



Bulletin

April 2012
Edition



PROJECT AWARD WINNER
Cairns Regional Council – Cairns International Tennis Centre
WINNER: Projects \$5-\$10 Million - Highly Commended



President's Report

April 2012

I have spent most of the last three months in Toowoomba assisting Council commence the region's flood restoration program. My role in the program set up phase is now nearing completion and I am looking forward to spending some more time at home and with my family. The flood recovery work I have been involved in for various Queensland Councils has highlighted the extent of the rebuilding task and the differing rates of flood recovery progress to date across Councils and communities. The challenges and strains on local government engineers resulting from the Queensland floods and the drain on resources through a very buoyant labour market in the mining and gas sectors are very evident.

The reconstruction program is now reaching a crescendo in many regions with DTMR and Councils competing for construction contractors, consultants and materials. Gravel supply in more remote regional areas is particularly challenging with unprecedented gravel quantities required and an absence of commercial quarries and licensed Council operated gravel pits. Consultants and Public

Works engineers are working together in many areas to find innovative ways to recycle pavement materials and develop pavement designs which maximise value for money outcomes. With some areas having to deal with the 2010, 2011 and 2012 declared flood events and the recent heavy rainfall and flooding in coastal areas many of our colleagues are wondering when it will all end.

The Conference Committee has secured Darren Morgan (Director VfM & Verification) from QldRA to come to the State Conference in October to talk about "value for money" relating to the flood work, and provide some "real life" case studies and lessons learned that will hopefully be of assistance.

On this note, the Conference program and registration is out and about and I encourage you to share the information with your staff and colleagues and register early. It is probably the most comprehensive program I have seen and covers many of the technical areas of local government and public works as well as some of the 'soft skills' we all need. I won't go into the detail as you can see it for yourself from the emails and on the website – or email Christine cwarme@ipweaq.asn.au for information.

This year marks our 40th anniversary which is a significant milestone. We are assembling information on our history and if anyone has

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IPWEAQ

Learning Together
Growing Together

40
YEARS

CEO's Column

President's Report

continued...

any historical information they would like to contribute, please contact Suzanna. I am looking forward to celebrating our 40th with many of you at our Branch Conferences and the State Conference – the Committee is keeping the detail to themselves but it will be great fun.

The Board held our Strategic Planning in January, with our main topic of discussion being how we can best provide products and services to all our members in the local government and public works sectors. Thanks to all of you who contributed to the survey. We will be working through this over coming months and will keep you informed.

IPWEAQ is preparing a submission to the Inquiry by the House of Representatives into the effect of FIFO and DIDO on regional areas and we would welcome any information or contributions you may have. We believe it is important that the impact, particularly from DIDO on our infrastructure needs highlighting, as well as the potential road safety issues. We are also looking to engage with the mining and gas sector to try and facilitate dialogue and develop technical standards to assist those of you in areas heavily impacted by these industries.

With the State election now over, and arguably the labour party also for a few years, we will be meeting with newly elected politicians and engaging with appropriate department heads over coming months. The imminent Council elections will no doubt also bring some changes for many of you and the need to build relationships with newly elected members.

I have put on another hat since Xmas having been elected by the National Board as Vice President. After two years in the role I will become the National President (assuming the board has not had enough of me before then). This will coincide with the end of my term as State President. It has been a while since we had a Queensland National President – Peter Taylor in fact – so some big boots to fill and a great opportunity for me at a personal level.

I look forward to seeing you in coming months at the branch conferences and the State Conference for a beer or three.

Warm regards,

Michael Kahler
President



Do you have on your running shoes? Well, if you don't you may get left behind! The year started at an awesome pace for us and it certainly shows

no sign of slowing down. From what I hear, you are no different – everyone is flat out. And no, I won't bore you with more marathon stories – except to say that you can think of me on 15th April when I will be on the starting line in Canberra. I said yesterday that I feel the best I have felt in years – after doing 35km on Saturday and then a recovery 7km on Sunday. Remember, you don't have to be as crazy as I am – just keep yourself healthy and fit and enjoy life: I am!!

So, why is it so busy? As I told you last time, we moved offices in December. It was a fairly painless exercise and everyone settled in quickly before the Xmas break. You must come and visit: our new offices are light and airy and we now have space for holding training programs and larger meetings.

Our Skills Development programs took off early and we have already held nine this year. Christine has developed a new format for letting you know what's coming up: please let her know if you like this format and if you'd like any other information. Remember, in-house programs are a great way to have your staff trained without leaving home – and more cost effective for you – and Christine can talk to you about options if you only have small numbers.

After many years of having our wonderful Gil Holmes and Helen Ramsay (Logan City Council) undertake the organising and administrative work of LOGOV Expo, this has now come to be an IPWEAQ function, with Adam Hain at the helm. Adam has launched himself into this task and already we have 80 exhibitors signed up. Foundation Trustee Ian Woodyard spotted our new home at Caboolture for LOGOV when visiting friends, and it is all shaping up nicely.

Logan City Council staff has provided an enormous amount of support for LOGOV over many years and is to be congratulated and thanked for a fantastic job and so well done: everyone including management, administrative and works staff. Moreton Bay Regional Council is delighted to take on the role of host and we now look forward to working with them.

