FutureGAS 2011 breaks all records!
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More than 500 national and international delegates, exhibitors and trade visitors attended the third annual FutureGAS Conference and Exhibition, featuring a conference program of 35 papers, and over 50 booths in the extensive exhibition space.

Organised by Great Southern Press (GSP), the FutureGAS Conference and Exhibition was held from 22-24 March 2011 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Queensland.

FutureGAS is Australia’s only event that focuses on the entire natural gas industry, from top to bottom and everything in between. Held every year in Queensland (the burgeoning hub of Australia’s gas industry), the conference focuses on conventional and unconventional gases, developments in LNG, transmission pipelines, distribution networks and power generation. FutureGAS challenges the industry to address current pressing issues that impact on our industry’s future, and the future use of natural gas. Event partner MWM worked closely with GSP to ensure that FutureGAS 2011 was the most comprehensive and well attended event in its three-year history.

Forging new connections

The conference kicked-off with Opening Cocktails on Tuesday night, sponsored by Tremco Pipeline Equipment where delegates and exhibitors got their first chance of many to network and explore the exhibition.

Wednesday evening featured the Engineerng at the Exhibition Drinks, giving engineers a chance to visit the exhibition after work and enjoy a glass of wine or beer.

The FutureGAS Gala Dinner, sponsored by CNC Project Management, was a highlight of the conference, held in the Queensland Museum’s Dinosaur Room, where guests were dwarfed by great dinosaurs on display.

The dinosaur theme extended to the guest speaker, Dr Steve Salisbury, a lecturer in palaeontology from the University of Queensland. Dr Salisbury discussed the chance meetings of gas exploration and production, and palaeontology. Dinosaur tracks have been found at the site of the Browse LNG Development in Western Australia, and parts of the largest dinosaur ever found in Australia, the Rhoetosaurus, were discovered at the site of the country’s first gas source - near Roma, Queensland.

Talking gas
Queensland Gas Commissioner Kay Gardiner officially opened the FutureGAS conference program with her keynote presentation on the outlook for natural gas in the state. The room was packed with delegates keen to hear Ms Gardiner discuss forecasted gas demand, unconventional sources of gas, global LNG markets, and domestic gas use versus export concerns.

Tech talk
A successful new innovation in 2011 was the technical stream of the conference’s speaker program, which was popular with delegates involved in the technical side of gas developments. The technical program was opened by TPWS Inc’s Bob Teale, who discussed the history and possible future of automated pipeline welding.

After morning tea, focus turned to unconventional gases with presentations on a new code of practice for coal seam gas (CSG) gathering lines, CSG plant design principles and tight gas drilling technology.

Highlights included Queensland Chief Petroleum and Gas Inspector Stephen Matheson’s outline of the safety regulations and legislation in the state, and discussion of a range of unconventional gas technologies.

Business program
The business stream of the conference’s speaker program was a particular success, with presenters across both days providing valuable insights into project, personnel and production issues.

Following Ms Gardiner’s keynote presentation, Day One presentations covered a range of current developments in the gas industry from an update on exploration in New Zealand, to growth

Visit the Gas Today website to see more photos from the FutureGAS Conference and Exhibition online: