



Institute of  
Public Works  
Engineering  
Australia  
(NSW Division)

# IPWEA NSW DIVISION ANNUAL REPORT

1 JULY 2011 TO 30 JUNE 2012



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Photographs: Many of the photographs shown in this report were included by members with applications for the IPWEA Engineering Awards for Excellence. Their contribution is gratefully acknowledged

# Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (NSW Division) Limited

ACN 093 562 602 ABN 35 093 562 602  
Level 12, 447 Kent Street, Sydney NSW 2000

**Telephone** (02) 9267 6677  
**Facsimile** (02) 9283 5255  
**Email** ipwea@ipwea.org.au  
**Website** www.ipwea.org.au

## IPWEA NSW Board of Management at 30 June 2012

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**President** Greg Moran (Consultant)  
**Vice President** Stewart McLeod (Dubbo City Council)

### Members:

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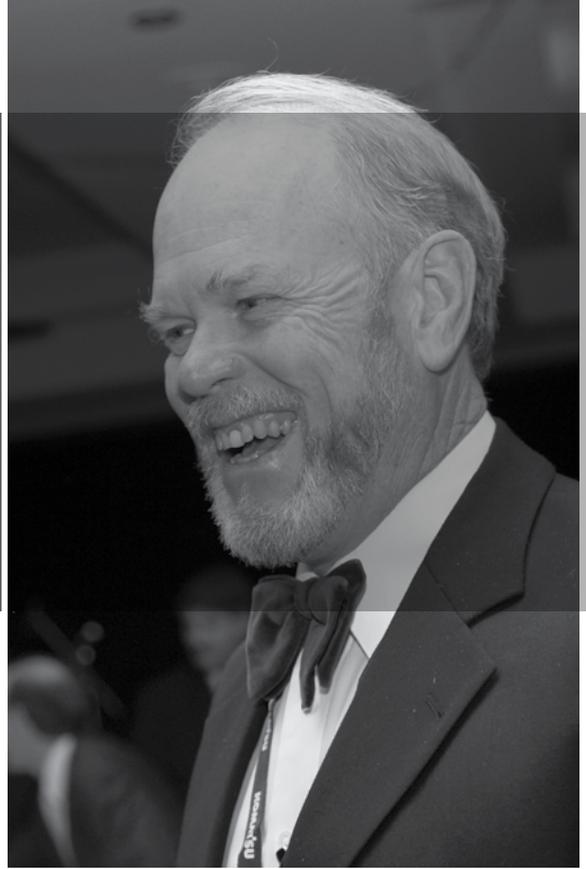
Ken Halstead (University of Technology Sydney)  
John Truman (Ballina Shire Council)  
Gary Woodman (Cobar Shire Council)  
Cathy Kinsey (Campbelltown City Council)  
Stewart McLeod (Dubbo City Council)  
Geoff Metcalfe (Port Macquarie Hastings Council)  
Bill Woodcock (Complete Urban)  
Warren Sharpe (Eurobodalla Shire Council)

### IPWEA NSW Staff:

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Mark Turner: Executive Manager & Company Secretary  
John Roydhouse: Executive Officer  
Michelle Burgess: Events & Partnership Manager  
Colin Emerson: Professional Development Manager  
Kapil Sharma: Finance & Administration Manager  
Mick Savage: Roads & Transport Directorate Manager  
Lita Somogyi: Personal Assistant & Membership  
Saveena Waraich: Administration Assistant (Seconded to National)  
Dimmi Roussis: Administration Assistant

# President's Report



Once again it is a pleasure to present this annual report to the membership of the IPWEA (NSW) on the activities and overall performance of the IPWEA for the 2011/2012 reporting period. During this period, the IPWEA with its newly elected Board has taken decisive steps to improve our position with respect to membership, membership services and access to events through iMIS and the new website and achievements that we can all be well proud of. The IPWEA continues to grow in strength through membership and our linkage to affiliates, and leadership with recognition by like associations and our peers.

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The new Board for the period 2011/2014 commenced its role in October 2011 following the AGM. At the December and February Board meetings, the strategic direction for the improvement of the IPWEA (NSW) over the ensuing period was put into place along with the distribution of the Directorate portfolios for the Board members. The key areas as seen by the Board for the Institute were membership and maintaining a strong financial position throughout the next three year period. The financial performance of the institute for the 2011/2012 period resulted in a minor loss due mainly to income timing issues which have now been resolved and should result in a positive position in 2012/2013. We continue to be faced with the constant challenge of responding to member needs and maintaining member services in a changing environment and need the support of our membership in continuing to provide these services.

The IPWEA NSW has formalised a contract recently with IPWEA National to accommodate an increased number of National staff within the Kent St office. This contract has demonstrated the willingness to work closely together and forge closer ties, utilising IPWEA National to provide financial and some administrative services to assist with backup for each other and provide economies of scale. This will require a rearrangement and upgrading of the office with some refitting of offices and workstations in the near future.

There were a number of major functions during the year for the IPWEA membership which included the National Conference in Canberra in August last year, followed by a series of Regional Forums/workshops and in May, we had a two day Roads Congress/Water Conference and Annual Conference along with the Excellence Awards dinner at the Novotel in Coffs Harbour. The highlight of the conference was no doubt the Conference dinner and annual Excellence in Engineering Awards. These awards showcase the initiative and innovative design and techniques utilised by Public Works Professionals and should be a source of pride and inspiration to us all. Congratulations go not only to the winners and highly commended for each category but to all Councils and Public Works Professionals who took the time to participate in these Excellence Awards. Well done. The National IPWEA Conference in Canberra during August was a resounding success with all who attended declaring it to be one of the best yet. Delegates and exhibitors all had a great time and will no doubt be entering the Darwin Conference in 2013 into their diaries. The IPWEA wish to thank Komatsu as the

major sponsor for this event. Civenex again was a resounding success with more exhibitors and new product lines this year than ever before. It was heartening for both management and exhibitors to see a significant increase in entries and also local government attendance. I offer a big thank you to the management and IPWEA staff and Directors who assisted.