We will again be organising buses and subsidised flights for staff to attend LOGOV. Contact Christine cwarne@ipweaq.asn.au if you are interested and she will send the criteria.

Did you know? All of the profits from LOGOV go towards the study tours, scholarships and endowments that the Foundation provides for IPWEAQ members. Congratulations to Graham Anderson from Townsville Regional Council on being awarded the Overseas Study Tour for 2012. As we go to press with this Bulletin we will be considering applications for the second round of scholarships: to INGENIUM New Zealand Conference, the IPWEAQ State Conference and the Asset Management Tour to New Zealand – check whether there's still time to apply!

Getting the State Conference program 'just right' has kept us busy and as Michael says you now have the information to commence the registration process. Share the brochure, register and come and join us for a few days of "learning together and growing together" – and having some fun in between. And don't miss our 40th BIRTHDAY PARTY!! Have a look at Christine's article in the Bulletin to learn more about the conference.

And if you can't get to the State Conference, please make sure you join us at one of the Branch Conferences this year so you can share in the celebrations: between us, I'm sure we can make it a landmark year! This will also be our opportunity to recognise and thank people who have made this Institute the great organisation it is today.

Please don't forget to make your contributions to our submission on FIFO and DIDO and also anything you would like to contribute on working with the resource industry: I'll be sending a 'quick question' out shortly once I've held initial meetings. Take care, stay well, and please be in touch if we can assist you in any way.

My personal warm wishes,

Suzanna, CEO

Hastings Deering



Platinum Corporate Partner of

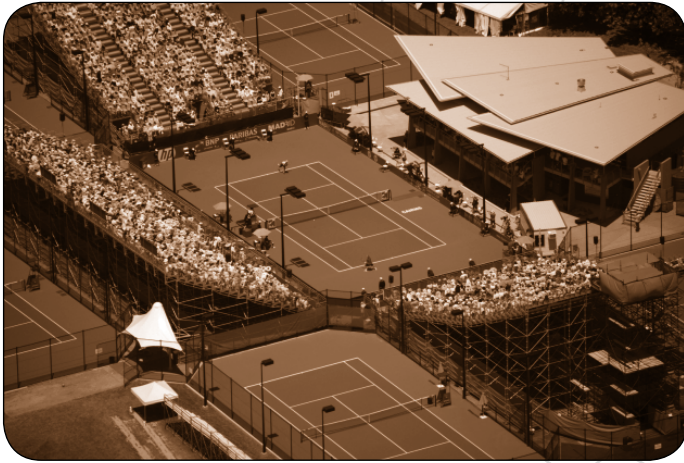


IPWEAQ Excellence Awards 2011

PROJECT AWARD WINNER

Cairns Regional Council – Cairns International Tennis Centre

**WINNER: Projects \$5-\$10 Million
– Highly Commended**



The Cairns International Tennis Centre is a state-of-the-art facility boasting 12 courts, including one show court, tennis club, pro shop and cafe. This allows Cairns to host international tournaments and gives residents and visitors access to world-class tennis facilities.

The Cairns International Tennis Centre serves as the only tennis facility in Far North Queensland built to International Tennis Federation standards. This facility enables Cairns to vie for hosting rights for national and international tennis tournaments.

The Centre is the first tennis facility in Australia, outside of a capital city, to utilise a 'plexicushion' playing surface. This material is the premier choice of tennis playing surface. 'Plexicushion' is a specially constructed, cushioned-acrylic surface that provides increased shock absorption hence reducing player leg and foot fatigue. 'Plexicushion' courts also ensure consistent bounce, sure-footing for the player and durability for the playing surface.

The layout of the facility has been designed to allow the construction of temporary grandstands which allow up to 3,000 spectators to watch matches on the main court, while still allowing for a sufficient number of warm-up and practice courts.

Consultation, planning, preliminary design and sourcing funds commenced in 2007.

The project took 11 months for detailed design and construction started in November 2009. The centre was officially opened in September 2010 at a cost of \$6.3 million.

PEOPLE AWARD WINNER

IPWEAQ WORKS SUPERVISOR 2011

Rob Bouchier

Somerset Regional Council



Charged with the responsibility to deliver Council's capital works program, Rob is a true leader. Rob is ultimately responsible for the outdoor workforce of Somerset Regional Council.

Rob has six Foremen who directly report to him for guidance and support. Rob displays a strong dedication and commitment to excellence. He works hard to improve quality in his own work and promotes quality awareness throughout his team. He consistently and carefully monitors his work to ensure its quality.

The work Rob produces is of high standard for accuracy, completeness and meanwhile promotes a culture of safety awareness throughout his team. He is also willing to receive feedback positively to improve his own performance.

His dedication and leadership were clearly demonstrated in the aftermath of the recent January 2011 floods which presented many challenges in getting essential public assets to get communities back on their feet. Rob was instrumental in achieving this outcome under very stressful circumstances.

IPWEAQ 2012 State Conference

Engineering Communities - Learning Together, Growing Together

IPWEAQ

Learning Together
Growing Together

40 YEARS

The IPWEAQ 2012 State Conference will be held at the Sheldon Convention & Entertainment Centre, Sheldon College (near Cleveland, Brisbane) on **Tuesday 9th – Friday 12th October 2012** and will feature the **IPWEAQ Road Safety Seminar** on Tuesday 9th October and **LOGOV Expo** for delegates on Wednesday 10th October.

