

The New Zealand LIFT FAX

The New Zealand Lift Fax is produced bi-monthly for the NZ lift industry. Just send your email address to LEC to subscribe.

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05/2008

WHAT'S GOING UP or DOWN THIS MONTH:

PETER THOMSON'S PASSING:

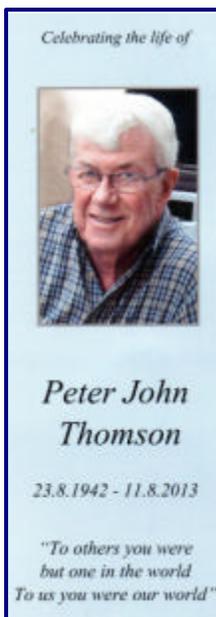
True to theme, it is also my sad duty to report that I attended one of the mainstays of the NZ South Island lift industry; Peter John Thomson's funeral service, fittingly held at the Waitikiri Golf Club last month. Peter was also an industry gentleman who I worked with at T.L Jones Ltd in Christchurch when I first arrived in NZ in 1986.

We had come from a similar background as electrical apprentices in the lift industry and so could easily relate over technical and management issues.

Peter also had experience with Express Lifts in the UK similar to my experiences with EPL in Australia who was also an Express Agent in those days.

When Schindler took over TLJ in 1990, they surprisingly left the Microscan business with Ross Brown the then owner of TLJ, who with Peter took that business onto the world stage to develop its infra-red scanning technology into one of the leading world suppliers of lift entrance passenger detection systems.

They combined well, with Peters technical knowledge and Ross's business acumen. With the sale of TLJ Microscan to their UK competitor the Memco Group, and Peter surviving a heart condition, Peter retired in 2006. Peter is survived by his best friends, wife Sheryl, daughter Tracy and son in law Jason. Peter was aged 70 and will be missed by all who knew him. (see Pg3 article)



EDITORIAL: CERTIFYING THE CHINESE IMPORT:

I have a list of 62 independent suppliers from Chinese lift and component manufacturers keen to move into any market, and they were only the ones I thought might be credible and who had contacted me direct.

The amount of product they supply and install makes an old lifty like me drool, but their main impact in the New Zealand market has so far been small – but growing!

Price of course is very attractive, and some private entrepreneurs have ordered direct from the factory like a fridge, and either installed it themselves, employed an electrician to struggle through a box of parts, or used one of the growing number of ex-multi-national lift employees who have evolved into independent lift sub-contractors in NZ. For the property owner the \$\$\$ savings in acquiring equipment and shipping to NZ looks good, and in an inconsistent D2 compliance environment such as still exists in NZ under the Building Act Consent process, the unknowns can become significant and the standard of final installation can be questionable. The critical steps in any acquisition is understanding your resources ie:

- Knowing the manufacturers design experience.
- Establishing the solutions expected performance.
- Confirming compliance & documentation is relevant
- Confirming a source and access to spare parts.
- Establishing supplier ability to manage the acquisition and install the equipment.
- Confirming a competent maintenance provider.
- Establishing a credible Consent & insp. process.

Establish these before purchase, and where the boxes are all ticked, you may end up with an installation that meets your needs. Ed.

FAREWELL CUS!

The years are creeping up and I seem to have an increasing obituary for close friends each issue, but this one is extra special as he was sadly the first of my cousins to pass on in our generation.

John Brommell (73) 15-5-1940 – 31-8-2013. Thanks Darren!

Johnny always was bigger than life, much like his Dad Jack.

John entered the music scene as a drummer in the 60's behind the 'Cicadas' and played his way to Europe to become the 'Gibsons'.

But his broad smile, handshake deals and respectful cheeky demeanor as a music publishing icon, saw him sign

groups like Cold Chisel and Jimmy Barnes, INXS, Midnight Oil and many more. 60 of his signings went to have top 10 successes in Australia.

John initially took on the role of A&R Manager at Essex Music in 68. In 1973 he started Rondor Music, and in 81 joined Warner Music. After his retirement to Coffs Harbour in the 90's he served as Vice chairman of the Country Music Association which awarded him it's Music Achiever Award in 1996., and only last month many muso's fondly remembered him at the Gympie Muster.

Farewell Cus, you did the family proud, and will remain an inspiration as one of the nice guys; as a raconteur and nurturer of talent in the contemporary music industry in Australia. Thinking of you, Darren, Becky, Paul, and Jacqui and the grandkids I've yet to meet. Love to all Cousin Jenny. RIP John.



THE CHRISTCHURCH MARKET PLACE:

If you listen to the spin-doctors and read all the press releases you would be feeling optimistic toward the rebuild of Christchurch, and for the majority of citizens this feels good.

But if you work in the local lift industry you have been awaiting this positive vibe for near on 3 years, as you have watched the demolishing of your livelihood where once you partook in a vibrant industry that installed, maintained and repaired lifts.

I have seen the reduction and dispersing of the workforce through associates in the local lift industry, and through the increase number of independent out-of-town lift contractors as multi-nationals corporates shed their overheads, similar to my own business where optimism turned to overhead reduction and eventually survival after becoming locked into tomorrows elusive rebuild. The lift companies must all be running on a smelly rag in Christchurch, also locked into an ever shifting rebuild injection, but when and what is this rebuild going to be like.