Regional Conferences were once again held throughout the twelve regions of the State; however at different venues. Due to the increased popularity of these one day events and the opportunity for more members to avail themselves of these "localised conferences", these one day mini conferences/ workshops were held in eleven centres throughout the metropolitan and regional areas and were well supported by our membership and Councils with almost 400 persons attending. These one day conferences have gained industry support and sponsorship allowing all Councils to send technical staff and engineers to a local 1 day conference. It is proposed that in 2012/13 the Regional conferences will be more popular as a result of your requests and support, with a calendar of these events having been published in the E-newsletter and the website. Our level of sponsorship has increased somewhat and the IPWEA wish to thank our major sponsors Westrac, Downer, LGP and the GMW Group.

The Roads & Transport Directorate continued to forge ahead this year with the release of further manuals to all member councils and during this past year has undertaken through the Technical Subcommittee to investigate a wide range of engineering issues identified by you. The outcomes and papers pertaining to these issues are being released as projects are completed. Thanks to the Manager R&TD, Mick Savage, the members of the RTD and volunteers from the Technical Subcommittee committee for their great works.

Professional Development and the conducting of courses throughout the State continue to be a priority as requested by members and each of these courses is designed to meet your professional requirements. IPWEA staff have spent a significant portion of the past year developing new course material which will be released shortly, and conducting courses across the state, many of them in-house at Councils. IPWEA (NSW) is excited that the Federally funded Critical Skills Investment Fund which will provide training for up to 185 across the State will commence early this year with a linked delivery approach incorporating TAFE NSW. This will result in the improved certification of a significant number of Council staff

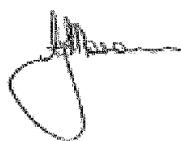
across NSW. The second round of funding should see an increase in the number of Councils availing themselves of these opportunities.

IPWEA was involved with a submission to the Senate on the Skills Shortage problem facing Australia. We recognised that a large number of engineers will retire in the next five years and Local Government and the IPWEA need to replace these members and increase our membership base in order to provide a continued range of membership services, innovative courses and events which will meet the changing needs of our varied membership and associates. IPWEA remain actively involved with the promotion of Engineering as a career and will endeavour to assist the industry in any way possible, including the consideration of a specialist engineering membership officer at the IPWEA.

I recommend that you take some time to review the individual Portfolio Directors reports in order to realise what has been achieved this year. I would like to thank Dave Abbott and Geoff Fowler for the tremendous job they have done on an annual basis with judging of the Excellence Awards across the State. And I would especially like to thank the IPWEA Board for the tremendous job and achievements they have made over the last year. The Board has worked really well together, forging closer ties with IPWEA National and providing improved services for the membership.

The IPWEA could simply not run without the Professional staff employed by the Institute under our Executive Manager, Mark Turner and Executive Officer John Roydhouse. This December will see the retirement of our Executive Manager Mark Turner and we thank him for his years of service to the IPWEA and wish him well in his retirement. Advertisements have now been placed seeking expressions of interest for this position. To all of the IPWEA management and staff, thank you for your commitment and dedication displayed especially at major events where a huge effort is required.

We at the Institute look forward to another successful year in 2012/13 and we look forward to your continued support and enthusiasm and hope to see and your partners at the Annual conference in Terrigal in May 2013.



**Greg Moran**  
**President**

# Executive Manager's Report

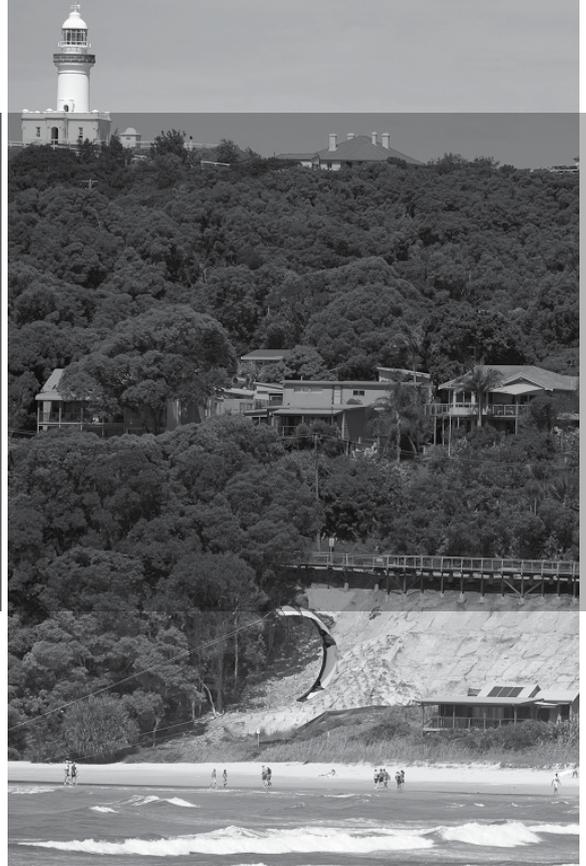
This last financial year has presented unique challenges: outcomes that were exciting sometimes; and disappointing in others. Forecasting the outcome has continued to be difficult, especially because the bulk of our income is received in the second half of the financial year. Nevertheless we continue to pursue our vision:

*"IPWEA (NSW) is recognised as the leading professional association that effectively informs, connects, represents and leads public works professionals for NSW."*

While pursuing this vision, we have fallen short of our financial goals due to a number of one-off items which affected the bottom line. These are considered in more detail below and in the financial report. We were unable to make a donation to the Foundation this year.

I have been assisted throughout the year by a team of dedicated and passionate staff supported by our regional Chairpersons, Secretaries, Organisational Champions and other volunteers. Sadly we farewelled Sabrina Tande but welcomed Colin Emerson to the Professional Development Manager role. More recently Dimmi Roussis has been appointed as administration assistant while Saveena is seconded to the National office. I also thank Lita, Michelle, Kapil, Mick and John for their tireless efforts throughout 2011/12. We have had continuing support through the international intern program. This year we welcomed Roos and Jasmijn from the Netherlands and Benedicte from France.

