

IPWEA NSW DIVISION

ANNUAL REPORT

1 JULY 2006 TO 30 JUNE 2007



Institute of
Public Works
Engineering
Australia
(NSW Division)





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IPWEA NSW Board of Management at 30 June 2007

President	John Truman (Ballina Shire Council)
Vice President	Greg Moran (Inverell Shire Council)

Members

David Abbott	(Consultant)
Wayne Cone	(Maitland City Council)
Murray Erbs	(Moree Plains Shire Council)
Matthew Fanning	(Ballina Shire Council)
Ken Halstead	(UTS)
Gary Murphy	(Richmond Valley Council)
Gary Woodman	(Singleton Council)

IPWEA NSW Staff

Mark Turner	Executive Manager & Company Secretary
Caitlin Williams	Professional Development & Conference Manager
Vivian Zakhary	Events Coordinator
Kapil Sharma	Finance & Administration Manager
Mick Savage	Roads & Transport Directorate Manager
Awaiting appointment	Road Safety Project Manager
Awaiting appointment	Road Safety Project Officer
Lita Somogyi	Personal Assistant & Membership

President's Report



This year has been another year of strong performance and achievement for your Institute as we continued to consolidate our financial position, strengthen our partnerships, embed elements of our strategic planning objectives, provide leadership to the sector and deliver a range of interesting events and activities for members.

Last year I reported that I believed as an Institute we had achieved a significant boost in the awareness amongst the broader industry sector of the capacity of IPWEA. This year I am pleased to report that our proactive efforts has seen this awareness extended further and our leadership in some key areas recognised and sought by important industry influences.

This has been achieved through a variety of mechanisms. For example, our contributions to the strengthening Local Government Taskforce and the Infrastructure Taskforce were critical in shaping the outcomes produced by those forums. Whilst our leadership in asset management practice has previously been acknowledged, it was pleasing for me to see IPWEA actively pursued to assist across a broad range of issues and that we have the capacity to respond to such requests.

A real highlight this year was the success of establishing a new, improved version of CivEnEx. The report elsewhere in these papers will describe this event in more detail. However, the new venue has seen us receive very favourable reactions from visitors and exhibitors. One of the things we set out to achieve was to make the event fun, a place for people to want to be at. We did achieve that goal and I can tell you that in our planning for 2008 we are already seeking to advance further both the exhibition and the ability to enjoy the event through its form and associated activities.

Another highlight for this reporting period was an inaugural event, being a meeting of the Group Chairs & Secretaries from across the State. We have identified a strategic objective to further develop the capacity of the regional groups given they are so vital to our success. The meeting was one of the initiatives attempted to support achieving this objective and allowed the Board and group representatives to share information and discuss opportunities for the future. One pleasing outcome is that a concerted effort towards some more dormant groups to become more active has yielded a result, and in one case a regional meeting was hosted for the first time in several years.

Our financial position for the period is described in detail through these papers. However, in summary, I am pleased to report a further consolidation of our financial position. Whilst the years of struggle are slowly being further condemned to history, they are not out of our mind as an acute reminder of the professional financial management that is needed to ensure our further and ongoing success.

With the retained equity position meeting our target, the Board has been transferring significant contributions to the Foundation. One of the reasons this is done is to make the funds available to members for a wide range of activities. I regularly appeal to members to bring forward their ideas for using these funds. However, I continue to be disappointed with the amount of enquiry. We will consider further how we communicate in 2007/2008 in regard to the opportunities that the Foundation presents as we seek to award endowments that best suit the needs of all within the industry.

The Roads Directorate has completed another successful year and is now firmly established as a viable and important service to Councils. The Directorate's Congress was a highlight in our calendar last year. Our plans for next year are CivEnEx even more exciting with the decision to combine the Congress with our State Division Conference offering new opportunities for both events.

During the reporting period we farewelled some of our staff as they moved onto new phases of their professional or personal lives. We have of course extended, on your behalf, our best wishes to Chris, Caitlin, Jacqui and Jane. Given these departures and some other opportunities we are pursuing, we are currently reviewing the market and the organisation structure to ensure the arrangement of our resources reflects the best fit to our current and future needs.

In closing, I would like to express my appreciation to all of you who voluntarily give of your time to support or contribute to the many IPWEA activities. Without your contribution and efforts we could not enjoy the success that I believe has continued throughout 2006/2007.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Truman".

John Truman
President

Executive Manager's Report

I commenced as Executive Manager with IPWEA (NSW) in January 2007. I am thankful to Chris Little and the Board for helping me into this role. There have been changes in staff with resignations from Jacqui Clarke, Caitlin Williams and Jane Pollard. The shortage of skilled people meant that appointments to these vacated positions were difficult. At the time of writing this, the two Road Safety positions have been filled by Paul Riley and Sue Baker, while the role of Professional Development is still under review. Notwithstanding these changes 2006/2007 has been a good year.

Support for the Professional Development program improved on 2005/06, numbers were down for the Annual Conference but the quality of the Papers and subjects covered were excellent.

CivEnEx moved to a new home at Western Sydney International Dragway (WSID). The move was successful. Exhibitors commented on the quality and quantity of visitors. I expect to negotiate a long-term arrangement to keep CivEnEx at WSD and maintaining its pre-eminence as the leading Civil Engineering Field Day.

IPWEA (NSW) continued to respond, on behalf of its members, to emerging issues in Local Government. In particular IPWEA made substantial submissions to two position papers emanating from the Department of Local Government: "A New Direction for Local Government"; and "Planning a sustainable future". The Department also released a paper on Asset Management Planning to which we lent our strong support.

One of the challenges of my new role is to encourage the work of our regional groups and re-establish groups which had not met for some time. I enjoy attending Regional Group meetings and was pleased to see that the South East Group reconvened with the support of the Foundation.

I thank my team for their continuing hard work: Kapil, Mick, Lita, Vivian and our new arrivals, Paul and Sue. I thank Caitlin, Jacqui and Jane and Jimena (although now no longer with IPWEA) for their contribution to the success of IPWEA.

I look forward to the year ahead to build on the solid structure of IPWEA (NSW).



Mark Turner
Executive Manager



Financial Report

The financial position of IPWEA (NSW) and the NSW Foundation remains strong following a sound trading performance. IPWEA (NSW) has been able to improve its retained earnings (net assets) to \$461,000. This is in line with Board objectives to increase working capital in line with inflation. The solid asset base of the NSW Foundation should enable it to deliver a sustainable program of endowments, scholarships and programs to members.

In 2006/2007, the company, IPWEA (NSW) achieved an operating surplus of \$60,080 after tax and a donation of \$130,000 to Foundation.

CivEnEx provided a 22% lift in contribution to the surplus. An improvement in revenue from Professional Development was offset by higher costs. Despite lower registrations the Conference provided a modest surplus.

