

Neil Boys - Tanker Engineering Services Ltd

Neil started Tanker Engineering in 1994 after a 10-year stint learning his trade with Robert Stone & Co who built tankers and transport equipment etc. Eventually Robert Stone became part of Steel and Tube who restructured the company and got out of the engineering field.

Neil was made redundant, so he decided to go it alone by buying Robert Stone's old plant and employing some of its staff as well as taking on existing jobs for some of the customers. That was out in Grayson Avenue Papatoetoe. In 1997 moved to the present site in Otahuhu.

From the outset, he specialised in tankers – a highly complex and competitive field with some major and well-established companies in the field.

Adding to the daunting task ahead of him was that the main customer base – oil companies – owned their own fleets, had their own workshops, and did most of their repair work and servicing in-house. So, from the beginning, it was, to say the least, challenging to start a new company, virtually from scratch, in that market.

In 2007 Neil became a shareholder and Director of Seaview Engineering Services in Wellington. This gave Neil a foothold in the lower North Island with the ability to do repairs and fit outs for his national customer base. Later that year Geoff Walsh and his wife Paula also became shareholders and Directors of SES until Geoff's sad and untimely death in 2017. In 2014 Ken Russell, previously Transport Manager for BP Oil NZ, joined the Seaview team as General Manager and in 2019 he became a shareholder. This gave the business a formidable experience base with which to service their clients, NZ wide.

Neil has been stand-out in his field since those early days and the fuel industry leaders through the years have regarded Neil as innovative and solution driven – you can be sure they all have, or had, a Tanker Engineering trailer in their fleet.

Neil has contributed much to the dangerous goods industry with both designs and regulations. He provides technical consultation to several industry bodies including the Petroleum Industry Transport Safety Forum (PITSF). He has also been heavily involved with Worksafe on the development, & subsequent review, of the Code of Practice for the design & construction of vehicles for bulk transportation of flammable liquids by road. He has been a member of IRTENZ since 1996.

Tanker Engineering joined the Federation in 1999, and Neil became a council member in

2015. He has attended most meetings and contributed to the development of our initiatives and resolution of our problems over those many years.

Dom Kalasih, Chief Executive, Ia Ara Aotearoa - Transporting New Zealand, has known Neil since 1998 and makes these observations:

"The look and feel of TES workshop does not reflect the technical expertise and institutional knowledge that Neil brings to the industry, particularly in the fuel tanker space. I was very lucky just a couple of weeks ago to go to Manac, a trailer manufacturer in Quebec, Canada. They build about 7500 trailers a year and are doing alloy trailers now. ...so, I'm aware of the complexities of building with aluminium. And Neil's done that for some considerable time. So yes, I just endorse what the TTMF have said about what Neil has brought to the industry."

It is with pleasure the NZ TTMF award Neil Boys - Life Membership. Kate Bucknell, Executive Secretary, 2025