I must note that through consultation with National we have signed a memorandum of understanding to see that national provides the accounting and administration support while NSW will continue



to provide accommodation. To this end Kapil transferred to the National payroll at the end of June. We wish him well. Meanwhile NSW is reviewing the options for office refurbishment to meet the ongoing needs of National and NSW as well as Roads Directorate and Water Directorate.

The election of a new Board provided the opportunity to review our Strategic Plan and align it with the format and content of National's plan but with one major difference. IPWEA (NSW)'s key strategic objective is "members first"; servicing the needs of our "shareholders".

To this end in 2012 we continued our focus on delivering membership services. While the organisational champion program struggled due to the workload of our volunteers within their own organisations, I am pleased that we have been able to support our members in many ways.

August 2011 saw the IPWEA (NSW) host the National Conference in Canberra. The decision to hold the event in Canberra helped reduce the fixed costs. The conference itself was technically successful and highly enjoyable. However economic conditions impacted on overall

attendance. NSW's share of profit from the event was significantly lower than expected.

Attendance at our third year of Regional conferences increased. Our members and their employers recognise that the regional conference provides a great opportunity for knowledge exchange and networking at reasonable cost. The contribution from our sponsors Westrac, GMW, Downer and LGP ensured that the cost for members was reasonable. Thank you.

The State conference followed shortly after the regional conferences and was held in conjunction with the Roads Congress, Road Safety Forum, Water Directorate Forum and Awards for Excellence dinner. All who attended in Coffs Harbour had a great time, giving positive feedback.

The close proximity of Regional conferences, State Conference and Civenex puts a lot of pressure on our events team and concentrates income into a short period. I am pleased that the review of the events program will provide a more manageable outcome and smoother cash flow in the future. From 2014 the State conference will be held in October in conjunction with the Annual General meeting. The Works officer Conference will be held in conjunction with Civenex.

CIVENEX rebounded in 2012 with a dramatic increase in attendance especially from Local Government. All councils in the Hunter, Illawarra and Central West regions sent delegates, while all but three metropolitan councils attended. The relocation of the demonstration area into the main exhibition area proved a great success and will be expanded in 2013.

Our Professional Development program continues to be refreshed and new courses introduced. The number of courses delivered also increased during the year. Development of new courses has been funded internally or by grants from the Office of Environment & Heritage. The introduction of the Critical Skills investment fund has established IPWEA (NSW) as a showcase example of meeting the skills shortage needs. Income from the administration of the fund has started to flow. However the expected flow of funds from TAFE for our course and resources has been delayed to the new financial year.

The shift towards "social networking", through the web site, has strengthened the cohesion of our membership and improved their access to the wealth of information and expertise residing within the membership. This has been backed up by timely e-bulletins alerting members to issues, events and opportunities. The quality of our showcase journal highlights excellence in project delivery and management by our members.

In association with the Roads Directorate, we continued our role of advocacy on behalf of members and local government. In 2011/12 submissions were made on a number of issues including:

- Staysafe committee inquiry into school safety zones.
- Senate inquiry into engineering skills shortage
- Submission to the NHVR and COAG CRRP plan for heavy vehicles.

I was pleased that in many cases, the value of our submission and our members was recognised in the findings and recommendations of these inquiries.

The quality and volume of services we have delivered throughout the year is possible only through generous sponsorships of regional meetings, conferences and other events. In particular Komatsu has continued to be good "corporate" friend of IPWEA. My thanks are extended to all our sponsors.

The new Board has embraced their portfolios with vigour and have been a great support and mentor to our staff and me. Personally, I thank Greg Moran, our President, for his timely and wise counsel.

This will be my last report to members as I have elected to retire from full-time work at the end of the year. The highlight of my tenure has been the opportunity to meet and learn from our members and the diversity of their activities and their achievements. I will miss you.

I commend to you the Directors' and Financial Reports. The full details are contained in the signed financial statements available for download from our website. The summary reports on the following pages give a précis of each of our key result areas. The end result is disappointing financially but rich in the quality of the services we have sought to deliver to our members throughout the year. We are quietly confident that 2012/2013 will show an improvement.



**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 made a loss in the year but has retained earnings (net assets) of \$490,000. The solid asset base of the NSW Foundation should enable it to deliver a sustainable program of endowments, scholarships and programs to members.

In 2011/2012, the company, IPWEA (NSW) incurred an operating deficit of \$84,570 after tax. A number of one-off factors have strongly influenced this outcome:

- Recognition of membership income. Unlike previous years income from renewal of membership in June was not recorded but held over to the new financial year.

- Cash flow from the Critical Skills investment fund will not be realized until the 2012/2013 financial year.
- Return from the National conference was \$80,000 lower than budget.
- In late May, the Australian Taxation office rejected IPWEA's rebateable status for the purpose of Fringe Benefits tax for the last four years resulting in an additional tax liability of \$28,000. This has been appealed through the tax partners of Nexia Court & Co. The outcome of this appeal may take several months to resolve.

