

# HERA

Innovation in Metals

- **HERA Award for Distinguished Service 2008**

This award recognizes distinguished and outstanding services to the New Zealand Metals Industry. The Distinguished Service Award has only been given out twice; at the Metals Industry Conference 2004 in Christchurch to Keith Smith for his role in creating and governing HERA, and at the 2006 Metals Industry Conference in Hamilton to Stuart Thompson for his services to the New Zealand sheet metal engineering industry. Keith Smith passed away in 2007 and made a considerable bequest to the Heavy Engineering Educational and Research Foundation, with the income from its investment to be the prize money to accompany this award.

The Trustees of the Foundation decided - in recognition of Keith Smith's outstanding service to our industry and the bequest made - to rename the award **The Keith Smith Memorial Award for Outstanding Services to the Metals Industry of New Zealand**, or the Keith Smith Award for short. As Keith Smith's bequest has been invested for only a short period of time, the Foundation trustees have decided to top up the Award's prize money to \$2,000.



*Distinguished Service Award winner Dr Charles Clifton (left) and HERA Deputy Chairman Peter Hutton*

This year one nomination was received and this was for *Dr G Charles Clifton*, Associate Professor of Civil Engineering at the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering of the University of Auckland. His citation read as follows:

*“Charles was HERA’s structural engineer for nearly 24 years. In this time he made significant contributions to the New Zealand structural steel industry being responsible for standards, guidelines and research program development. His passion for seismic and fire engineering and composite interaction led to many innovative solutions which are now daily used in the NZ structural steel industry and indeed make it onto the world stage. When Charles started at HERA, the market share of multi storey steel construction was basically 0% - today it is in the order of 50%. Dr Clifton’s work was probably the most important single person contribution to this amazing growth of structural steel in New Zealand.*

*Now as Associate Professor in all matters structural steel and composite construction, Charles continues to educate and train the next generation of structural engineers in New Zealand ensuring they are aware of the tremendous opportunities a career in structural steel has to offer.”*

As Charles Clifton was of course well known to the audience, his reply and the toast in his honour found enthusiastic support.

- **New Zealand Metals Industry Exporter of the Year 2008**

This award goes to the HERA member company or member company of associated industry organisations, which demonstrates increasing export sales over the past three years. A clearly defined export marketing strategy needs to be evident.

There were five nominations:

Steel Pencil Ltd  
Flotech Ltd  
A & G Price Ltd  
FrameCAD Ltd and  
Fitzroy Yachts Ltd



From left: FrameCAD Solutions' Mark Taylor, Paul Lowman and HERA Deputy Chairman Peter Hutton

The winner in a very tight race was *FrameCAD Ltd* and its CEO Mark Taylor received the award. FrameCAD's awards citation reads:

*"FrameCAD Solutions' point of difference is end-to-end integration in design, detailing & manufacture of steel framing for the rapid construction and residential buildings. FrameCAD has invested significantly in building intellectual property, technology and expertise - making it the world leader in cold formed steel construction solutions with more than doubling its export sales every year for the last three years."*

- **New Zealand Metals Industry Innovation Award 2008**

This award recognises major product, manufacturing or information technology innovation by HERA member companies, or member companies of associated sector organisations.

There were two nominations: FrameCAD Ltd and Windflow Technology Ltd. The proud winner was Windflow Technology with the following citation:

*"The Windflow 500 wind turbine is unique as it is the only utility scale wind turbine being produced in Australasia. More than 90% of the turbine components are sourced from local companies. It is the first wind turbine to combine two innovative technologies: the patented torque limiting gearbox (TLG) system of power control and the pitch regulated two-bladed teetering rotor. These innovations result in major reductions in fatigue loads. The Windflow 500 design results in weight and cost reductions of between 20-50% compared with currently available commercial wind turbines of similar power rating. The end result combines cost-effectiveness, simplicity and reliability in a world leading design."*



*Windflow Technology's John Arimond and HERA Deputy Chairman Peter Hutton (right)*

The Innovation Award was received by John Arimond, *Windflow Technology's* Engineering Manager on behalf of CEO Geoff Henderson and in his reply he gave a glowing tribute to the unwavering spirit of their CEO in a very tough and originally unsupportive environment where many said wind turbine manufacture could not be done in New Zealand.