Take a look at the **Conference Program** to find out what's in it for you: a range of technical and interest papers, keynote speakers, LOGOV Expo, a social program extravaganza and more than 40 exhibitors participating this year.

Our social programs include: Welcome Function (sponsored by Komatsu); Our Sporting Legends Dinner (sponsored by Hastings Deering) to include some fun activities such as a mechanical

bull, slam dunk bungee, mechanical surfboard and gumboot throwing; Little Ship Club Dinner at Stradbroke Island (sponsored by AECOM); and Excellence Awards Gala 40th Anniversary Dinner (sponsored by Tyco Water) so come on and join the party!

This year is IPWEAQ's 40th birthday and we are celebrating throughout the year at our branch conferences and state conference.

*Be an Early Bird and **Register Now** by downloading the Registration Form and Conference Program at www.ipwea.org.au/Queensland*

Proudly sponsored by:

tyco
Water

Hastings Deering



KOMATSU AECOM

IPWEAQ Celebrates 40 years!

The Inaugural Meeting of the Local Government Engineers' Association of Queensland was held at Southport on 2nd October 1972.

This formed the beginning of a structure for what became IPWEAQ and in 2012 we not only celebrate our 40 year birthday in October but all year round!

We will be making this a "party" year for all our members, colleagues and friends. To do this in style, we will need your assistance to provide information, photographs, history, impressions, goss, laughter, tears (not too much of that, please) – anything you can provide that reflects the road we have travelled.

Please send anything you have to Suzanna – Sbarnes-Gillard@ipweaq.asn.au

Look out for the party theme at all of our Branch Conferences this year, and of course at the State Conference!

LET'S PARTY!!



HOSTING AN IPWEAQ STATE CONFERENCE

Every "other" year we hold our State Conference outside of Brisbane – that is in the "odd" year: 2013. Have you thought your Council may like to be the host, but wonder how much work there is?

Well these days, we do it all! There are a few requirements though and they are mainly around what you have locally. Now, that's not so bad, is it? What do we require? Our main criteria are the venue and accommodation, and of course golf, and the rest seems to fall into place. What do we need?

- Plenary room (which can double as a break-out)
- Break out rooms – one for a standard session (say 90 people), one for a workshop (say 30 people)
- Exhibitor space – also where we have catering: in 2012 we have space for 54 exhibitors (and will most likely achieve at least this).

In the past we have used basketball courts, PCYC venues, Shire Halls ... so you can think outside of the square. And we need a 240 seat venue for our Excellence Awards Dinner. Accommodation: we need about 150 rooms for Monday night to Saturday, and people may stay the weekend.

What do we do? We'll look after all the paperwork, finances, speakers, program: in fact pretty well everything.

What would we like you to do? Suggest the venue, be on the Conference Committee for consulting on local attractions and assist with putting together an interesting Accompanying Persons Tour.

The Conference brings in significant income to the local community through venue, catering, accommodation, tours, golf, delegates spending ... and so it goes on.

Interested? Contact Christine: cwarne@ipweaq.asn.au

Introducing IPWEAQ New Corporate Partners

MAJOR CORPORATE PARTNER

SRS ROADS PTY LTD

SRS Roads is a leader in the contract services industry within Australia. We specialise in the supply and application of modified bitumen, sprayed sealing applications, waterproof membranes for bridge decks and specialised asphalt placement. Established in 1993 and operating out of premises in Camellia, N.S.W., the company has now expanded to accommodate a growing customer base with operations in Brisbane and Port Macquarie.



SRS Roads have developed purpose built equipment including Bitumen Sprayers, Seal Coat Sprayers, Automatic Cockerel Boxes, Rollers and Crack Sealing Equipment for the successful application of SRS Roads numerous products.

Crews consist of highly experienced operators who have been fully trained on the requirements for the successful application of all our products, and to ensure each site is managed safely with minimal disruption to ratepayers and the public.

CONTRIBUTING CORPORATE PARTNERS

URETEK GROUND ENGINEERING

Uretek advanced ground engineering solves problems with houses, factories and other on-ground structures. The Uretek Method is a unique and patented ground engineering system to solve building and construction problems.



Uretek Ground Engineering utilises expanding structural resins injected through very small holes in order to raise and re-level buildings, floors and roads etc. Uretek Deep-Injection is used to compact and strengthen foundation ground under building footings and pavements such as roads, airstrips and so forth. Uretek raise, relevel & resupport sunken homes, floors, roads, factories, warehouses, driveways, airports, seaports, railway bridges and platforms and many other built structures and pavements.

ELASTO PLASTIC CONCRETE

Elasto Plastic Concrete (EPC) is the leading global supplier of structural synthetic fibre reinforcement for concrete and shotcrete. EPC's revolutionary BarChip fibres are used as reinforcement in concrete and shotcrete, replacing welded wire mesh and steel fibres.



EPC's BarChip synthetic fibres reduce overall reinforcement costs, reduce concrete cycle time, increase toughness performance and most importantly increase the durability of concrete assets.