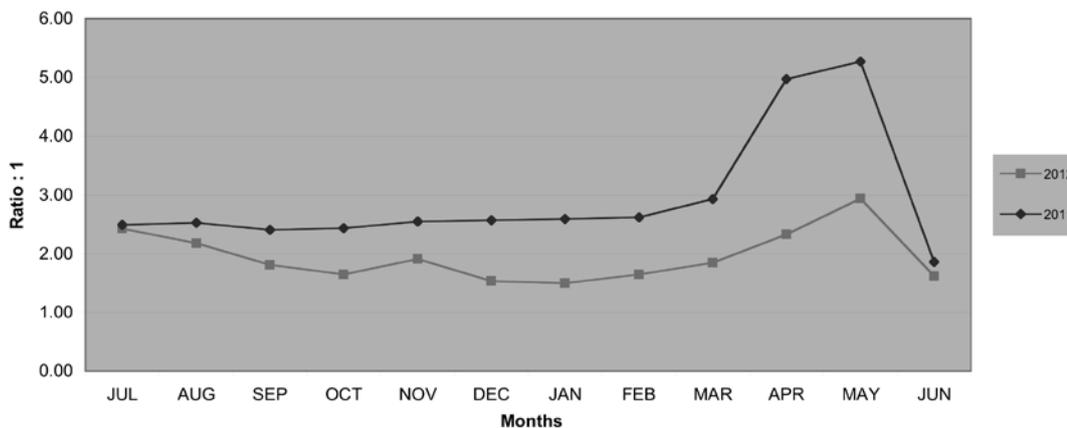
## Summary Financial Performance

Full details of the Institute's finances are set out in the Auditors Reports published on the web page. However key result areas for the year are as follows:

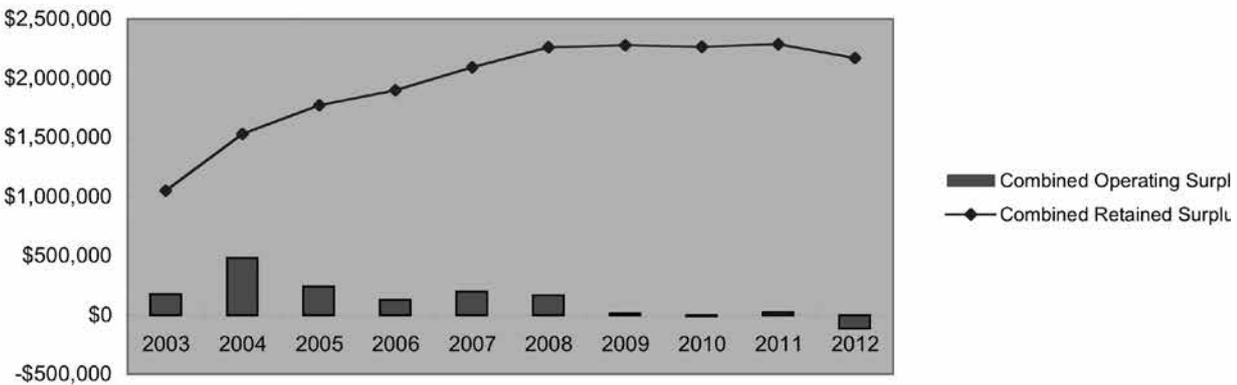
<b>IPWEA (NSW Division) Ltd (Audited)</b>	<b>2012 \$</b>	<b>2011 \$</b>
Revenue from ordinary activities	2,084,627	2,097,236
Cash at end of financial year	1,634,261	1,427,243
(Loss) profit after income tax expense	(84,570)	21,573
Net assets (liabilities)	489,870	574,440
Tax expense (credit)	-	11,621
Net surplus CivEnEx	340,289	422,114
Net surplus (deficit) Events and conference	66,299	(19,604)
Net (deficit) Administration	(464,466)	(363,977)
Net (deficit) Professional Development	(20,847)	(10,293)
Net (deficit) surplus Road Safety Program	(5,845)	4,954
<b>Municipal Engineering Foundation (Audited)</b>	<b>2012 \$</b>	<b>2011 \$</b>
Operating (Loss) Profit	(31,186)	680
Non Current Assets	700,000	700,000
Net Assets (liabilities)	1,682,434	1,713,620

The following charts give an overview of the monthly solvency of the Company and also an indication of the fortunes of the combined position of the Company and Foundation over the past ten years. The first graph highlights the financial challenges the company faces due to seasonal inflow of funds (CivEnEx and Conference being in May). In addition to maintaining good corporate governance, the company endeavours to expand sources of income and improve cash flows during first half of the year by holding events throughout the year (e.g. Regional Forums, Works Conference and strengthened Sponsorship/ Partnership deals).

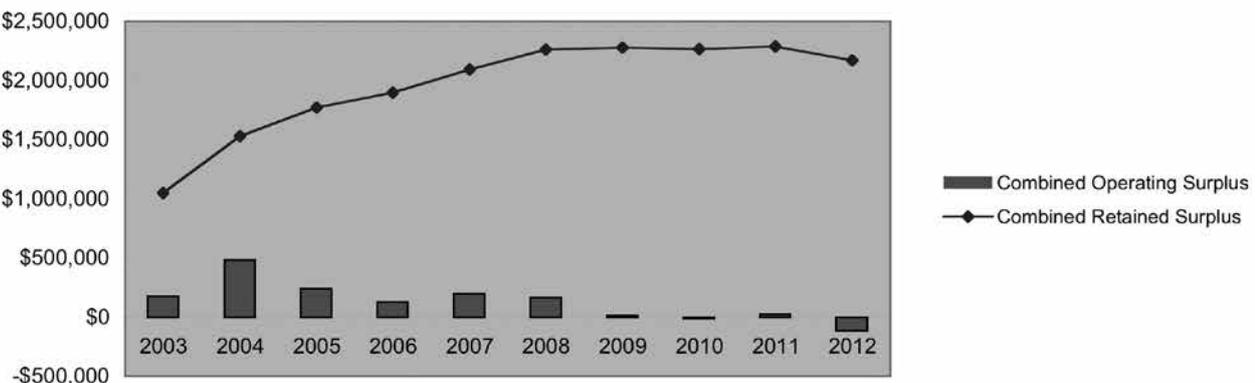
**IPWEA (NSW) monthly Current Ratio (excluding Funds held in Trust) versus 2010/2011**



**IPWEA NSW and NSW Foundation Combined Track of Ten Year Financial Performance**



**NSW Foundation Track of Ten Year Financial Performance**



# Foundation Report

The trustees met several times during the year including teleconferences. In 2011/2012 the focus has been on implementing the concise strategic/business plan supported by a five year sustainable budget and financial model.

