeley.



At the AGA Board meeting immediately following the AGM, Chris Devlin was selected unopposed to serve a second term as AGA Chairman and Colin Bickell was confirmed as Deputy Chairman.

Whilst the new Board will already be known to many AGA members, the following brief biography and photograph for each Director may serve to provide information of some assistance to the membership generally. The information should also confirm to the membership that we are indeed fortunate to attract such qualified and committed individuals to serve the interests of industry generally and AGA in particular.

**Chris Devlin:**



*First elected Chairman at the 2011 AGM, having served multiple terms as a Director, Chris has now been re-elected Chairman for a second term. Chris is a former lawyer to the Australian Energy Market Operator and the Victorian Energy Networks Corporation. Prior to that he was Chief Solicitor to the Gas & Fuel Corporation of Victoria.*

*Chris brings significant experience in legal and legislative matters affecting the energy industry to his role as a Director.*

*Chris is a passionate supporter of AGA and specifically its role in helping to promote and improve the safety, reliability and environmental performance of products for the benefit of the Australian community.*

*In recent years particularly, AGA has had to find solutions to address the needs of a rapidly changing industry. This included the establishment of an AGA Test Laboratory and Chris has overseen this expansion to AGA testing services to the point where the AGA Laboratory is now the largest and best credentialed facility of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere.*

**Colin Bickell:**



*Two-time past Chairman and currently Deputy Chairman, Colin was Manager Customer Safety with Energy Safe Victoria (previously Victorian Office of Gas Safety) until retiring from that position in September 2005. Prior to that Colin held senior executive positions with the Gas & Fuel Corporation of Victoria, and was initially responsible for reorganizing and modernizing their technical standards then managing their strategic systems engineering unit. He has many years experience with Standards Australia, including managing their certification of independent cylinder testing operators.*

*Colin has experience in manufacturing, and holds a Diploma in Mechanical Engineering (RMIT) and a Graduate Diploma in Management (RMIT). Colin brings relevant skills and significant experience in the gas industry, manufacturing, the development and application of technical standard, and management on technical services.*

**Chris Wealthy:**



*Chris Wealthy has extensive experience in the gas industry and holds a Bachelor of Engineering Degree, majoring in thermodynamics. Following postgraduate studies in the UK, he joined the Gas & Fuel as Engineer in charge of its Commercial Services Division, subsequently being appointed to the position of Service Operations Manager. This latter role provided an ideal opportunity to develop a thorough appreciation of issues related to high quality technical service delivery. Joined the AGA in 1993, and in 1995 was promoted to the position of Manager, Certification Services.*

*Following organisational restructuring in January 2004, appointed to the position of General Manager (subsequently retitled to Chief Executive). His extensive experience and knowledge in the gas appliance and equipment sector greatly benefits the industry as he continues to lead AGA's Product Certification activities.*

**Phil Hubbard:**



*Phil Hubbard holds an AGA Silver Flame Award for his contribution to the gas industry, in particular for his involvement in helping to establish overseas recognition of local testing laboratory expertise. Phil holds a Diploma of Applied Physics and has many years of service as an industry representative on various standards-writing committees, including a number of terms as chairman. He has also represented the local industry internationally.*

*From a work perspective, Phil has over 30 years experience in appliance design (both gas and electric) and was in charge of research and design for Chef Australia for more than 25 years. Phil brings considerable senior management and product certification experience to his new role of AGA Director and his current local manufacturing presence will help ensure an appropriate perspective on product manufacturing issues at Board level.*

**Frank Seeley:**



*The founder of Seeley International, and its Chairman, Frank Seeley AM FAICD is an Australian success story. Seeley International is Australia's leading manufacturer of heating and cooling systems. After successfully developing the first all-plastic portable coolers, Frank went on to develop all-plastic rooftop coolers. This wasn't just a breakthrough for Seeley; it was a breakthrough for the entire industry. Frank is committed to the rebirth of Australian consumer product manufacturing and has a philosophy of vertical integration. This means that most of the materials and production of Seeley International products is kept within Australia. Today, Seeley International employs more than 350 people, has manufacturing operations at Lonsdale, South Australia and Albury, New South Wales with sales offices in each mainland state. Frank has more than thirty years Board experience, sitting on a number of Boards including Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, Samaritan's Purse and most recently the Executive Chairman for Seeley International. Frank also brings to the AGA Board broad knowledge gained over some 20 years' experience in successfully running his own company as the Managing Director. Frank has built his business from the ground up and has incredible business acumen. Frank has extensive experience in the gas industry, working alongside industry bodies such as AGA to continually develop safer and more efficient gas heaters. Frank was honoured as the 2013 Ernst and Young Champion of Entrepreneurship, South Australia. In 2011, Frank was named South Australian of the Year. In 2005, he was named South Australian Entrepreneur of the year and 2001, he was made a Member of the Order of Australia.*

At the conclusion of the AGM, and the confirmation of the election results, all attendees were invited to a light lunch and a group tour the AGA Laboratory facilities. Despite the obvious restrictions imposed to ensure customer confidentiality, the touring group expressed a number of compliments, including comments indicating surprise about the vast range of testing services provided.