Summary Financial Performance

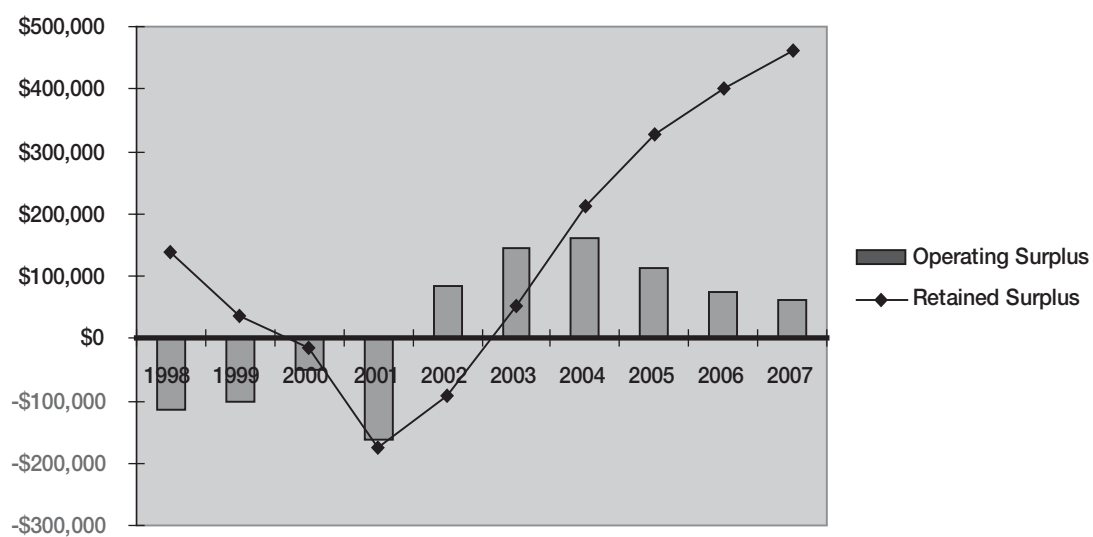
Full details of the Institute's finances are set out in the Auditors Reports however key result areas for the year are as follows:

IPWEA (NSW Division) Ltd (Audited)	2007 \$	2006 \$
Revenue from ordinary activities	1,717,530	1,659,536
Cash at end of financial year	1,427,785	1,236,735
Profit (loss) after income tax expense	60,080	74,727
Net assets (liabilities)	460,855	400,775
Tax	800	3,769
Net surplus (deficit) CivEnEx	289,869	236,745
Net surplus (deficit) Conference	20,643	26,237
Net surplus (deficit) Administration	(268,633)	(229,443)
Net surplus (deficit) Professional Development	19,001	44,957
Donation to Foundation	130,000	70,000

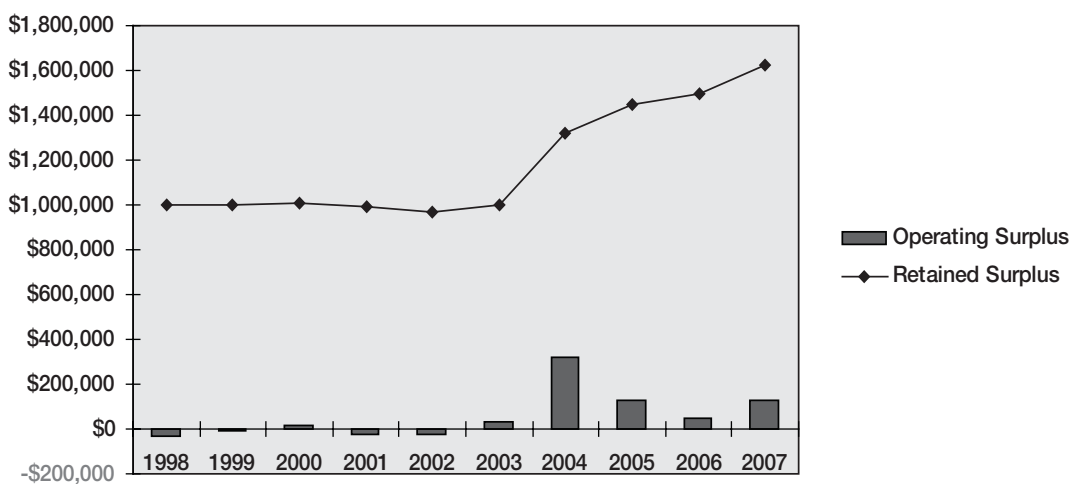
Municipal Engineering Foundation (Draft)	2007 \$	2006 \$
Operating Surplus	128,037	50,997
Non Current Assets	639,840	620,000
Net Assets (liabilities)	1,624,007	1,495,970

The following charts give an overview of the financial performance of the Company and also an indication of the fortunes of the combined position of the Company and Foundation over the past ten years.

IPWEA (NSW) Track of Ten Year Financial Performance



NSW Foundation Track of Ten Year Financial Performance



Foundation Report



On behalf of the Trustees I am again pleased to report on the activities supported by the Foundation this year and on its financial status.

The Institute again made a very substantial donation to the Foundation in 2006/2007 of \$130,000. Together with investment income and the rental paid by the Institute for the Foundation's office space in Kent Street this has further improved the Foundation's capital base and therefore the Trustees' flexibility in providing educational support to the Institute's members. I believe the Foundation is now in a position to develop a sustainable program of support around \$100,000 per annum.

The donation from the NSW Division of the Institute is made principally from the revenue from CivEnEx and the Trustees are very appreciative for this donation. The investments that the Trustees are permitted to use are governed by legislation and generate modest returns. The donation from the CivEnEx revenue is therefore important to maintain the Foundation in a sustainable condition.

The Trustees have funds currently available to assist IPWEA Members wishing to gain additional tertiary qualifications; to undertake research; or to participate in study tours. The rules governing scholarships and endowments can be found on the IPWEA website: www.ipwea.org.au/members/awards/endowments.html

During the past year the Trustees have approved grants and funded initiatives totalling more than \$61,000 to our Members.

Peter Kennedy from Gwydir Shire Council received a Work's Officer Study award. Geoff Metcalfe from Port Macquarie Hastings Councils was awarded a scholarship to participate in the 2006 IPWEA National study tour to the USA/UK and Netherlands. Grants were also made to Greg Blaze, Greater Taree City Council and Lew Oldfield Cessnock Council for private study tours.

Whilst all of these grants have provided excellent opportunities for the individual Members to add to their experience and expertise, it is expected that they will present papers at the IPWEA Conference and at Regional Group meetings. The papers will also be available on the Institute's website. In this way all members can obtain some benefit from the Foundation's grants.

During this year, the Foundation provided financial support to several new initiatives. The inaugural Regional Group Chairs and Secretaries forum provided an opportunity to enhance the effectiveness of the Institute's regional network. The Foundation also assisted the re-establishment of the South East Regional Group by underwriting its first meeting in Bungendore in March. We also provided substantial support for the National Skills Shortage project. Funds were also provided for younger members to attend the Annual Conference; an activity we are keen to develop further.

The Foundation continues to sponsor the IPWEA Engineering Excellence Awards to showcase the many fine projects that are undertaken by Public Works Engineers. There is a proposal being considered where the Excellence Award nominations form the basis for a study tour for younger members. We look forward to this development.

I thank Geoff Fowler and David Abbott who judged this year's Awards. The status of the awards is enhanced by the involvement of such eminent Engineers undertaking this task and we would like to express our appreciation for the time, expertise and consideration that they bring to this feature event of the Institute's calendar.

Don Sheffield OAM
Chairperson of the Municipal Engineering Foundation

Professional Development & Education

IPWEA NSW once again provided its members with ample opportunity to ensure their continuing professional development, with the publication of an Annual PD Program brochure delivered to every Council in NSW and the continuation of the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Scheme. Reminders were also through the PD Newsletter which is emailed to all members for whom we have an email address. Our PD courses were also promoted through Regional Group Presentations.

A number of new workshops were introduced for 2007. These included:

- Writing powerful proposals
- Council Management Planning – Embedding a Road Safety Philosophy
- Project Management – aligned to LGACOMP025A: Manage a Local Project
- Resolving conflicts of interest
- Effective negotiation skills

The Professional Development Committee is reviewing the existing program to ensure that it continues to meet the members' needs; to offer more flexible learning opportunities and to broaden our target market. In particular the committee is concerned about the number of courses offered which are postponed or cancelled due to insufficient registrations. The committee is exploring the options of introducing web-based or distance learning training programs. The committee also prepared a brief for a "needs analysis" focussing on the training requirements of Work's Officers.

As IPWEA (NSW) had its certification as a Registered Training organisation (RTO) renewed, the Professional Development Committee is looking for opportunities to extend the scope of our RTO status by conducting courses for approved units of competency.

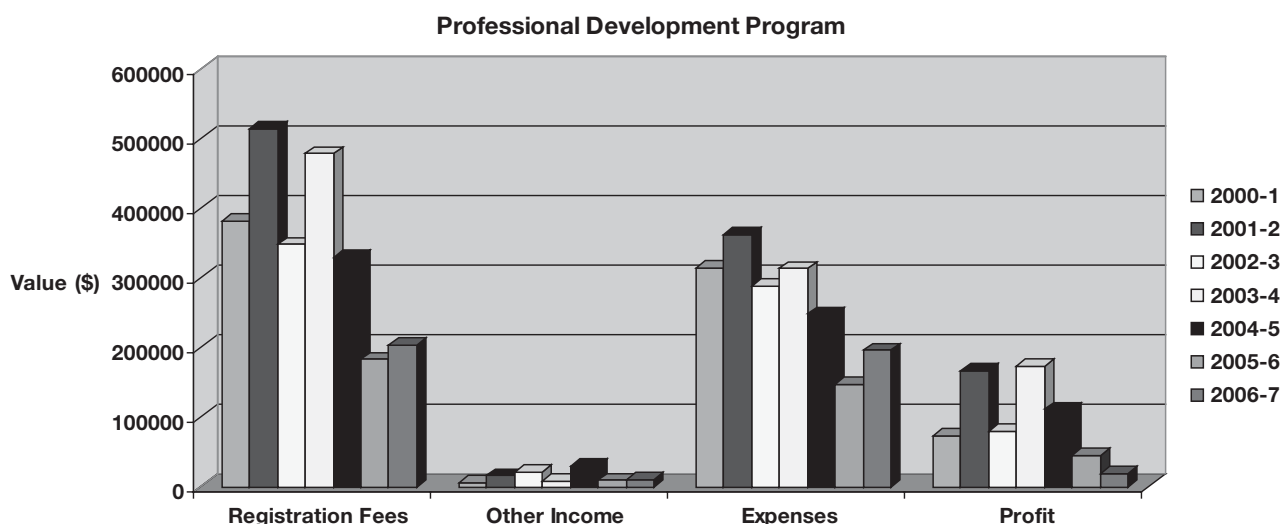
If you would like to comment on the existing program or future directions, please send your thoughts to pd@ipwea.org.au.

This financial year saw a slight improvement in revenue from Professional development over the previous year. However the increased costs of speakers, salaries and venue hire reduced the surplus.

I thank the Board and the Executive Manager(s) for their valuable input and support of the Professional Development program throughout the year. I would like to especially thank Caitlin Williams for her dedication and tenacity in ensuring that we offer the right programs, her management of our existing business partnerships with organisations such as AAPA, CPAA and Coates, and her superior organisation and management of the CPD program. I wish her well and safe travelling as she heads overseas.

I also extend my thanks to the many talented presenters of the various seminars/workshops for without them and their expertise we could not hope to be anywhere near as successful as indicated by the attendance at the courses they conduct.

David Abbott
Professional Development &
Education Portfolio Director



Conference

"New Directions" for Local Government was held Sunday 13th to Tuesday 15th May 2007 at the Four Seasons Hotel, Sydney. We managed 168 delegates and 68 additional social tickets in a tough year given the number of conferences available to the industry as well as National in Cairns in August 2007.

The conference data indicates that 77% of paying Conference delegates were members.

This year the expenses were reduced significantly. EziComms was not used, the fun night and welcome reception costs were halved.

For those that attended the Bowls night, a great networking opportunity was had at a low cost. The welcome function was also relaxed and allowed time for relationships to be renewed and was a great ice breaker.

This year we set conference objectives. They included:

- a) To increase delegate numbers by 5% from the 2006 levels;
- b) To increase accompanying persons by 5% from the 2006 levels;
- c) To obtain a set income including GST in conference sponsorship in 2007;
- d) Retain 70% of the 2006 sponsors;

Not all conference objectives were met;

- Our delegate numbers did not increase on those in 2006, they actually decreased. From verbal comments during the ring-around, people who had previously attended were attending other conferences instead and could only afford to go to one (such as Policing Conference or National Conference) or they could not leave work due to shortage of staff or funds.
- The accompanying persons program did not run again this year as once again there was no interest.
- We surpassed our budgeted sponsorship income by \$20 000 from the 2006 levels.
- All but one of the sponsors from the 2006 conference, returned for the 2007 conference.
- Not including Board Members, IPWEA Staff, Sponsors or Accompanying Persons, there were 143 people who attended both the 2006 and 2007 Conferences at some point.

Conference Review

This review has included:

- Polling the Membership for their thoughts on the time of year, location and general comments.
- Comparison of Conferences from 2001 to 2007 in

terms of income, expenditure and delegate numbers.

- The decision that the Roads Congress would be the first day of the two day Annual Conference each year commencing in 2008.
- That CivEnEx dates have been selected for Thursday 22nd, Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th May 2008.
- National Conference Locations for upcoming years – Cairns in 2007 and Melbourne in 2009.
- National Roads Congress will not be in NSW in 2008 and is normally in July.

An overview of the findings from this data follows.

- Despite each conference being different lengths, the data has indicated that there seems to be no trend in the delegate numbers based on location. The event needs to move from Sydney if current numbers remain or increased numbers are required to make Sydney conferences viable.
- It does not appear that we are attracting young engineers to the conference. Data suggests the attendance of directors and managers is the norm. We need to address options to encourage councils to send young engineers as a professional development option.
- The best time of year for the conference seems to be August/September/October. This means that the AGM could be included at the Conference to increase numbers, but we lose link to Civenex.
- Attendees seem to enjoy the more interactive sessions such as "community consultation".
- In terms of location, there is a fairly even split between Sydney and Regional so it could be rotated every two years.
- People seem to come to network with their colleagues and then for professional development.
- We need to Encourage Award Applicants/Winners to present papers at the conference.
- If combined with CivEnEx it will be a week long event as the NSW Roads Congress is on Day 1, then two days of conference then CivEnEx.

It is proposed to hold the 2008 Conference at the Crowne Plaza, Parramatta. This was used for the Public Infrastructure Forum in 2002 and is a convenient venue. It will improve links to CivEnEx for those staying on. The accommodation is around \$240 per night including breakfast. It has the ability to host the conference in regards to the size of their facilities.

Gary Murphy
Conference Portfolio Director

CivEnEx

Civenex “raced” to a new home at Western Sydney International Dragway (WSID) in May 2007.

WSID provided the ideal venue for the “Field Days” to return to the open air. The site has good access to major motorways, ample free parking, a large exhibition space and an area available for demonstration of equipment.

As with all new sites, some minor operational problems arose during the event. These have been reviewed and will be addressed ready for a bigger and better exhibition in May 2008.

Exhibitor numbers rose to around 220. Many exhibitors have expressed their satisfaction with the event and the high levels of genuine visitor interest.

Judging of the exhibitor awards was a difficult task due to the large number of excellent stands and diversity of products on display.

Congratulations to the following exhibitors:

- **Best stand over 100m²** – Coates Hire Operation Pty Ltd (Equipment Hire)
- **Best stand 100m² or less** – Icetech Australia (Dry Ice blasting)
- **Best New Product** – Westrac (Caterpillar M Series Grader)
- **Highly commended** – Black Skink Innovations (Ute mounted lightweight vacuum machine)
- **Environmental Product** – Repeat Plastics Australia Pty Ltd (Recycled plastic products)
- **Highly commended** – Eco Waterboxx (Water storage system)
- **Most Innovative Product** – Inlon Agrimec Group (Spider Mower)
- **Highly commended** – Flipscreen Australia Pty Ltd (Flipscreen attachment for skid steer)

Thanks goes to the 9 volunteers from local government who assisted with the judging of the exhibitor awards.

The exhibitor awards were presented during a function at the “Wicked Wednesday” street drags. Those who didn’t understand why ear plugs were handed out soon learned they were a necessity when a Jim Read Racing Top Fuel Team drag car was fired up next to the function marquee. This was followed by a run down the quarter mile by this 7000 horsepower land-locked Nitro methane fuelled missile in 4.62 seconds, reaching over 513 kilometres per hour or 319 miles per hour!