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The strategic plan clearly identified that the Foundation should support the vision and mission of IPWEA (NSW). This plan identified 5 key result areas:

- **Governance and Stewardship.** The MEF will be a financially sustainable organisation capable of delivering consistent funds for the advancement of the science of Public Works Engineering.
- **Professional Development.** The Foundation will be a source of funds to permit the development of Professional development courses focused on the needs of IPWEA members.
- **Training and Expansion of Regional Groups.** The Foundation will be a support for the establishment, revival and training of Regional Groups.
- **Scholarships and Endowments.** The Foundation will provide funds to enable study, travel and exchange programs for IPWEA members. Intellectual capital derived from these programs will be shared with the broader membership.
- **Recognition of Excellence.** The Foundation will be a primary support for the recognition of excellence in Public Works Engineering. The Foundation will support the dissemination of knowledge gleaned from projects and their leaders.

The Foundation has had a successful year providing funds to meet most of these objectives. The Foundation has funds available to support the Professional development program. However in 2011 IPWEA elected to fund new course development out of its own money and by a grant from the Office of Environment and Heritage for the recycled materials training course. The trustees have requested the IPWEA to consider the Foundation as a possible source of funding.

The Organisational champions program supported by the Foundation struggled somewhat this year due to workloads of the “champions” in their own organisations. As noted elsewhere IPWEA now has 50 Organisational champions. A review of the program has reduced the cost of delivery by utilising webinar technology.

An award for the Study Tour to USA, Belgium and France in September 2011 was made to Garry Hemsworth from Lismore City Council. Garry has prepared an excellent report. The report is accessible from the IPWEA (NSW) web site. As the IFME Conference was held in Helsinki in June 2012, the Foundation also provided an award for a Study tour to Finland, Sweden and Estonia. Wayne Cone from Maitland City Council was the successful applicant. Wayne has given a presentation to the Hunter regional group and we wait his report with anticipation.



A grant was also extended to Guy Creber to assist his attendance at the IFME conference, where he presented a paper. The grant also enabled him join part of the study tour and contact visits in the UK.

As there was no State conference in May 2011, the Foundation funded Young Leaders to the National Conference in Canberra. Seven young members availed themselves of this offer. This was followed up with an offer to support young members' attendance at the 2012 State Conference in Coffs Harbour. Four young members received support for this conference.

The Foundation supported the Annual Awards for Excellence including the costs of judging and preparation of awards. Dave Abbott and Geoff Fowler undertook a big role in assessing the numerous awards in each category. The NSW Awards for Excellence have been aligned with the Biennial National Awards. The Best Project Category winners and leaders from the 2012 and 2013 awards will be submitted as NSW nominations to the National Awards. I am delighted that Mike Rayner from Tweed Shire Council was presented with the Project Leader Award at the dinner. Congratulations to all the other award category winners.

The Foundation continued its funding of the "Build a bridge" program run by Compact and the REROC group of Councils. IPWEA members have supported the program for a number of years. The three day course in Wagga gives year 10 and 11 students an exposure to public works engineering. They "graduate" from the course by building a bridge and getting over it! The Foundation regards this and similar programs as a contribution to local initiatives seeking to address the engineering skills shortages. The Foundation has agreed in principle to support a similar initiative by the RAMROC group of Councils.

The Foundation also supported the "Women in Engineering" weekend at University of New England. This program brings female year 11 students from all over NSW to Campus to sample the opportunities in engineering.

While the Foundation has supported many formally structured programs, there is still scope to reward individual initiative and scholarship. The Trustees will always welcome individual applications for endowments to study, travel, and exchange programs.

All these activities can only be delivered because the Foundation is operating from a strong asset base of both property and cash investments. The

cash investments were reviewed in detail in 2011 and a revised investment plan which maximised return while providing timely access to funds was implemented.

The trustees report a loss of \$31,186 for the financial year ended 2011/12. Several factors contributed to this deficit:

- No donation was forthcoming from IPWEA. We noted earlier that IPWEA (NSW) had funded some of its Professional Development initiatives from within its own resources.
- There were two study tours supported in the year
- Young leaders were supported at both the National and State conferences.

The submission made by our auditors for deductible gift recipient status was rejected by the ATO. However as the legislation surrounding charitable trusts is under review an appeal may be lodged once the new direction is established. This may assist in optimising future donations to the foundation.

I thank my fellow trustees for their support and diligence of the past year. As well, the Trustees acknowledge the great support the Foundation receives from Mark Turner and his staff in the IPWEA office.



**Chris Watson**  
**Chairperson of the Municipal Engineering**  
**Foundation**



# Professional Development & Education

Firstly, I would like to congratulate Colin Emerson on his appointment as Manager Professional Development and Critical Skills for IPWEA (NSW). Colin was appointed to the position following the resignation of Sabrina Tande at the end of last year and has hit the ground running taking on the task of this key position.

The past twelve (12) months has been a difficult period again, with ever increasing pressures on the Professional Development activities. Although the income revenue has improved, the Board is continually aware of limited training budgets across Councils in New South Wales which affect the bottom line.

This financial year the Professional Development Income amounted to \$258,775 an increase of nearly 15% on the previous year.

Registration fees totalling \$242K were received from 21 courses delivered to 340 participants during the financial year 2011/12 and represent 94% of the total PD income. This above budget and reflects the excellent work undertaken by the current and previous Professional Development managers considering the ongoing difficulty to attract the training dollar from Councils across NSW and presenters.

IPWEA (NSW) delivered 16 courses this calendar year to 234 participants which, to name a few, included Road Safety Audits, Powers and Duties of a LG Engineer, Contract Administration and Contract Law, Timber Bridges and Plant School.

The Plant School held in Armidale was an unqualified success with 45 participants with interest now from other regional groups and industry support. IPWEA (NSW) is in discussion



with the construction industry of a future format for two plant schools per year.