EPC is an organization focussed on providing our customers the highest level of technical and application support. Our team of engineering, concrete and plastics specialist continually redefine the limits of synthetic fibre technology, delivering unmatched performance and usability to EPC clients around the world. EPC supplies BarChip synthetic fibre reinforcement into every major construction sector and for all types of projects. We've built our

reputation on the strength of our people and on our products which have been tried and tested by major corporations and engineering experts worldwide.

EPC is proud to be associated with some of the world's largest construction and engineering firms, which include BHP Billiton, Rio Tinto, Xstrata, Cemex, Boral, Hanson, Thiess, Acciona, Bilfinger Berger, Downer Engineering, Barrick and many more.

For more information about the benefits of BarChip structural fibre reinforcement visit <http://www.elastoplastic.com>.

MULTITRODE

MultiTrode designs and manufactures pump station controllers, pump station supervisors, liquid level sensors, SCADA software and web-based monitoring and control. MultiTrode is an Australian owned, ISO9001:2000 company, with offices in Australia, USA, and the United Kingdom. We have delivered technically advanced yet simple to use solutions to municipal water and wastewater authorities around the world for almost twenty six years.



MultiTrode continues to develop technically advanced products and systems. Our team of highly qualified R&D engineer's design and develop products that are focused on making the job easier for operations staff and municipal management. Our team of project and technical support engineers deploy SCADA projects in the water industry across the USA, UK, and Australia. MultiTrode business is multi-disciplined software engineering group that provides a complete suite of engineered products, services and solutions, specialising in:

- Engineering Design Services
- Process Control and Automation Systems
- Telemetry and SCADA Systems
- Project Management and Turnkey Project Delivery
- Small Panel Design and assembly
- Electrical Installation, Commissioning and Lifecycle Support
- Drafting Services(if required)
- Access to other Engineering resources from the UK & USA offices to compliment own skill-sets in Australia

WAGNERS COMPOSITE FIBRE TECHNOLOGIES

Wagners CFT have supplied pedestrian structures across Australia from the sweltering tropics to the burning deserts. Our CFT structures are uniquely suited to withstand the harshest environments while providing a low maintenance, long life asset. Wagners CFT is not susceptible to durability issues from which timber and steel suffer, for example termite attack, borers, decay or corrosion.



Wagners CFT is perfect for coastal, marine and environmentally sensitive areas, from tidal flood plains and protected mangrove swamps to alkaline desert and corrosive mining facilities. Our CFT piles can also be driven to set directly into the ground, resulting in a vastly reduced installation time and environmental impact. Where aesthetics are important, our structures can be custom designed to fit colour, treading and other safety and appearance specifications. With our full in-house design and certification team,

Wagners CFT will work closely with your staff to deliver an asset that will provide decades of low maintenance service.

Across Australia, public sector asset managers are being told to do more with less

In November 2010, a group of 25 asset management representatives from across Australia embarked on a study tour that took us to some of the New Zealand councils identified as being at the cutting edge of asset management. The tour was organised by IPWEA/NAMS.AU and included a mix of professions dispelling the age-old theory that asset management is only for engineers.

Why New Zealand?

New Zealand are one of the world leaders in public sector asset management for two key reasons. Firstly, their debt management is paramount. The past decade has seen the country embrace asset management of its infrastructure in a compliance-driven manner.

Secondly, New Zealand is the only country in the world that currently has asset management audit requirements. Audit NZ has taken a proactive role in championing good asset management practices, and fostering an environment that encourages further improvements.

The tour provided us with many insights, including:

- How to successfully consult/ engage the community to establish and report on levels of service
- How to successfully integrate risk management practices into asset management
- How to question the “right level of asset management”, whether all authorities should aim for advanced asset management and is that level applicable for all assets?

We believe the six factors that are critical to the success of asset management in New Zealand are:

- Executive leadership – an organisation’s size and complexity has little relevance to the advancement of its asset management practices. Rather, it is the active involvement and support of the executive team in the process that is most critical.



Andrea Jeynes
Cairns Regional Council



Stacey Lee
Gold Coast City Council

- Long-term commitment – making asset management a fundamental part of the organisation’s culture takes time. An asset management framework enables a consistent approach to be taken and provides the avenue for continuous improvements to practices.
- Involving councillors – it is only when they actively embrace asset management practices that they can make responsible investment decisions that support long-term sustainability of the infrastructure under their stewardship.
- Integrating multiple disciplines – to effectively achieve the organisation’s asset management objectives, it is essential that all parts of the business are actively involved.
- Quality asset data – all of the councils we visited recognised that maintaining current, accurate data was imperative to decision making, and had ensured that processes for regular asset data collection and update were implemented.
- Agreed levels of service – Audit NZ highlighted that the best at managing their assets “recognised that levels of service are at the absolute heart of good asset management”. Through their Long Term Plans, NZ councils set out the services and activities they intend to provide, the levels of service the community can expect and the corresponding planned capital and maintenance expenditure.
- Innovation – the ongoing development of new and innovative elements has been core to the success of continuous improvement of asset management.

Resulting work

The learning opportunities in NZ were endless and we all come away with a strong understanding of the “key ingredients” based on “real life” examples of what well implemented Asset Management looked like. This increased confidence in asset management is now helping to guide ongoing improvements in our own organisations.