Congratulations to Frank Sticka and his team, together with the IPWEA staff, for organising a successful exhibition in 2007.

Thanks to the management of WSID for their enthusiasm and cooperation in providing a new venue for Civenex. Discussions have been held in regard to Civenex 2008 and subsequent years.

Civenex 2008 is going to be a fun event. It is planned to be held over 3 days at WSID commencing Thursday, 22nd May, 2008.

Mark these dates in your diaries for the 53rd annual field days and encourage your colleagues and suppliers to attend.

For further details see
www.civenex.com

Wayne Cone
Conference & CivEnEx Portfolio Director



Membership, Communication and Regional Group Liaison



2006/2007 has seen a very strategic focus for the Board particularly in regard to Membership, Communication and Regional Group Liaison.

Currently our membership stands at 911 including student and sustaining members.

The Board is clearly focused on encouraging the strengthening of the Regional Groups Structure and held the inaugural Regional Group Chairs and Secretary Forum in November 2006 in conjunction with the Institute's Annual General Meeting. The Board is continually monitoring Regional Group Meetings and leadership to ensure that there is continuous access for membership. Arrangements have been made during the year to strengthen the Metropolitan Groups by rationalising those Groups into three areas being North, South and West. It is expected that these Groups will have two – three separate meetings per year plus a combined meeting that would rotate around each Metropolitan Group. The Board together with the Municipal Foundation supported the recommencement of meetings of the South Eastern Regional Group that had been unable to meet for some time.

Board Members and Institute Executive Staff are rostered for attendance at as many Regional Group Meetings as possible to ensure there is a continuous flow of information to and from the Board.

Arrangements are in place for a further Regional Group Chairs and Secretaries Forum in 2007/08 that will allow appropriate training for meeting details and attendance, Regional Group Chairs Handbook and membership retention and be a forum for further improvement of membership requirements and services of the Institute.

In the future, it is expected that a survey will be undertaken to determine Institute Member needs and with the survey results the Board will determine if there is a need for a refocus of services provided to Members.

The Board has commenced the creation of a Marketing and Communication Plan that is expected to include such matters as:

- Appointment of Council “Champions” to improve membership at individual Councils;
- An improved membership database through National;
- Development of Public Works Engineering Forums aimed at discussions/ improvements on industry matters;
- Improved current profile of membership by providing professional name badges, membership certificates and service information;
- Creation of a Corporate Membership Pack;
- Displays detailing membership services at CivEnEx, Conferences and Events;
- Further development of the National Website that provides an appropriate online library, news fields, links to industry;
- Liaison with other Peak Local Government Industry Professional Bodies and Associations to consider joint marketing for attraction to the Local Government Industry;
- Consideration of different Membership Category Pricing; and
- Consideration of different Awards for outstanding achievement.

Gary Woodman
Membership, Communication & Regional
Group Liaison Portfolio Director

Younger Members & Works Officers

Younger Members

The Younger Members panel has been dormant as the emphasis of the portfolio has shifted to the major issue of Skills Shortage. In particular initiatives and support from the Board has been provided to the following programs:

- Participation on the NSW Local Government Professional Skills and Training Shortage Task Force
- Engineering promotion at Secondary School and University Careers Expos
- Works Officers Professional Development Programs
- Young Members Development Programs
- Development of the University of New England, B Eng Tech to allow students to study engineering in a regional environment assisted by local authorities
- Input to state wide approach to Cert IV, Diploma & Advanced Diploma Civil Training

Works Officers

The Biennial Works Officers Conference was held in Wagga Wagga during October 2006. From the smiles on the delegate's faces, the laughter and the constant talking during the networking functions, it is safe to say that the 150 people who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The conference was not all fun and games though. The conference sessions gave delegates the opportunity to benefit from the variety in papers. The papers were of high quality and relevant and provided delegates with the opportunities to ask questions in a friendly forum. I would like to thank all those who presented a paper for their efforts and encourage more of you to present in 2008.

The Pro-Visual OH&S Implementation Award was presented at the Conference Dinner to the Clarence Valley Shire Council for their significant policy and strategy improvements in the area of OH&S.

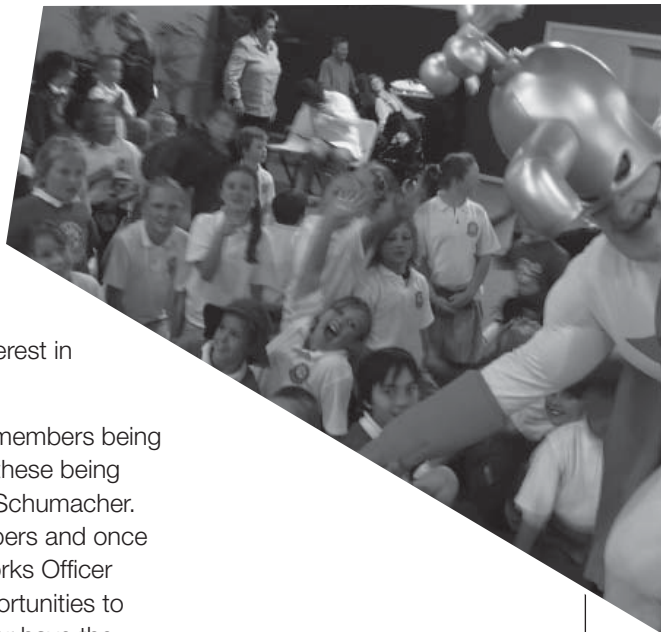
I thank Pro-Visual for their continued support and interest in the OH&S of the industry.

The conference also saw members being rewarded for their efforts, these being Peter Kennedy and Chris Schumacher. I congratulate these members and once again encourage other Works Officer members to apply for opportunities to undertake further studies or have the experience of a work study tour in 2008.

The Works Officers panel Chaired by Ian Firman remains very active currently undergoing a revision of the Gangers Handbook and assisting with the planning of the 2008 Works Officers Conference in Coffs Harbour.

Murray Erbs

**Younger Members & Works Officers
Portfolio Director**



Asset Management & Sustainability



Asset Management has been clearly placed onto the agenda for both State and Local Government during the past twelve months. The industry has been placed on notice that its asset and infrastructure management practices need improvement.

These issues were identified during the LG Inquiry and subsequent papers released by the department of local government these being:

- Planning a Sustainable Future
- A New Direction for Local Government
- Asset Management Planning for NSW Local Government

The main challenge facing the industry is that of how to build capacity within the sector to respond to its future planning and reporting obligations.

IPWEA has made submissions to all three DLG position papers as listed above. The submission on Asset Management Planning describes IPWEA's intention to make available and implement NAMS.PLUS as a guided pathway for the implementation of Asset Management Planning. This program has its origins in South Australia, where the South Australian Local Government Association and IPWEA have successfully delivered this program to all Councils in that State.

NAMS.PLUS

NAMS.PLUS provides the tools and guidance to assist organisations write their first AM Plans. NAMS.PLUS is supported by a suite of templates, tools and a guided pathway to implementing asset management planning. The tools are provided in the following structure.

- Training and support workshops
- A suite of asset management planning templates and guidelines
- A guided pathway to sustainable service delivery (in the form of an e-Book)

- Templates and online modelling tools
- On line Help Desk support service and pooling of the resources of NAMS.PLUS users and specialist advisors.

The guided pathway comprises 4 building blocks being Asset Management Planning and Data, Service Levels and Risk, expenditure Projections, and Towards Sustainable Service Delivery.

The achievements to date include:

- The participation of members in the development of Asset Management Plan workshops across the state in 2005.

This training however successful does not appear to have stimulated the in-house development of asset management plans.