IPWEA (NSW) is keeping up with the constant evolution of the Public Work sector with development of new courses and finalising some of these tends to be a lengthy process; sometimes involving several stakeholders. Relating the PD program to skill gaps and current priority list of strategic public works issues is ongoing.

Previously the NSW Foundation contributed to all new Course Development. The Board's decision for the PD cost centre to absorb course development rather than seeking funds from the Foundation also has impacted on income with additional expenses to salaries.

The PD speaker/presenter/third party contractor expenses includes fees paid to Colin Emerson as a contractor for developing Courses prior to Colin joining IPWEA (NSW) as Manager Professional Development and Critical Skills. Payroll expense to the department is higher than budget due to overlap during staff resignations and handover. Venue hire is \$26K below budget.

TAFE (NSW) has expressed interest in the Gangers Handbook as a mandatory resource for all Civil Construction students subject to the completion of the alignment of learning outcomes with the Nationally Accredited Units of Competency.

IPWEA (NSW) is in discussion with TAFE NSW in regards to the alignment of all of our courses (including the Gangers handbook) to these Nationally Accredited Units of Competency from the National Framework.

The total number of Gangers handbooks sold this financial year prior to these discussions was 108. A revised course handbook aligning the Gangers Handbook to the National Competency requirements for TAFE NSW is proposed for launch at the Works Officers Conference in October. This delay and consequence drop in sales is reflected in the 2011/12 budget.

Other income received during the financial year included funding from the Critical Skills Investment Fund.

Expenditure increased as previously mentioned primarily due to the cost of developing Courses and the Critical Skills Investment Fund (CSIF) submission.

The IPWEA has started to brand the Institute amongst Councils' H.R. representatives.

New marketing initiatives have taken place such as promotional videos sent to all H.R. departments within Councils and an upfront marketing approach with the sponsorship of an IPWEA stand at conferences like the HR conference. Other avenues are the continued development of Organisational Champions to increase professional developments market potential.

This approach during 2011/12 resulted in advertising being above budget.

Venue Hire, equipment hire, catering and printing and courier/freight were \$26K (51%) and \$8.1K (73%) below budget.

This along with higher than budgeted payroll hours, course development and preparation costs for the Critical Skills Investment Fund (CSIF) submission charged to the department off-set the lower direct expenses referred above giving a bottom line for the department of \$49.5K worse off than the budgeted profit of \$28K.

Notwithstanding the above, there are many positives and opportunities ahead for course development.

IPWEA has a long term goal to be at the forefront of providing relevant continuing Professional Development in the Public Works Industry by providing a suite of Professional Development Courses that reflect the changing needs and aspirations of members and the communities that they serve.

This year the IPWEA (NSW) was the subject of the RTO Audit process. This is a rigorous process involving a full external audit by an appointed ASQA auditor (*Australian Skills Quality Authority*).

This is an important step in ensuring that IPWEA (NSW) are compliant with all aspects of running an RTO and in determining the future direction of IPWEA (NSW) in the delivery of nationally recognised and accredited training.

This has been a significant task for the Professional Development Manager taking major effort to ensure compliance with the audit over the past



three months. This has involved considerable administration of all compliance documentation with the new ASQA requirements which came into effect in July 2011.

New documentation for all our administration procedures are required and all courses are under review as IPWEA (NSW) move to having all training we provide aligned to the Nationally Accredited competencies.

This will create a better value proposition and immense benefit to our members as it means that IPWEA (NSW) will be able to offer our members this accreditation automatically as part of their course member fee rate for any courses they attend.

The content of training packages offered by IPWEA (NSW) throughout the VETAB sector would be from Certificate II (applicable to 'Build a Bridge students') to Diploma level in Public Works. As IPWEA (NSW) moves to increase its RTO scope and seek accreditation.

This will allow all IPWEA (NSW) courses to be delivered either by IPWEA (NSW), TAFE NSW (under licence) or potentially as an RTO for other IPWEA State offices as a recognised element of all Civil Construction courses.

In relation to the Critical Skills Investment Fund (CSIF) TAFE NSW has enrolled 108 participants. The CSIF has approved IPWEA (NSW) holding over the remainder of the 186 places, enabling our organisation to call for expressions of interest from councils who have not taken advantage of this funding. TAFE NSW are also taking extra enrolments into the programme on our behalf as councils they are talking to request extra placements.

IPWEA (NSW) also has had an extension to the dates by which the training must be provided. Originally the close date was December 2012. This has now been extended to June 2014.



The short term strategies in the coming years are:

- Focus competency based courses around National Accreditation.
- Change or expand the RTO Scope of Registration to courses more relevant to our training in line with the strategic plan.
- Strengthen our strategic partnership of mutual benefit to deliver PD and Education.
- Promote the Institute and PD amongst Councils HR representatives.
- Fully utilise the capability of delivery of e-learning and distance education solutions to the needs of our members.
- Increase revenue, attendance and profit from PD Program.

The Regional Conferences which received strong support both from attendees in the Regional Areas as well as a strong support from sponsors will continue to be rolled out in the current financial year.

IPWEA (NSW) is constantly seeking feedback and is interested in progressing new and innovative training for the benefit of public works practitioners. There may be opportunities over 2 days to 'dovetail' training courses with our Regional Conferences. I urge the members to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the IPWEA (NSW) and consider the benefits of maintaining their ongoing Professional Development.

Finally, as previously mentioned, it has been a difficult twelve months as Colin stepped into the role of Manager Professional Development and Critical Skills, but the efforts of the Executive and the Professional Development and Critical Skills Manager are to be congratulated in rolling out workshops and training so that as an organisation, provide you with all the opportunity to improve your skills and knowledge. Well done to John and Colin and Events Manager Michelle. It is certainly a team effort.

It would also be remiss of me if I didn't say thank you to our international interns over the past year aiding our Professional Development team. Thanks go to Jasmijn de Groot and Roos Janssen who have now returned back to their motherland; the Netherlands.