Some architects and consulting engineers at the forefront of the rebuild zephyr are considering restructure to be able to cope with the rebuild expectations, some are building alliances and understandings so that they can maximise their resource when the pendulum swings their way.

The multi-national lift industry local offices on the other hand seems stagnant, reliant on their out-of-town sales offices for any resurgence, but will the downsizing of buildings play more into the low-rise low-speed market for future solutions, to which the traditional players in the past have given little thought to.

If the vast majority of the rebuilds for the Christchurch CBD are mainly going to be 2 and 3 level buildings, and market forces continue to be focussed on minimal cost solutions, so new solutions will likely be as well. I therefore suspect there will be much more work for the low-rise low speed disabled access solutions in the market than the predominant pre-earthquake basic Motor-roomless lift solution.



And so we have to ask, how will all this effect the structure of the post -earthquake market in Christchurch?

- Firstly as more and more rebuild contracts are let to Low-rise Low-speed solutions, the multi-nationals will see their percentage of the market diminishing.
- Secondly the suppliers providing these lesser solutions will need to expand their operations to cope with the increased demand.
- Thirdly ongoing contract maintenance services will also be overhauled to reflect lower use, a low sophistication of product and lower costs to provide maintenance services.
- Lastly pressures for acquisition or alignment of smaller companies along with a restructured definition of installation and maintenance services offered to the market will rebalance the market percentages.

On the other hand, will the predicted small low-rise buildings continue to meet market needs once earthquake fears diminish, and the cost benefits of smaller footprint higher rise CBD buildings return to acceptability.

For me many other factors effecting the market place and

overhead cost also need to be considered, such as:-

- The reducing demand for individual hand based skills being replaced by automated highly engineered global machine based manufacturing.
- Modularisation enabling factory made building.
- Governments championing the redistribution of risk through insuring the workplace.
- Qualification and certification of all providers of services to the market being promulgated. eg. LBP's
- Government monitoring of all information and processes to satisfy bureaucratic accountability and enforcement through fine.

Overall we are seeing the increasing involvement of Government in being able to control all process as it is increasingly able to monitor and control all individual and corporate effort, and in many ways the Christchurch rebuild has reflected this leadership transition from individual and corporate citizens into one Government headed citizen bureaucracy.

Yes it's a changing world threatening our perception of individual freedoms, once the domain of the autocrat, now being ingrained as our democracy for the betterment of all, but first before we even begin to know, in Christchurch, we have to **begin this rebuild.**



PETER THOMSON 28.8.1942 – 11.8.2013.

He started his working life as an apprentice electrician in January 1959 with the Christchurch



Electrical company; Thomas L. Jones Ltd, in New Zealand.

Peter was a prodigy of the apprenticeship era where employers mostly relied on local field skills to construct and commission new lift equipment, consequently Peter twice spent time in the UK honing his skills with the then international

colonial Express Lift Company before returning to NZ to take responsibility for growing local lift installation in the South Island of NZ a General Manager.

With economic conditions pushing the electrical contracting division of T.L. Jones into receivership in the early 80's, Ross Brown from the Dunedin based AOTEA Electric stepped in to use the always viable lift department to restore the financial credibility of the company, but retained the T.L Jones name. It was at this time at T.L. Jones Ltd that Peter took on overseeing the technical role of converting the EPL/Express design incandescent lamp based lift passenger entry protection light curtains, to using infra-red sensors technology, and from here the Microscan division was able to stand-alone.

And so by the time Ross Brown was approached to sell off the now profitable lift division to Schindler, the multi-national Swiss lift company in the late 80's, who better to head the technical management but Peter Thomson with Harry Visschedijk as his design technician.

By retaining the T.L. Jones name, the Microscan product evolved through static to multibeam scanning, to slim-line and 3D to become a renown international supplier.



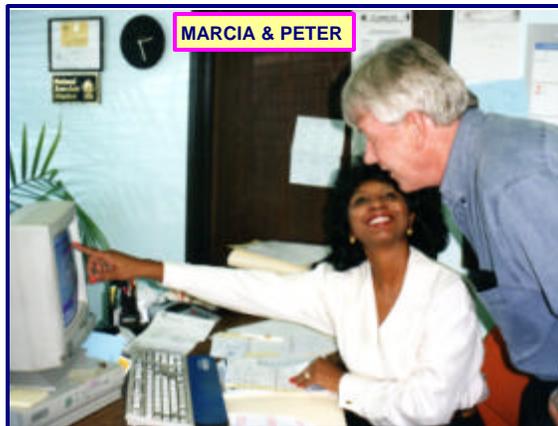
PETE & HARRI

Under Peter's management and Ross's love of doing a deal, the company grew rapidly at this time to establish offices in Asia, India, the US, and China. In the mid 1990's Peter developed a heart condition that ended in a transplant, and so he stepped back to become the engineering manager.