- Assisting members by facilitating the exchange of ideas, information and technology. Quite a number of Councils have sought guidance through the portfolio director, other board members and the establishment of the National IPWEA Boards "Assetmates" discussion web page.

The "Assetmates" web page has been successful however, it would appear that only the hard core asset management personnel within a select few Councils are utilising the system and benefits. It is expected however, that this will change once the first round of NAMS.PLUS workshops are completed.

- Participation in the National Asset Management Strategy (NAMS).

The participation in the NAMS committee has provided a direct link for NSW IPWEA and Councils into the planning and development of AM initiatives.

- Participation in the Strengthening LG Taskforce working groups

This participation has resulted in the implementation of new performance measures aimed at measuring asset management stewardship. The measurement of asset

renewal against its consumption on an annual basis has been included into the 2006/07 Annual Returns. It is envisaged that additional indicators will be included following the completion of the National Financial Reporting Guidelines being developed by NAMS.

The next twelve months will hopefully bring:

- A strengthening emphasis being placed on infrastructure asset management and a lifting of its profile amongst practitioners.

It is envisaged that through the NAMS.PLUS training and the Regional Groups that a higher degree of networking will commence to assist Councils in developing asset management plans.

Every opportunity is being taken to present this message with industry partners and the broader sector. This form of spreading the message needs to continue.

- the completion of asset management plans for infrastructure assets and the adaptation of these plans into organisations management strategies

The rolling out of NAMS.PLUS is only the start of this process – once the core asset management plans are written they will need to be adopted and incorporated into Councils management planning processes. One way of assisting with process may be to develop a standard set of council reports. The DLG will need to play a significant role in the successful implementation of this area. This will probably be through legislative change to Councils management planning processes as described in the “New Directions for LG” report.

- higher level government support and across industry support for asset management

This would appear to have been achieved and is evident through the position papers released by the department following the LG Inquiry particularly the position paper on Asset Management Planning. This however needs to continue.

- The improvement of networking and skill levels in asset management throughout the industry.

This is the capacity building challenge we currently face.

- Proposed NSW Asset Management “Special Interest Group”

It is proposed to establish a special interest group. This group would communicate through the establishment of a dedicated web page for NSW.

These objectives will not be realised without the support of the institute’s members. If the management of infrastructure assets is to improve in NSW, individual and organisational leadership is essential. As members of the IPWEA we need to promote such leadership through our actions.

Matthew Fanning
Asset Management Portfolio Director

Road Safety



The membership of the Road Safety Panel utilises the resources of partnership organisations for the purpose of improving the expertise and knowledge of IPWEA membership, the panel and the community through local government involvement.

This panel is strategically positioned to contribute to road safety in NSW through the sharing of resources, information and goals, and is closely linked to the local Government Road Safety Program, through some commonality of membership.

The Road Safety Strategic Action Plan 2005-2010 indicates the priorities of the panel. Overseeing of areas such as: Road Safety Audits; Registration, Accreditation and promotion of auditors; Communication of key issues on road safety matters to local government; Support of ongoing professional development of road safety professionals; blackspot submission and analysis; support and promotion of road safety at a state and national level and supporting funding applications for advancing the road safety message are all within the aegis of the panel.

The panel met recently after a prolonged break due mainly to changes in some positions within IPWEA. Paul Riley has joined IPWEA, and the panel, in the capacity of Road Safety Project Manager and comes from a background in the Ambulance Service of NSW and also in mechanical engineering.

Sue Baker is assisting Paul in this role and comes from a nursing background. The skill set available between them augers well for the panel.

Recent panel activities and reporting are as follows:

- Exploring funding options from organisations which have benefited from 'boom times'. It would appear that many organisations are currently in a position where their support of road safety could be investigated because of their affiliation with roads construction or maintenance. This is currently being addressed within the scope of the Road Safety Project Manager.

- Support of Road Safety Speaker Bureau with intention of promoting this more regularly.
- Bringing the Road Safety Auditor's Register up to date. Staff shortages have meant this has not been maintained adequately and will require additional resources to achieve this.
- Ongoing involvement in blackspot program.
- Support for conference speakers at IPWEA conference.
- Support of new technologies to be noted on IPWEA website.
- Encouraging councils to have appropriate safe driving and fleet policies in place.
- Support for the Roads and Transport Directorate.
- Investigating use of low risk driver training for local government fleet application.
- Encouraging adaptation of SSROC safe driving policies as a framework for councils.

Apart from these activities, the panel supports the Road Safety Panel Champions who provide a conduit to other areas of road safety across the state.

Panel members include:

Ken Halstead (Chairman)	Mick Savage
David Niven	Oleg Sannikov
David Pym	Paul Riley
Dimitra Tapsas	Paul Yannoulatos
Gill Browne	Richard Connors
John Hely	Sue Baker
Mark Turner	Sylvia Stockwell
Mark Wolstenholme	Vera Zaccari

Ken Halstead
Road Safety Portfolio Director

Roads and Transport Directorate

From humble beginnings and a concept forged from a strategic issues session of the IPWEA Board in 2004, the Roads & Transport Directorate is now in its third year of operation. In this period of time, it has developed into an industry leader with respect to facilitating Roads Asset Management and Roads/Bridges Benchmarking Strategies for Local Government.

The initial objectives of the Roads & Transport Directorate have been admirably met as it has continued to provide assistance to Local Government in New South Wales maintaining best practices in planning and the maintenance of Local Road infrastructure and transport related activities. Not only has the Roads & Transport Directorate assisted Engineers and Councils with technical advice but also with meeting current legal obligations in their daily activities. Furthermore the Roads & Transport Directorate has assisted the Local Government and Shires Association with technical data and backup in its effort to attract increased and ongoing funding for the roads infrastructure.

The Directorate has been capably managed by the Manager – IPWEA (NSW) Roads & Transport Directorate – Mick Savage throughout this period with the assistance of IPWEA Executive Manager Chris Little and more recently, Mark Turner. During this three (3) year period the Manager has organised and facilitated two (2) New South Wales Local Roads Congresses in Sydney attracting approximately 200 people to each Congress and providing a forum of New South Wales Councils to raise issues of ultimate concern to them. Due to an overwhelming number of major conferences in New South Wales and Australia in 2007, the Board has decided not to have a Congress this year. However there will be a New South Wales Local Roads Congress in 2008 in association with the IPWEA Annual Conference.

Since its origins in 2004 the Directorate has shown very positive growth with the promotion of membership amongst New South Wales Councils. The Directorate has grown from a membership base of 118 Councils in 2005/06 to 134 Councils in 2006/07 and 115 Councils already in 2007/08. Councils have realised the benefits of their association with the Roads & Transport Directorate and the value of its achievements with the Roads & Timber Bridge Benchmarking surveys, its assistance with up to date datasets on New South Wales roads infrastructure for the Local Government taskforce and more recently with the timber bridge subcommittee and transportation subcommittee results.

During the past 12 month period, the achievements of the Roads & Transport Directorate have been many. The second New South Wales Local Roads Congress was held in Sydney at the Carlton Crest between 15 and 17 October 2006. The Congress was an absolute success with approximately 200 representatives from a wide range of Councils and included Mayors and elected representatives and General Managers as well as a healthy number of Engineers.





Major issues at this Congress included:

- Infrastructure Management
- Optimising Service Delivery
- RTA Liaison
- NSW Transport
- Roads and Bridges Funding
- Higher Mass Limits

The other major undertaking which was completed was the Roads & Timber Bridge Benchmarking Survey. This survey which was initially undertaken in late 2005 capturing road and bridge data from ALL Councils and provided for the first time a “snapshot” of where we were with respect to the asset condition and the cost to bring this asset back to a reasonably good condition. This work was facilitated by Jeff Roorda and Associates with John Howard and Mick Savage working tirelessly in assisting Councils to complete their datasets to give the project a “completed” status. This data was utilised and formed a significant part of the Percy Allan Report “Independent Inquiry into the Financial Sustainability of NSW Local Government”. In August 2006, a revised benchmarking report was released having achieved 147 datasets out of a possible 152 with 135 being validated.

