

## *Executive Director of the NFRC attends SIA Meeting*



*Jim Benney speaking to the members at the SIA Annual General Meeting*

It was with great pleasure to have Jim Benney, Executive Director of the National Fenestration Rating Council (NFRC) in the United States at our recent Annual General Meeting of the Skylight Industry Association in Sydney.

Jim kindly gave up his time to address the members and answer some questions.

Jim has been involved with the NFRC since its inception in 1989 and has witnessed first hand the dramatic changes in the area of Energy Ratings of Windows and Skylights from the late 1980's until now.

Jim gave us some background into the early days of the NFRC and its initial inception. The Energy crisis of the 1970's was the catalyst for change in the United States.

In 1989 in Vancouver, Canada, approximately 25 Industry Leaders in the Window industry gathered to talk about a uniform and accepted method to Energy Rate Windows.

In the early days there was no formal meeting space available to them, so they would meet at a Hotel Bar to discuss business. This is where the logo was first scrawled on the back of a paper napkin.

The Industry quickly realised that if they did not take the lead in Energy Ratings of Windows and Skylights then the lead would be taken from them. Government and consumers were demanding better products and a way with which to compare these products.

From very humble beginnings the organisation has gone on to help set up the Australian Fenestration Rating Council of which the SIA are members, as well as other affiliates around the world.

Jim talked extensively about how the demand for Energy Rated products started slowly and has now however become the standard for which people choose their products.

Jim was impressed with the lead that the SIA has taken in getting Skylight Energy Rated. In fact his comment was that in some areas we were further advanced in being able rate Dome Type Skylights than what they were.

Jim Benney reaffirmed his support for the work we had currently done and the Window Energy Rating Scheme for Skylights. He was kind enough to help with contacts in the United States that would be happy to help as part of our Validation process.

As members of the SIA we should be very proud of our current achievements and the continued work that we are doing in the area of Energy Rating of Skylights.



Dear Members,

It is with great pleasure that we send you this, our first SIA Newsletter. The Newsletter's will be produced bi-annually with input from all members as another method of keeping everyone up to date.

In this issue you will read about our recent AGM held in conjunction with the Australian Window Association conference in Sydney in September. We were lucky enough to have Jim Benney head of the NFRC in the United States spend some time with us. His insight was invaluable to us as members to better understand the road we are on and the inevitability of Energy Ratings of Skylights. As Jim pointed out, it was better to take the lead and help shape your own future than have it decided for you by bureaucrats that did not understand the industry nor gained their livelihood from it.

You will also read in this Newsletter the current status of the Bush Fire Code (to which we have an SIA member on the Board). Once again we are helping shape our future rather than sitting back and having it decided for us.

There is also an update on our Industry Code of Practice manual which is now complete together with our new and vastly improved website.

For those of you that are not members, I ask you this, would you allow strangers to make everyday decisions for you ? Don't entrust anyone to make decisions on your behalf.

Have a say in the industry you gain your livelihood from; join the SIA today.

## Industry Code of Practice

After many months of diligent work from some key members, namely Ian Murphy and Steve Lynch, the Industry Code of Practice is now complete and ready for printing.

This ICP as it is known is no lightweight document. Many carefully considered hours of work has gone into producing a Manual that covers everything from definitions of different products and materials, types of skylights, manufactured materials, suggested installation procedures, design and selection as well as safety.

Once completed there will be 250 copies available. All members will get some copies with the ability to have more printed at a reasonable cost which you can make available to your own customers.

What a great Manual to include with large Tender Documents. It's just another way of showing your current or prospective customers your professionalism and the fact that you are a member of the SIA.



## **INDUSTRY CODE OF PRACTICE**

Design considerations for the performance of skylights, tubular skylights and roof windows

## **Bushfire Code AS3959**

We are still active on the working group for the bush fire Standard **AS3959**. This complex & wide reaching standard was due for inclusion in the BCA 2009 but has missed the cut off and is now scheduled for inclusion in 2010. A final review meeting is scheduled early October which will offer industry comment back to Standards on Deem to Satisfy (DTS) provisions.

Once complete, this will help further our industries credibility and provide a level of certainty.

## **New Website**

If you haven't already taken the time to look at our new Website [www.siai.com.au](http://www.siai.com.au) you should.

Much work has gone into the new website for both the consumer and our members.

There are many different sections which help give an insight into who the SIA is and its members. There also sections to cover industry news, product information, career opportunities as well as a members section. You will be able to access previous meetings minutes as well as other relevant information by simply entering the member area.