**Geoff Metcalfe**  
**Professional Development & Education**  
**Portfolio Director**

# Events



The IPWEA Events are a mainstay of many of the Institutes principles. In 2011-2012 a full program of appropriate and valuable opportunities were provided to allow members to join together, learn from their peers as well as selected guest speakers and Keynote speakers from Industry, Government departments and from within our own ranks.

## Annual General Meeting

Our AGM was held in 21st October 2011 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Coogee. The Combined Metropolitan Groups joined with Members of the Board to deal with matters of the day.

The new board was announced and the following issues discussed:

- Professional Development & Education
- Events
- CivEnEx
- Membership Services

- Skills Shortage
- Asset Management & Sustainability
- Road Safety
- Stormwater & Floodplain Management, Environment
- Roads & Transport Directorate
- Regional Groups

## Regional Conferences

The next round of Regional Conferences commenced in February and after a hectic few months concluded in April as follows.

Date	Region	Location/Venue
<b>February 2012</b>		
Monday 20 February	Central West Group	The Old Vic, Canowindra
Wednesday 22 February	Orana Group	RSL Club, Nyngan
Friday 24 February	New England / Northwest Group	The Max Function, Moree
<b>March 2012</b>		
Monday 5 March	South West Group	Rich River Golf Club, Moama
Wednesday 7 March	South East Group	Thredbo Alpine Hotel, Thredbo
Friday 9 March	Illawarra Group	Gibraltar Hotel, Bowral
Monday 19 March	North Coast Group	Ramada Point, Ballina
Wednesday 21 March	Mid North Coast Group	Mobys Beachside Retreat, Boomerang Beach
Friday 23 March	Hunter Group	Mercure Kooindah Waters, Wyong
<b>April 2012</b>		
Tuesday 17 April	Metropolitan West Group	The Sebel Resort & Spa, Windsor
Thursday 19 April	Metropolitan South Group Metropolitan North Group	St George Motorboat Club, Sans Souci

The attendances were as follows:

**Regional Conference attendance**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Member Delegates</b>	<b>Non Member Delegates</b>	<b>Other – Presenter/ sponsors</b>	<b>Total</b>
Regional Conferences – South West	11	16	8	35
Regional Conferences – Hunter	8	9	10	27
Regional Conferences – South East	10	3	8	21
Regional Conferences – Central West	9	11	11	31
Regional Conferences – Illawarra	11	18	11	40
Regional Conferences – Metropolitan West	5	16	10	31
Regional Conferences – Metropolitan North and South	11	11	12	34

Positive feedback was received from each of the one day conferences and those comments received will be used to improve these events in the future.

A major effort is required to organise and present these events and this would not be possible without the huge commitment of the IPWEA Staff.

**Annual State IPWEA Conference and Excellence Awards Dinner 2012**

The NSW Roads Congress, the Road Safety Officers Forum and Water Directorate were again part of the Annual State Conference held in Coffs Harbour on Monday 7th to Wednesday 9th May 2012 at the Novotel Coffs Harbour Pacific Bay. The event consisted of a full and informative program. The theme of the Conference was: ‘Public Works Challenges – Closing the Gap’.

Attendance at the Conference was as follows:

	<b>Member Delegates</b>	<b>Non Member Delegates</b>	<b>Other – Presenter/ sponsors</b>	<b>Total</b>
Full Annual Conference	69	39	55	163



The Conference culminated in the Engineering Excellence Awards. Awards were presented for the following categories:

- Public Works Leader of the Year presented to Mr. Michael Rayner, General Manager of Tweed Council for his contribution to the Industry over many years.
- Design and/or Construction of a Local Government/Public Works Project
- New or Improved Techniques including: Innovation and/or Introduction of Techniques, Outstanding Management Initiatives, Outstanding Achievement in Asset Management – *partnered by IPWEA Roads and Transport Directorate*
- Innovation in Water Supply and Wastewater – *partnered by Water Directorate*
- Occupational Health and Safety – *partnered by Downer Australia*
- The three R's: Recovering, Recycling and Reusing
- Excellence in Road Safety Engineering
- Environmental Enhancement Project or Initiative
- Local Government Excellence in Road Safety: City and Regional.

### **Plant School**

As a result of discussion with the New England North West IPWEA Group, the IPWEA Plant School was run on the 18th & 19th of July in Armidale; a multi faceted Plant Operators training school covering the areas of Grader Operations, Excavator & Backhoe Operations, Heavy Patching, Compaction and Stabilisation Techniques. The practical two day training program is hands on and supported by industry. Thank you to David Steller and Greg Moran for their commitment to this valuable event.

It is hoped that the event may be taken to other regions as interest increases.

### **Events Team**

A big thank you to John Roydhouse and Michelle Burgess for their dedication and for their the encouragement of our team of overseas interns, I wish to express my thanks to IPWEA staff for their efforts in making all the events a success and look forward to another year full of activities.

A very special thanks goes to my Co-Director, Geoff Metcalfe for filling the breach during the State Conference. Thanks Geoff.

### **Future Events**

Discussions have been held to determine if any improvements can be made to our IPWEA Events. The comments received as feedback from the Regional and State Conferences have been taken on board and a number of options are under consideration. Our aim is to make the IPWEA events ever more useful, fun and effective at providing an extremely valid service to our members, for young, old and everyone in between. Watch this space.

### **Conclusion**

I encourage all members of IPWEA to support and attend as many events as possible and to bring along the up and coming Engineers who will succeed us as the next Generation of Public Works Engineers.

Finally, I offer a worthy quote from Ken Halstead, Mayor of Wingecarribee Council, advising Directors and Engineers at one of our Regional Conferences: that "Councils cannot afford not to send Engineers to the IPWEA Events as they may save their Council \$5,000, \$10,000 or \$50,000 or more through what they learn at the event/ training session".

I couldn't put it better myself. The quote says it all.