In late 2006, the Directorate recommenced the survey for the second time in an effort to achieve a second dataset which would complement the initial survey and show how Local Government had progressed or regressed over the 12-18 month period. Unfortunately this second benchmarking project has not been as well supported by Councils with a very slow take up rate. To date only 57 Councils have submitted data for this benchmarking exercise. Many thanks should be extended to those that participated. A further effort will be continued to achieve the residual of the data. The Timber Bridge Working Party has met a number of times this year and is very enthusiastic about their outcomes.

Currently BlueScope Steel is working with the Directorate with the development of steel girder replacement of old timber girders. Similarly, a transportation working party has been established although this is a more recent undertaking, with the first meeting being held on 12th September 2006.

Other issues of significance include the Directorate involvement with the preparation of Safe Work Procedures and Standard Operational Procedures. A working party has been established to develop these most essential documents to assist Councils with a consistent approach to risk management.

The Directorate has also become heavily involved in preparing and presenting submissions on matters of importance to Local Government and its Engineering fraternity. Often, Councils have not the resources to complete a submission and the Directorate can assist with a representative report covering aspects which are pertinent to Local Government. A more recent release has been that associated with Asset Management – NAMS Plus. The Directorate assisted with funding to roll out NAMS Plus which is now available in New South Wales to assist ALL Councils with the development of Asset Management Plans for all classes of assets. It is hoped that all Councils avail themselves of NAMS Plus and attend workshops to assist with Asset Management Plans.

It has been a productive and eventful year for the Roads & Transport Directorate with significant gains having been achieved throughout the year. I wish to thank Mick Savage for his support and the IPWEA staff for their assistance and look forward to a productive 2007/2008.

Greg Moran
Roads & Transport Directorate Portfolio
Director

Regional Group Reports

IPWEA (NSW) Group Meetings

GROUP	MEETINGS			
Central West	2 nd August 2006 Molong	1 st November 2006 Orange	7 th February 2007 Forbes	2 nd May 2007 Grenfell
Central West Works Officers	2 nd August 2006 Molong	1 st November 2006 Orange	7 th February 2007 Forbes	2 nd May 2007 Grenfell
Combined Metropolitan	17 th August 2006 Auburn			
Hunter	31 st August 2006 Gosford	23 rd November 2006 Morpeth	15 th February 2007 Cessnock	15 th March 2007 Cessnock
Illawarra	6 th September 2006 Shellharbour	29 th November Shoalhaven	7 th March 2007 Mittagong	6 th June 2007 Kiama
Metropolitan North				
Metropolitan West	30 th August 2006 Penrith	15 th November 2006 Western Sydney International Dragway	28 th February 2007 Penrith	
Mid North Coast	1 st September 2006 Port Macquarie	10 th November 2006 Nambucca Heads	2 nd March 2007 Bellingen	8 th June 2007 Forster
New England/ North West	20 th September 2006 Moree	6 th December 2006 Guyra	21 st March 2007 Glen Innes	20 th June 2007 Narrabri
North Coast	31 st August 2006 Casino	30 th November 2006 Grafton	1 st March 2007 Mullumbimby	31 st May 2007 Lismore
North Coast Works Officers		29 th November 2006 Evans Head		
Orana	22 September 2006 Wellington	8 th December 2006 Warren	16 th March 2007 Walgett	29 th June 2007 Dubbo
South East Metropolitan				
South Eastern			28 th March 2007 Bungendore	
South West	1 st September 2006 Gundagai	3 rd November 2006 Leeton	16 th February 2007 Tumut	8 th June 2007 Tocumwal
Sydney Metropolitan Works Officers				

Central West

Meetings were held on

- i. 1 November 2006 being the AGM
- ii. 7 Feb 2007 at Forbes;
- iii. 2 May 2007 at Grenfell.

The group meetings are run as joint IPWEA/LGEA meetings with attendance generally between 15 to 25 members.

Major issues covered during the year were – Civil Liability allowance, skills shortages and educational options for attracting young engineers, decreasing attendance at meetings and associated strategies to increase attendance, Telstra including notifications, damage to Telstra Plant and Telstra works on Council roads and footpaths.

Guest speakers of interest were Country Energy to introduce Demand Side Response – Load shedding which has been taken up by several Councils in the Central West with quite marked savings in Electricity costs. Also Mirko Sramek from Water Loss management Program addressed the group on funding options available to investigate water loss from water reticulation systems.

Bruce Morris
Chairperson

Ray Graham
Secretary

Central West Works Officers

No Report

Mark Frecklington
Chairperson

Lyn Gough
Secretary

Combined Metropolitan

The Combined Metropolitan Group has met a number of times to discuss and disseminate various Metropolitan issues during the past year. As a result of this year's Group Chairs and Secretaries Forum it was suggested that a review be undertaken of the boundaries of the Sydney Groups (Amalgamation!!) to determine if there could be a better configuration. At a subsequent meeting a discussion paper was presented that resulted in the boundaries being redrawn to create 3 new groups being the North, South and West Metropolitan IPWEA Groups. These groups are now being formed. The Combined Metropolitan Group will only be reconstituted once per year in conjunction with the IPWEA Annual General meeting. On a personal note, I would like to take the opportunity to humbly thank the hard working secretaries of the Combined Metropolitan Group during my involvement since 1992. I extend my thanks to Mike Steer (ex Penrith), Lew Oldfield (ex Concord) and most recently Des Hewitt (Sutherland). Thank you, Gentlemen.

William Woodcock
Chairperson

Des Hewitt
Secretary

Hunter

The Hunter Region Group of the IPWEA and LGEA held three meetings over the last financial year. Meetings were held in Gosford, Maitland and Cessnock. A meeting scheduled for 20 July 2007 in Scone was cancelled due to the June long weekend storms and floods, which kept many engineering officers too busy to attend. The three meetings that were held were well attended in terms of numbers and the range of Councils within the group.

IPWEA matters discussed at these meetings included Conferences, CivEnEx, Elections, Local Government Inquiry IPWEA Submissions, Roads and Transport Directorate, Membership, Foundation Matters, and Skills Shortage.

LGEA matters discussed included the LGEA Civil Liability Claim, Work Choices Legislation Issues, Referral Agreements, Australian Fair Pay Commission and the new Local Government State Award.

Cessnock City Council currently holds the Chair and Secretary positions within the group.

The meetings were sponsored with presentations given by the following companies: Pioneer Road Services, Patterson Britton & Partners Pty Ltd, Sharpe Bros and Hungerford Hill Winery.

Lew Oldfield
Chairperson

Renae Leayr
Secretary

Illawarra

Four group meetings were held over the last 12 months and are very well supported by representatives from all six member-councils and a number of independent consultants. Mark Turner, Chris Little (IPWEA) and Anna Funnell (LGEA) were also welcome guests to the meetings.

Highlights included:

- Kiama – Site inspection of Manning Street Redevelopment
- Wingecarribee – Site Inspection of Mittagong Marketplace Development
- Shoalhaven – Presentation of plans and model of new Multi-Purpose Convention and Cultural Centre
- Shellharbour – Presentation on Myimbarr Wetlands development, John McAndrew
- Presentation by FRH on ultra-high pressure water cutting, Craig Vergelius
- Presentation by Romix on PolyStab stabilisation product, John Winters
- Presentation by SCE on slag products used in road construction, James Young
- Presentation by Australian Steel Mill Services (ASMS) on slag road base products, Rick Jarrett

- Discussion about the Skills shortage, recruitment and retention was a recurring item at meetings.