Authors’ biographies

At the time of her visit to New Zealand, Andrea Jeynes was the Project Manager for Asset Management Planning at Cairns Regional Council. She now works in Corporate Projects and recently managed development of a business continuity plan for cyclonic events, with over 70 action plans for the services provided by council.

Stacey Lee is the Community Services Asset Management Coordinator at Gold Coast City Council. She is responsible for steering the implementation of asset management practices across a diverse portfolio of community and recreation assets.

Contributing
Corporate
Partners of



Career Development Programs

IPWEAQ training programs are available for in-house and regional delivery. For a one-off cost, a Council may host the training and invite adjoining Councils to participate. The savings are worthwhile, both in time and cost of travel and accommodation, and may allow Councils to have more staff participate than would otherwise be possible. If you are interested in any of these programs, email Christine Warne cwarne@ipweaq.asn.au, phone 07 3632 6801 or go to our website www.ipwea.org.au/ Queensland - **Get a quote for your council today!**

Complete Streets Training Workshop

Construction Law

Disability Access Training

e-Learning Leadership modules

Effective Management of Bridges and Culverts

- 5 June – Bundaberg
- 6 June - Brisbane

Erosion & Sediment Control - Level 1

Erosion & Sediment Control - Level 2

Investigation & Treatment of Crash Locations

- 1-2 August - Brisbane

Leadership in Practice (Supervisors and Graduates)

Masterclass: Executive Development - Improving Performance & Productivity

Native Title & Cultural Heritage Compliance for Infrastructure Projects

- 18 April – Warwick
- 1 May – Townsville (in-house)

Powers & Responsibilities of the Local Government - Water

Powers & Responsibilities for Public Infrastructure

- 20 April – Toowoomba (in-house)
- 8 May - Townsville

Priority Infrastructure Plan

- 9 May - Townsville

Supervisors Workshop

- 20-21 June - Brisbane

Sustainable Planning Act & Development Assessment

- 10 May - Townsville

Road Safety Audits

- 29-30 May - Brisbane

Road Safety Audit Refresher Course

- 31 May - Brisbane

Speak with a Thinking Mind

Unsealed Roads

Women in Government, Industry and Education

IPWEAQ Conferences

SW Branch Conference - Toowoomba

3-4 May 2012

NQ Branch Conference - Charters Towers

16-18 May 2012

CQ Branch Conference - Bargara

14-16 June 2012

SEQ Branch Conference - Gold Coast

22 June 2012

IPWEAQ 2012 State Conference - Sheldon, Brisbane

9-12 October 2012

Engicom Technical Products Updates

Standard Drawings

Changes have been made to the Standard Drawings pages on the Engicom website. Previously we had IPWEAQ drawings which were almost 16 years old as well as the current and updated drawings entitled SEQ Drawings. We came to realise a genuine consensus that the SEQ drawings were only good for SEQ, unfortunate given the amount of time and upkeep given to them by our steering committee. This lead us to believe that councils were stipulating the use of the old IPWEAQ drawings, drawings that hadn't been touched in over a decade.

All drawings have now been reviewed and correlated and are all found under their generic titles e.g. Drainage, Roads, Water by Design etc. Very soon all the title blocks on each drawing will

also be changed to for example, DS-0011 representing Drainage Standard with the number remaining the same. We hope that this will brand our drawings as comprehensive to the whole state or even nationally as we see more subscribers from across Australia.

ADAC

The consortium will meet again on 26th April to finalise the next version updates. These updates have been in the making now for over six months with feedback from water utilities and WSAA members, Queensland Motorways and our own current and new member councils. Discussions will also evolve around potential updates to the schema being conducted by private vendors. We endeavour to ensure the longevity of the product by sidestepping council volunteer issues.



Around the Branches

South East Queensland Branch

I want to take this opportunity to do some advertising. First is to remind you that you should have received an email invitation from Jason asking you to express an interest in our inaugural IPWEAQ SEQ Networking Dinner on 24 April. The details are not yet firm as they will depend on how many can attend. Can I encourage you to consider supporting this event? The team on the Sunshine Coast are taking the lead on providing a great opportunity for some learning and socialising. Non-members will be welcome, so it is also an opportunity to promote IPWEAQ to your colleagues.



Secondly, the branch half-year conference will be held on the Gold Coast on 22 June. The venue will be the Bond University Campus. There will be more information coming out soon on this so watch for the emails and start planning to attend. It may be a good chance to treat the family to a weekend on the coast following the conference.

The other big news event recently has been the release of the final report of Queensland Floods Commission of Enquiry. At the time of preparing these notes most organisations were still analysing the multitude of recommendations that effect local government and the engineering fraternity. There is a lot of information in the report and transcripts, not to mention a lot of recommendations. It is important for us to maintain an evidence based and technologically sound approach to considering and implementing any changes that result.

I hope that you and your families and loved ones have an enjoyable break over the easter period.

Stewart Wall

Branch President: Stewart Wall
Logan City Council
Ph: 07 3412 5259
E: StewartWall@logan.qld.gov.au

Branch Secretary: Jason Deller
Sunshine Coast Regional Council
Ph: 07 5441 9369
E: Jason.deller@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

North Queensland Branch

I trust members have enjoyed the annual wet which allows us to spend time with our families.

