

# CIBSE Christchurch Chapter Swings Into Action!

Eight chapters made up the CIBSE ANZ Region, but not anymore..... On 27<sup>th</sup> March 2007 the Christchurch Chapter held it's inaugural meeting at Beca's offices in Christchurch and what a great success it was. In the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of CIBSE ANZ the Christchurch Chapter now joins Wellington, Auckland, New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory, Western Australia, Queensland, Victoria and South Australia, with a combined total of around 600 members.

36 guests attended the event, "Green Future - Overview of the Green Star New Zealand Rating Tool" which included Engineers, Architects, Contractors, Project Managers, Building Operators and Suppliers from around the Christchurch Region.

For those not familiar with current New Zealand green issues, the New Zealand Green Building Council (NZGBC) was recently formed and is a member of the World Green Building Council. A major focus of the NZGBC is the development of a building rating tool specifically for New Zealand, the final version of which was released on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2007. Green Star NZ briefings are being held throughout April in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch, but CIBSE was lucky enough to be able to give Christchurch a sneak preview.

The event started with drinks and nibbles, which included the Kiwi tradition of a few beers, all of which were kindly sponsored by Beca. Justin Hill, Chapter Chair opened the event and gave a short introduction to CIBSE and the ever increasing importance of the Building Services Engineer's role. This was later reinforced when it was explained that the Building Services Engineer was responsible for over 50% of the credits available in the rating tool.



*Craig Price introducing the NZGBC*

Craig Price of Beca and Director of the NZGBC provided an overview of the NZGBC emphasising the role and importance of the Council along with their current goals and activities. Alan Barbour also of Beca

and key member of the NZGBC Rating Tool technical sub committee continued with an excellent overview of the Rating Tool, explaining the basis and background of the Rating Tool, what the Rating Tool is striving to achieve and how it compares and differs to other country's Green Star Rating Tools. Interestingly Alan and Craig explained the there would be no certification given for buildings achieving less than 4 Stars, this being seen as best practice and the minimum standard the NZGBC has set in an attempt to raise the bar well beyond the standard Building Code requirement.



*From top to bottom: Drinks & nibbles, as the guests gather.*

*Justin Hill opening the inaugural meeting.*

*Alan Barbour taking questions about the NZGBC Rating Tool*

The success and interest in the event was evident with the number of questions being asked, both during and after the presentations. Justin brought the evening to a close with thanks being given to Craig, Alan and Beca and for the support of the attendees. The next event will be "Lighting an Icon - Working with Utzon to deliver his vision for the Sydney Opera House", presented by Dan Mackenzie, current Chairman of the CIBSE ANZ Region on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2007. Once again all are welcome.

Justin Hill