Thanks to the sponsors of meetings, FRH, Romix, SCE and ASMS and to Royce White (Chairperson 2006) and Stephen Moon (Secretary 2006)

Graham Standen
Chairperson

Jason Carter
Secretary

Metropolitan North

No Report

John Van Hesden
Chairperson

Jim Turner
Secretary

Metropolitan West

During the 2006 – 2007 year, the Metropolitan West Group, which comprises councils in the Western Sydney (WSROC) and South West Sydney (MACROC) areas held three meetings. Topics reviewed and discussed included:

- Industrial and Professional Issues
- Specialist assistance available to Councils from Consultants and Manufactures in the area of, Pipe Design and Installation; Road Construction and Asset Management
- The provision of Professional Employment for Local Councils
- Road and Transport Directorate
- Training for young engineers
- Topics of special interest, provided from the IPWEA Speaker Bureau and from members within the Group
- The review of the Eastern Creek Drag Racing Facility for the 2007 CivEnEx

Meetings have been held at Penrith RSL, except for the November Meeting which was held at the Eastern Creek Drag Racing Venue, with 27 to 35 persons attending each meeting. Meetings have been planned where a Topic of Special Interest is presented from one of the Groups members or the Road



Safety Speakers Bureau Listing to provide information on the similar theme as the Sponsor for each meeting, this has been particularly successful.

The August 2006, November 2006 and February 2007 meetings respectively, received presentations and generous corporate sponsorship from IPLEX Pipelines (<http://www.iplex.com.au>) with value added from Michael Thom from Douglas Partners presentation "Myths and Wishful Thinking" on the topic of The Current Water Crisis; The FRH Group (<http://www.frhgroup.com.au>) and a Topic of Special Interest on Flash Flooding in the Sydney Area by a Group Member. These presentations were very informative and professionally presented. The May 2006 meeting was not scheduled with members being encouraged to attend the IPWEA NSW Conference, where presentations were being made from four representatives from the Group. Also four of the Group members had papers accepted for the IPWEA National Conference in Cairns. For the November 2006 Meeting the meeting was sponsored by CivEnEx with the Group being given the opportunity to view and discuss the proposed 2007 venue, record numbers turned out for this meeting, it is likely it was the drag racing that was the attraction.

The Group continues to appreciate the regular attendance of IPWEA NSW, State Executive Manager, Chris Little, and more recently Mark Turner. Anna Funnell and Imrah Jay from the LGEA also provided a much appreciated, regular resource support during the past year...

On behalf of the Group, both the Secretary Alex Burjan, and I would like to thank all attendees, presenters and sponsors for their participation and contribution, throughout the year, to a very successful and informative Group meeting program.

John Hely
Chairperson

Alex Burjan
Secretary

Mid North Coast

The Mid North Coast Group rotates the Chairperson and Secretary roles amongst member councils every second year. The Group thanks the outgoing Chairperson, Bruce Redman and Secretary, Noel Chapman from Nambucca Shire Council for their excellent service during their two year term.

The Group held four meetings during this financial year hosted by Port Macquarie Hastings Council, Nambucca Shire Council, Bellingen Shire Council and Great Lakes Council. All meetings were well attended and provided a great opportunity for professional development and networking. Technical sessions and site visits included:

- Outline of the Port Macquarie Ring Road project from concept to issue of the construction certificate by Cliff Tomes of Port Macquarie Hastings Council
- Inspection of Port Macquarie Ring Road construction with Reeds Constructions
- Inspection of Port Macquarie Recycled Water Treatment Plant
- Demonstration of the installation of Black Max Pipe
- Manufacturing and installation of tactile tiles
- Site visit and outline of the impact of flood gates on wetland areas by WetlandCare Australia
- Overview of the Bonville Deviation project by AbiGroup
- Outline of the proposed re-introduction of civil and environmental engineering courses at the University of New England
- Report on visit to India for WaterAid Australia by Daniel Brauer, Project Manager MidCoast Water
- Inspection of Hallidays Point Sewerage Treatment Plant Upgrade

At various meetings the Executive Manager IPWEA (NSW) Chris Little provided an

update on IPWEA activities, APSEMA LGEA Industrial Officer, Gordon Brock (and Amrah Jay) and Noel Chapman (LGEA Committee of Management) provided updates on industrial issues, Nigel Sutton from Statewide Insurance provided an update on risk management issues and Don Sheffield from the IPWEA Foundation gave an update of the Foundations activities.

The Group thanks all our sponsors including Reeds Constructions, Geofabrics, LEGS Iplex Pipelines (drainage and sewer pipes), AUSTACT Pty Ltd (tactile tiles), Filter Technology Australia (engine oil and fuel filters), the FRH Group (civil construction), ITT FLYGT Ltd (submersible pumps), Conplant Ammann Australia (compaction equipment), Stabilised Pavements Australia, SafeRoads (roadside safety barriers).

Mike Edsall
Chairperson

Warwick Knight
Secretary

New England/ North West

The New England Northwest group met on 4 occasions during the year. Meetings were held at Moree on 20 September 2006, Guyra on 6 Dec 2006, Glen Innes on 21 March 2007, and Narrabri on 20 June 2007. The average attendance was 18 members.

At the Moree meeting, a special presentation was made by Steve Levett – Manager of Road Safety Programs (RTA). The meeting was sponsored by Sudholz Precast Products. The AGM was held at Guyra and the meeting was sponsored by Komatsu. The Glen Innes meeting was sponsored by Laserquip and was followed by an inspection of the new Glen Innes Sewerage Treatment Works (8000EP IDEA system). The final meeting of the year was Narrabri and was sponsored by FRH Group and was followed by an inspection of the new Narrabri Works depot.

The support of the hosting Councils and sponsors is acknowledged with thanks. Thanks also to Anna Funnell, Chris Little

and Mark Turner who attended at least one meeting throughout the year.

Paul Keech
Chairperson

Ralf Stoeckeler
Secretary

North Coast

The North Coast Group held four meetings during the year at Casino, Mullumbimby, Grafton and Lismore. We were well supported by a couple of visits from Anna Funnell LGEA Industrial Officer. Mark Turner the new IPWEA NSW Executive Manager

also attended our May meeting. Attendances continue to be very good.

A highlight for the year was a site visit to the Brunswick Heads to Yelgun, Pacific Highway project.

Our meetings are still proving to be an excellent forum to exchange ideas between members from Risk Management issues, engineering education opportunities, engineering projects, salary systems, Professional Development and Asset Management.

Thank you to our meeting sponsors, BrickNPave, Australian Road Research Board, GHD and FRH Group who provided valuable product information to our members.

The North Coast Group are fortunate to have the support of NSW IPWEA President John Truman and board members Matthew Fanning and Gary Murphy, so we are kept well informed of State and Federal matters, our LGEA committee member Jacqui Hansen also provides updates on industrial matters. Unfortunately Jacqui Hansen has recently resigned from her role as secretary. We thank Jacqui for her excellent service to the group over the last couple of years.

Garry Hemsworth
Chairperson

Jacqui Hansen
Secretary



North Coast Works Officers

No Report

Ian Firman
Chairperson

Chris O'Dwyer
Secretary

Orana

The Orana Group held 4 meetings during 2006/07, with the attendance at these meetings averaging 18. The meetings were held at Wellington, Warren, Walgett and Dubbo and the assistance of these host Councils is acknowledged and appreciated.

Sadly our group secretary Dirk Wymer resigned and went to greener fields at Young during the year and his contribution to the efficient and smooth running of the group is sincerely acknowledged. I'm sure that all our members would wish Dirk and his wife Edwina well in his new location.

The group appreciated some excellent presentations at the group meetings from the following:

- Steve Colliver of Dubbo City Council on modern trends in fleet and plant management
- Anthony Greenhalgh of Dubbo City Council on GIS strategies and opportunities
- Anna Funnel and Steve Clayton on industrial matters.
- Stewart McLeod on Water Directorate matters
- Many other members – we know who they are

Sponsors presentations were given by:

- Humes on Enviro products
- Tyco Water Dynamics on Riverscreen system
- FRH Group High pressure water jet cutter and telescopic bitumen spray bar and general company introduction.