Plans for the annual branch conference to be held at Charters Towers 16 – 18 May are well under way and nominations are out. I hope to see you all there.

This year we see significant effort required from the regions Local and State Government in performing infrastructure restoration with the road network requiring over \$600M reconstruction works. This in addition to the damage caused by the current wet season. These works will provide a significant injection into local and regional centres with the need to use contractors. Maybe our new Government may be able to address the Day Labour issue for the small regional centres who previously employed resources to perform NDRRA works. We all know this is a more cost effective approach.



Don't forget to support your branch through attending our branch conference and sharing or experiencing yours and others successes and knowledge.

Matt Fanning

Branch President: Matt Fanning
Department of Transport and Main Roads
Ph: 0400934836
Email: matt.g.fanning@tmr.qld.gov.au

Branch Secretary: Colin Gray
Hinčinbrook Shire Council
Ph: 07 4776 4600
Email: CGray@hinčinbrook.qld.gov.au

Central Queensland Branch

Of significance to the region since my last report, is the ongoing declaration of Natural Disaster events for part of the region due to storms in January and February. As I write this report, a tropical low sitting in the Central West linked to a trough in the Rockhampton region is continuing to deliver significant rainfall from Cairns to the Central Coast and is forecast to move further south. These continued events, whilst injecting potentially billions of dollars into the agricultural industry in Central and Western Queensland, will no doubt be impacting on the workloads of our local authority members.

Another ongoing impact on our members is the demand placed on public infrastructure by the development of the resources sector across many regions of the State, particularly the Bowen and Galilee Basins in our region. Also of substantial significance are the multi billion dollar Gladstone LNG projects that will add to the demands on our members and the services that we as public works professionals provide to the community. Whilst the Natural Disaster events and the development of the resource sector provide excellent job opportunities for the engineering sector, it also places significant demands on those involved, particularly those working in Local Government. On top of this, the state of play of politics in Queensland is very fluid with the result of the State Election confirmed by the time my report is printed and with potentially significant changes in Local Government. It is my understanding that as many as 20 of the 73 Mayors are not seeking re-election. I believe that this comes as a direct result of the increased responsibility and workload thrust upon Mayors (and Councillors) following the amalgamation of Councils four years ago. The flow-on effect in terms of workload, security of employment and well being of our members is significant and no doubt flows through to job satisfaction.

Given the significant growth in the resources sector in our region, it is fitting that the host of our 2012 Central Queensland Conference, Bundaberg Regional Council, has selected as the Conference theme "Central Queensland – Positioning for Prosperity - The Challenges". Our conference will be held in Bargara from 14 to 16 June 2012. I strongly encourage members to support the conference, particularly those who have joined the Central Region from the SEQ Branch and those from the Fraser Coast and North Burnett Council areas. I also encourage existing members to promote the benefits of being a member of IPWEAQ and encourage you to invite non members along to the conference.

Branch President: Graeme Wills
George Bourne & Associates
Consulting Civil Engineers
Ph: 07 4651 2177

Branch Secretary: Murray Donald
Wide Bay Water Corporation
Ph. 0429 900 765
Email: murrayd@widebaywater.qld.gov.au



South West Queensland Branch

I'm sure we've all had a busy time leading up to Council elections, the customer requests seem to triple during these periods! It's great to hear some stories of flood restoration works being progressed around the Councils', and some work getting done out on the ground. Both Councils' and communities have waited a long time for approval of the works, so it is a relief to see the infrastructure being repaired. I'm sure this is keeping everyone busy, and will do for some time.

Make sure you take time out to come to the branch conference being hosted by Toowoomba Regional Council, themed "From Flood Recovery to Range Crossing". It's a two day program, so be sure to check the events for both Thursday 3rd May and Friday 4th May. The organisers have put together a great program, with opportunities to not only hear from your fellow council officers on projects they've been working on, but also some interactive sessions with both the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, and the Road Alliance Group. We'll also be hearing from some consultants and professionals in the engineering field for items that affect us both personally and professionally. Of course the conference will conclude with site visits, and a conference dinner and charity auction on the Friday night. Looking forward to seeing you all there.

Regards
Seren McKenzie

Branch President: Seren McKenzie
Scenic Rim Regional Council
Ph: 07 5540 5176
Email: seren.m@scenicrim.qld.gov.au

Branch Secretary: Craig Heck
Scenic Rim Regional Council
Ph: 07 5540 5420
Email: Craig.H@scenicrim.qld.gov.au



Building blocks for safety under harmonised laws



A new legal framework governing workplace health and safety requirements in Queensland commenced on 1 January this year. McCullough Robertson Partner, Cameron Dean outlines how these changes will directly affect the construction industry.

Many people are still coming to grips with the recent changes to Queensland's safety laws, especially given the requirements for compliance and the wide range of potentially unsafe activities that can occur in the construction industry.

The key components of the framework are the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (Qld), together with its Regulation and underpinning Codes of Practice. A range of new and amended Codes of Practice must be considered and many other matters directly affecting construction work are prescribed by regulation, including important changes about the appointment and responsibilities of principal contractors. Unfortunately, no period of grace has been approved for the implementation of the new legislation. Therefore the challenge of meeting compliance must be met, noting that significant penalties may be imposed if you fail to meet your obligations.