**HARRI VISSCHEDIJK – MARCIA
MUNDAS LOMELI – PETER THOMSON**

Ross Brown, ever the entrepreneur looked for new opportunities, and so around 2005, T.L Jones was sold off to the UK based Helma Group, who also happened to be world leaders in infrared sensors and manufacturers of the competitor Memco range.



MARCIA & PETER

The Thomas and Les Jones name and offices in Christchurch still survived, but Peter Thomson, who had overseen these many years of accomplishment and change, saw the 50 year mark in his lift industry as a

good time to step aside and place his many years of experience into the realm of history. And so in January 2009 he took time to reflect, rest a torn achilles tendon he experienced on his first week of retirement, and enjoy the simpler pleasures of life with his wife Sheryl.

On the 11th of August 2013, Peter also departed to take his place at the Liffies bar and join the many old hands already there, and early afternoon on Friday 16th many gathered at the Watakiri Golf Club along with Sheryl his wife, Tracy and son-in-law Jason with the extended family and friends, to farewell a mate. Many of the past TL Jones staff were also there to celebrate Petes' life.



**PETER THOMSON
1995**

In Memory of Thanks to Chris Hemmings **Alan Hemmings** **28 November 1935 to 13 May 2013**

1962 to 2013: Alan remained involved in the lift industry in both NZ, Australia and Internationally. He covered most facets of the lift industry.

1950: Signed a 5 year apprenticeship agreement with Vono Industries United Kingdom (UK) in machine shop engineering.

1954 to 1956: 2 years Compulsory Military Training with British Royal Artillery Regiment.

1956: Returned from military service to complete apprenticeship.

1958: Completed apprenticeship emigrated to New Zealand (NZ) to set up manufacturing plant on behalf of Vono Industries UK.

1960: Relocated to Melbourne to set up manufacturing plant for an international medical company.

1962: Returned to NZ to set up manufacturing plant for the same medical company in NZ.

1962: Formed own company in subcontract on labour only basis in factory installation and maintenance.

1962: Subcontracted on labour only basis installing passenger lifts for Tolley Industries NZ Ltd. (At the same time they were NZ agents for Schindler Lifts).

1971: Joined Tolley Industries NZ Ltd on a full-time basis and assumed position of Lift Service and Installation Manager.

1972: Tolley Industries NZ Ltd, taken over by The Electric Construction Company NZ Ltd and continued on the same position as Installation Manager.

1979: Continued with Electric Construction Company NZ Ltd and relinquished my earlier position to assume of Manufacturing Manager to develop and manufacture lift equipment to supply both the Australian and NZ markets.

1980 to 1994: Continue as Manufacturing Manager and Sales Manager ECC now supplying complete Thyssen lift packages into Australia, a total of 54 units over a 2 year period.

1994 to 1998: Assumed position as General Manager for Electric Construction Company and continue to supply lift components into Australia.

1998: Terminated the position with Electric Construction Company to form wholly owned company Lift Component Manufacturing Ltd to continue producing lift equipment for the Australian and NZ lift market.

2003: Set up own Company VT manufacturing Ltd importing component parts to make display and push button equipment for lifts in NZ and internationally.

After a short battle with cancer Alan leaves behind his beloved wife Margaret of 54 ½ years, they have four children Susan, Cathryn, Christopher and Steven. Both his two sons continue to work in the lift industry. Special and loved granddad of eight grandchildren.

GREG MOODY RETURNS TO CHRISTCHURCH:

The lift inspection and consulting market is expanding as the corporates continue to downsize freeing up a resource of independent lift industry experienced managers into the market.

One such person is my old associate Greg Moody who ended up with Schindler Wellington after the Christchurch earthquakes and has now moved on to Vertrans Associates NZ Ltd to look after their South Island interests.

This opportunity enables Greg to return to his old hunting ground of Christchurch and should be timely with the expected rebuild increasing demand for experienced consulting and inspection services in the area.

Gregs new contact details are:-

Landline 03 389 2764

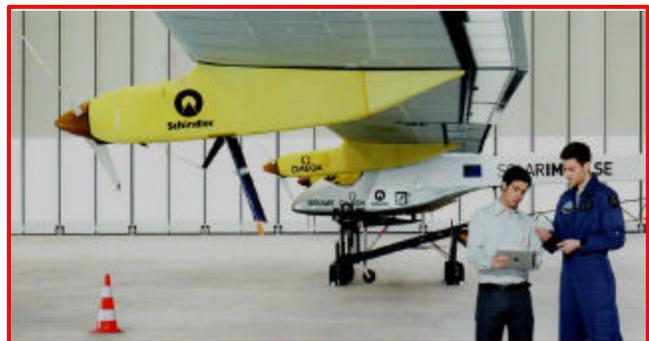
Mobile 021 0245 5788

Email: roster.steph@xtra.co.nz



SCHINDLER PROMOTES SOLAR POWER:

The Solar Impulse project to circle the globe employing only solar power has seen Schindler embed their engineers at the workface of this project.



This solar association also includes their innovative clean mobility technology being applied to their solar elevator planning to provide 100% of its energy use from solar panels.

The Solar Impulse aircraft aims to circumnavigate the world by 2015 proudly displaying the Schindler logo in this joint interests venture.