The group would like to thank these sponsors for their support and time.

Site Inspections and plant demonstrations were also held. The group viewed:

- The new Sewage treatment plant at Wellington
- Dubbo City Council's new water treatment plant
- Tyco's new Riverscreen filters at Walgett
- Virtual inspection of Dubbo's new industrial area's access construction details.

Thank you to all our members for their input during the year especially those who made the effort to attend meetings, it is not always easy to find the time to attend. The benefits of attending group meetings are great and all members are requested to encourage their fellow engineering staff at Council to attend.

Jock Smith
Chairperson

Michael Mae
Secretary

South East Metropolitan

This group did not meet this financial year.

Geoff Garnsey
Chairperson

Tim McCarthy
Secretary

South Eastern

No Report

Harvey Bell
Chairperson

Keith Davies
Secretary

South West Group

This year saw four meetings held over a large portion of the South West region of NSW. While individual numbers were down a bit on previous years, the overall representation in terms of member Councils was good, with 19 of the 34 Councils, County Councils and Road Authorities represented at one or more meetings throughout the year. Given the distances required to be travelled by some of the members, this is a good result.

The Gundagai meeting was sponsored by National Hire, and included a guided tour of the North Gundagai Hume Highway overpass, which was still under construction by Abigroup. The combined AGM and ordinary meeting held in Leeton was sponsored by a local company in Bruno Altin and Co, who also provided a presentation on some of the international contracts they were working on. February's meeting in Tumut was sponsored by local FRC pipe distributors, Days Transport, and included a site visit to the recently completed Brungle sewerage treatment plant. The STP was designed and constructed by Tumut Shire Council and their works department, Snowy Works. The final meeting for the year was held at Tocumwal, on the Murray River, and was sponsored by GHD Consulting. Those members fortunate enough to be able to stay after the meeting were treated to a round of golf on the picturesque Captains course at Tocumwal. The rest of us spent up to 4 hours driving home.

The main focus of the Group throughout the year was to continue supporting the Australian Standards Working Party on developing variations to AS1742.3, to include Ultra-Low volume roads as a defined category for traffic control. While it has been an arduous and long process, headway is being made, and the contribution of individual members has been outstanding.

The Group would also like to thank the Sponsors and host Councils for providing their time and support.

Ben Lawson
Chairperson

Simon Miller
Secretary

Sydney Metropolitan Works Officers

No Report

Terry Potts
Chairperson

Colin Evans
Secretary



NSW Streets Opening Conference (SOC)

The NSW Streets Opening Conference is a voluntary association of utility providers and government organisations that have agreed to meet together for resolution of issues on a cooperative basis. IPWEA (NSW) provides secretariat support for the SOC. The objectives of the SOC are to:

- Minimise interference to traffic and pedestrian flow caused by road openings for the installation, operation and maintenance of utility services;
- Establish agreed footway allocations and practices for the provision of utility services;
- Foster co-ordination of utility works and avoid damage to other underground services; and
- Encourage the use of agreed codes and practices for the excavation, back filling and re-instatement of roadways and footways.

The major projects for the NSW SOC over the period were:

- Publication of the 2007 Guide to codes and practices. This is available in both hard copy and downloadable from the www.ipwea.org.au
- Investigations into the establishment of an internet based database for coordination of streets opening and reinstatement activities. This “central works register” may utilise similar software to that used by “Dial before you dig”.
- Investigations into training needs; resulting in the first stage development of a services locator training package, to be known as AUSLOT.
- Progress on Heads of Agreement between Councils and Utility / Service Providers.

During the year Ray McNally retired as Chairman of SOC after many years of service. We are grateful for his contribution and direction he provided to SOC over this time.

Nabil Issa
Chairperson

Committee Members:

Nabil Issa (chairperson)	Len Favier
Mark Turner (secretary)	Bill Isley
Karl Schimke	Bob Lock
Bob Bullivant	Warren Taylor
Ken Willimott	Dominic Puiu
Mick Savage	Jasmina Moltter
Carlo Di Lorenzo	Janssen Chan
Gary Bingley	Graham Couchman
Don Blue	Kulbir Malhotra
Graeme Monagle	Steve Smith
George Angelis	Tim Barnes
Keith Newland	



AUS SPEC

The AUS-SPEC Series of Contract Documents for Councils comprises eight separate products for use in Local Government. The specifications and associated documentation provide an excellent platform for preparing both construction and maintenance contracts.



IPWEA/RTA Local Government Road Safety Strategy

The association of the IPWEA in the local government road safety strategy is a central component to the success of this program. At the core of this program, is the intention of incorporating a road safety philosophy into all levels of local government.

Instead of road safety being seen as an add-on with Road Safety Officers being the pariahs in local government, the intention of this program is integration. All levels of local government need to view road safety as an essential component of both engineering and administration philosophy.

The project aims to encourage local government to adopt a corporate approach to road safety planning. The program also administers grants to councils.

The project attracts funding from Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) and the Motor Accidents Authority (MAA) with a total budget for this reporting period of over \$607 000.

RTA Funding

This reporting period, 23 projects were commenced and 17 completed under the **Local Government Road Safety Grants Scheme**.

Projects are submitted to this from the following categories: road safety strategic planning; drink driving; drink walking; speed; motorcyclist safety; pedestrian safety; child/youth and seniors safety.

The **Road Safety Auditors Register** is a top priority at present with additional funding being sought from the RTA for this (Funding for maintenance of this register is separate to the Local Government Road Safety Strategy). The creation of this

website has and will provide a valuable register of appropriately qualified staff to perform audits. Staffing issues over the past months, and no ongoing funding, has meant this resource has not been adequately maintained and much is required to get it updated. It is envisaged this can be achieved with 6 months.

MAA Funding

The **Local Government Excellence in Road Safety Awards**, which recognises the contributions of councils in their work on behavioural, planning and educational aspects of road safety, received 20 nominations this year. This represented 34 councils involved in the projects. Nine of these nominations received awards.

These awards were presented to recipients as part of the IPWEA Excellence Awards at the Annual Conference Dinner. Presentations such as this enhance the role of road safety within IPWEA and local government, further promoting the philosophy of a best practice approach.

With new staff coming on board, it was a time to investigate the status quo in terms of where professional development was for Road Safety Officers.

The Certificate IV qualification in Road Safety was withdrawn, and several other pertinent subjects offered in its place. These subjects were 'Managing a local Government Project' (from the Local Government Training Package), 'Council Management Planning – Embedding a Road Safety Philosophy', 'Seeking funds and writing successful submissions.' The uptake on these was very low. While it

is difficult to point to any one reason for this, as the subjects themselves provide useful tools for working in councils, it would appear there are factors which have influenced people away from this course of Professional Development. In discussions with Road Safety Officers it would appear that they are after qualifications which provide value adding to their CV whilst providing tools for the workplace. Relevance beyond what qualifications already achieved would suggest aiming at the level of stand alone subjects was aiming too low. RTO status will be maintained by IPWEA and investigation into alternative PD opportunities sought.

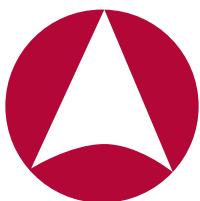
The Road Safety Speakers

Bureau continues to provide opportunity for local government groups to tap in to the resources of these expert speakers. The intention is to have these speakers utilised more often in order to promote the road safety message to all levels of council.

There are considerable changes currently taking place in both the RTA and MAA. The impact of these on the Road Safety Strategy is not yet known but it is clear that road safety is a substantial component of Government thinking and promotion: meaning there is reason to be positive about future developments in this sphere.

Additional funding sources are being investigated, on the encouragement of the Road Safety panel, and these would provide IPWEA with opportunity to further enhance the embedding of road safety into local government.

Paul Riley
Road Safety Project Manager



Institute of
Public Works
Engineering
Australia
(NSW Division)

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