Obligations under the new laws are owed by, among others, a 'person conducting a business or undertaking' (**PCBU**). A PCBU is any business or undertaking that is performed, regardless of whether it is conducted by a person working alone (e.g. a subcontractor working as a sole trader) or with others.

It is also important to note that obligations are also owed by workers themselves. The new legislation contains an expanded definition of who a 'worker' is. A worker is now defined to include not only employees, but also contractors, subcontractors, outworkers, apprentices, trainees, work experience students and even volunteers.

The duties owed by a PCBU include a general duty to ensure the safety of workers and others who may be affected by the business or undertaking. The number and type of duties owed at any given

time will depend on the activities you carry out, including specific requirements for principal contractors.

Duties will also be owed towards people who are not workers, but who may be affected by the business or undertaking, such as visitors to the site who might turn up unannounced and even to trespassers. Aside from the PCBU duties, each 'officer' within a PCBU is required to exercise due diligence to ensure that the PCBU discharges its work health and safety responsibilities. Meeting compliance with the due diligence obligation means attention must be given to all aspects in order to make out a defence in the event that an incident occurs.

The new standard required for ensuring safety is that it is to a 'reasonably practicable' standard; however this should not encourage complacency. The standard is still very high and will require continued vigilance when considering workplace health and safety issues. There are now tougher penalties for breaches of work health and safety obligations by PCBUs (including principal contractors), officers and individuals. In a worst case scenario, an officer could face up to 5 years imprisonment or a \$600,000 penalty, and an incorporated entity could face a penalty up to \$3,000,000.

While there are many matters that remain consistent with previous obligations, there are important changes as well as some new obligations imposed. In light of the new legislation, it is strongly recommended that an audit be conducted to ensure that existing safety measures are up to scratch and that contractual arrangements properly reflect the new requirements.

At the end of the day, no-one in the construction industry would argue against the importance of managing safety, regardless of legislation requiring this to be done. However, the increased penalties and the new due diligence requirements for officers mean that there is now a stronger incentive for everyone involved in construction projects to take a more hands on approach towards managing safety issues to ensure that workers, and others who may be affected, are kept safe from harm.

Cameron Dean
McCullough Robertson Lawyers

Transport and Main Roads UPDATE

2012 Technology Forum!

TMR's biggest annual event is back bigger than ever this year! Titled 'Delivering transport solutions in response to community needs' the forum is being held at the Brisbane Convention Centre from 28 - 30 August.

On site safety

Back in 2010, TMR's 'Review of Reduced Speed Zones at Roadwork Sites' project identified that the department needed to improve the credibility of roadwork signage to ensure safety of road workers and road users.

Implementation began in May 2011 which has seen a state wide rollout of activities,

including detailed briefing sessions for site teams and improving the information and tools provided to staff that highlight the importance of roadwork signage.

The department has been working closely with Workplace Health and Safety, Queensland Police Service and industry in delivering the project activities and has already received excellent feedback. Plans are in place for further review in 2013.

Warrego Highway Upgrade

The Warrego Highway Upgrade was announced in February which will see the construction of the Toowoomba bypass, extra overtaking lanes, upgraded

intersections and widened sections of road.

The Warrego carries more than 23000 vehicles between Ipswich and Toowoomba and over 5000 vehicles between Oakey and Dalby each day. With these numbers expected to double in the next 20 years, the plan (which has been developed to 2031 and beyond) aims to meet the current and future needs while ensuring improved safety, capacity, efficiency and flood immunity.



Regards,
Ross Guppy

Best of the Best and Water Taste Test



The quest to find the best tasting tap water in Queensland is progressing well with two regional winners of the Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test now confirmed.

North Burnett Regional Council's Eidsvold scheme earned them bragging rights in the South East corner after a tough competition against Bundaberg Regional Council, Gympie Regional Council, Unitywater, Queensland Urban Utilities, Wide Bay Water and Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council.

Recent floods in the South West area reduced the number of entries in this region, but Toowoomba Regional Council still earned their place in the race after knocking Balonne and Murweh Shire Councils out of the competition.

Designed to stir up some friendly rivalry between our members, the aim of the competition is also to bring our regional members together to network and talk about issues affecting our industry and how best we can manage these.

The quest continues with four more regional finals in the pipeline before the finals to be decided at the Water Industry Operators Association (WIOA) Conference on the Gold Coast on 7 June. **qldwater** will pay for flights and accommodation for one representative of each regional winner to attend the finals.

Other regional titles still to be decided include:

- 12 April - CQ Taste Test and Mini-conference, Emerald.
- 30 April - WQ Taste Test and Mini-conference, Longreach
- 4 May - NQ Taste Test and Mini-conference, Bowen.
- 24 May 24 - FNQ Taste Test and Mini-conference, Cairns.

For more information about events in your region, please visit our website at http://www.qldwater.com.au/Water_Taste_Test/

Water Connections Tour week

qldwater's Water Connections Week is a five-day intensive tour visiting eight remote and regional councils to tour their water, sewerage and treatment plant infrastructure with the aim to help plan future water infrastructure and management needs within each council region.

The tour provides valuable face-to-face opportunities for remote and regional Service Providers to gain access to up-to-date technical and policy information from water specialists and government representatives, and to look for possible regional collaboration initiatives.

The tour also provides first-hand opportunities for tour participants to explore and understand issues facing remote and regional communities. Past participants have used the opportunity to discuss current issues and ongoing directions for the industry.

The 2012 Water Connections Week heads back to North Queensland from 30 April to 4 May and will include a regional mini-conference and taste test semi-finals on the first and last days of the tour.

The 2012 itinerary includes:

- Day 1. Monday 30/4/2012 - Longreach - CQ West taste test and mini-conference.
- Day 2. Tuesday 1/5/2012 - Croydon and Etheridge Water Connections Tour.
- Day 3. Wednesday 2/5/2012 - Cook and Wujal Wujal Water Connections Tour.
- Day 4. Thursday 3/5/2012 - Cassowary Coast and Burdekin Water Connections Tour.
- Day 5. Friday 4/5/2012 - Whitsunday - NQ taste test and mini-conference.

For enquiries, contact Heather Gold at **qldwater** on 07 3000 2279.

Q-WRAP Queensland Water Regional Alliances Program

Assisting and promoting regional collaboration is a primary function of **qldwater**. Regional collaboration was called into focus strongly in early 2011 with the release of national reviews of the urban water industry which were critical of Queensland and NSW water industries. For example, the Productivity Commission called for Queensland and NSW State Governments to review institutional arrangements to seek greater economies of scale for water service providers.

LGAQ responded by proposing the Q-WRAP Program, an industry-led review of potential collaborative arrangements and was successful in gaining support and funding from the State until 2012. The aim of Q-WRAP is to determine the risks and benefits of different collaboration models in three pilot regions in Queensland and **qldwater** was appointed by LGAQ as the program manager.

The program is progressing well despite a late start and some complications caused by State and Local Government elections. Three pilot regions have 'self-selected' to participate in the program.

The two initial pilot groups are six of the councils serviced by the Remote Area Planning and Development Board (RAPAD) and several of the councils in the FNQ Regional Organisation of Councils (FNQRoC). These pilot regions are progressing through an industry-designed analysis of water and sewerage management as part of a process to identify risks and gaps across the regions. A second stage will involve assessing the potential impact of other institutional models on identified risks and gaps.

The third group based in the eastern Central Queensland commenced later than the first two pilot groups and is still developing the processes for participation in the program subject to council decisions following the local government elections. Although Q-WRAP is a two year investigative program, benefits from collaboration in the short term are also being investigated.

The Notice Board

Our Farewell to Kevin Barry

Kevin Barry, a long time member of IPWEAQ South East Queensland has recently passed away.

Our condolences to his family.

Lawyers
**McCullough
Robertson**

12th Annual Construction Law Conference

Mercure Capricorn Resort, Yeppoon
6-7 September 2012

Email: enquiries@mccullough.com.au

Value Adding to Your Worth

It is acknowledged that by enhancing a person's knowledge and capabilities, they can become a much more valuable participant in that sector, and more likely to be sought after when vacancies and promotions are come about. Helping individuals in this respect is the Centre for Pavement Engineering Education (CPEE), a specialist dedicated entity strongly supported by Austroads and IPWEA, that is tasked with providing enhanced education and training for those involved in the roads and pavements sector.

Whilst its unique Distance Education post graduate programs are the backbone of CPEE offerings, its targeted short courses are generating big interest and attendances wherever they are held, often to the point of "house full" outcomes. This year, Queensland will benefit even more than normal with some of the Courses being presented in the Regions as well as in Brisbane.

Two of CPEEs most well attended two day CPEE Courses, are being presented in the coming months, in Cairns and Ipswich as well as in Brisbane.

Maintenance and rehabilitation is the focus in the Regions, with the courses being very practical in content and presentations aimed at improving understanding and practical capability to help public works staff be even better equipped for their roles. The Brisbane Courses are on Pavement Design, again being presented in the first half of the year due to demand, and the annual and very high in demand Road & Public Space Lighting.

Americans Look To Infrastructure

Infrastructure is a boring word, according to a recent article in *TIME*, which also outlined how it is nevertheless gaining currency at the highest levels of American government. As the US grapples with economic woes and job losses at the same time as many roads, pipes and power grids are crumbling, infrastructure is increasingly being mentioned as at least a partial solution. After enjoying decades of unbridled spending on think-big projects, Americans are now using phrases that would sound right at home at an INGENIUM Conference – focusing on renewal that is smarter, cheaper and sustainable.

The article highlights innovation, such as Philadelphia's solution to its aging combined sewer system that dumps raw sewage into local rivers during heavy rain. Instead of a proposed \$9 billion dollar storage tunnel, the city has used incentives to keep storm water out of the sewers with rain barrels and green roofs to collect runoff, permeable green roads and more trees and parks, all backed by new building regulations and tax credits for property owners.

The article details how smart building American-style relies on reducing demand, creativity over concrete and private solutions (such as Philadelphia's incentives). To read the article in full, go to <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,2094362,00.html>

4/43-49 Sandgate Road
ALBION QLD 4010
PO Box 2100
Fortitude Valley BC QLD 4006

P: 07 3632 6800

F: 07 3632 6899

E: info@ipweaq.asn.au
W: www.ipwea.org.au/qld