**Bill Woodcock**  
**Events Portfolio Director**



# CivEnEx



An excellent open air exhibition venue at Western Sydney International Dragway (WSID) helped to ensure that the 57th CivEnEx held in May 2012 was a great show and one of our most successful. Unfortunately, the new 60x25 metre permanent pavilion constructed last year was destroyed in an extreme wind event and we needed to revert to a large marquee. However the extra paved area and a demonstration area in the main part of the site made the exhibition site more attractive to both exhibitors and delegates alike.

Our thanks go to the management and staff of WSID for their continued support and cooperation in providing the venue for CivEnEx. We now have a multi-year agreement in place with WSID which will ensure much-needed consistency of venue and marketing stability for the foreseeable future.

Attendance at CivEnEx. 2012 was 20 percent higher than 2011. There was strong local government support for the event with over 800 delegates from 110 of NSW's 152 Councils. All councils in the Hunter, Illawarra and Central West sent delegates. All but three metropolitan Council attended CivEnEx. We took the opportunity to write to the General Managers of attending councils thanking them for their participation and reinforcing the benefits available through attendance. We also wrote to those councils "missing in action" to emphasise what they had missed and encourage their involvement in the future.

Exhibitor numbers in 2012 increased over the previous year, with all available sites being filled. The outdoor demonstration area operated again this year and attracted a steady stream of delegates. We propose enlarging this area for future events enabling a broader range of plant to be showcased.

I thank the team of volunteer judges from the public works industry who had the difficult task of judging the exhibitor awards. Awards were presented on the Wednesday afternoon in the demonstration area with refreshments provided for visitors and exhibitors alike.

Congratulations to the following exhibitors who received awards:

- **Best outdoor stand** – Kennards Hire
- **Highly commended** – Hitachi Construction Equipment Aust P/L
- **Best indoor stand** – Ingal Civil Products
- **Highly commended** – BCP Precast
- **Best new product** – Worksmart Equipment
- **Highly commended** – Detection Solutions
- **Environmental Product** – Echo Barrier Australia
- **Highly commended** – Hino Motor Sales Australia P/L
- **Most innovative product** – Grade Control
- **Highly commended** – Greencare Industries

Congratulations to Frank and Susie Sticka and their team, along with the IPWEA staff, for organising another successful event. Planning for CivEnEx 2013 has commenced. Discussions are under way with Frank Sticka and WSID to make the exhibition and venue even better in the future.

Make sure you attend next year's CivEnEx on 15 and 16 May 2013 and encourage your colleagues and suppliers to be there. You can never have too much fun!

For further details see [www.civenex.com](http://www.civenex.com)

**Stewart McLeod**  
**CivEnEx Portfolio Director**

# Membership Services

Currently our membership stands at around 740 including student, associate, emeritus and retired members. This follows a further cleansing of membership data and follow-up of potential new members and prospects.

The year has seen the consolidation of the Organisational Champions concept and following commencement of an extensive training program, the Institute has now over 50 Organisational Champions across the State who will continue to assist us to grow and retain membership.

It is hoped that over the next twelve months further training will be undertaken with a aim to have at least 100 Organisational Champions where most Council and relevant other Organisations contain an Institute Champion. If you are serious about our organisation and want to contribute, be an Organisational Champion. Contact the Membership Services Staff for more information.

The year also saw the Board adopt an updated Communication Strategy. NSW Division Staff are providing regular email newsletters or e-bulletins, the showcase journal and regional group meeting updates. It is hoped that 2012/2013 will see determination of further resources being provided to improve membership services.

**Gary Woodman**  
Membership Services Portfolio Director



# Skills Shortage

IPWEA has been active in the area of skills shortage and is doing some great work.

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Things such as

- supporting Build a Bridge, REROC and now RAMROC being established
- Supporting the UNE Women in Engineering,
- UTS Trophy,
- Involvement with Skills DMC and to a lesser extent Government Skills Australia,
- Our success in the Critical Skills Investment Fund
- Our leading Professional Development courses etc.
- Submission to Senate Inquiry on Engineering Skills Shortage.

All form just part of our activities.

One area of constant frustration with the announcements and programs offered primarily by the Federal Government is that whilst encouraging more traineeship and study with government assisted and funded training; there is little recognition of the need to develop and invest in training resources and knowledge.

Whilst the promotion of engineering and civil construction training is to be encouraged the fact remains that we face two problems:

1. Selling the message that engineering and associated occupations are worthwhile career paths
2. The challenge of actually resourcing training and relevant information and teaching materials. TAFE NSW for instance has asked IPWEA to develop training resources as they do not have the ability, staff or knowledge to do so.



IPWEA has many great resources: the Gangers Handbook; the Recycled material specifications and training workshop; our new timber bridges course; and even the Powers and Duties course is crucial training. The dilemma is they don't map directly across to Units of Competency in any of the recognised training packages.

This second issue is our major concern.

Assistance has been sought from both Skills DMC and Government Skills Australia seeking a source of funding to allow IPWEA to undertake the mapping. Unfortunately there has not been a positive response, with the Industry Skills Councils suggesting it is either a commercial project or that funding needs to be sourced through a government department.

Possible areas for further investigation include advocacy and representation to the federal parliamentarians, seeking the support of the ACELG for example.

The Senate Inquiry into Skills Shortage released its Report on 12th July.

## **In summary**

This is a significant document and whilst the specific initiatives promoted by IPWEA have not been stated, there is considerable scope to continue to advocate for the implementation of these recommendations.

## Recommendations

### Recommendation 2

3.29 The committee recommends that the government works through the Council of Australian Governments to promote science, technology, engineering and maths ability in states and territories.

### Recommendation 5

3.67 The committee recommends that the industry committees advising universities take an active role in ensuring engineering courses are suited to industry requirements. To ensure their effectiveness, committees should include representatives with direct experience supervising and working with engineering graduates.

### Recommendation 6

4.41 The committee recommends that the government consider creating senior technical engineering roles in the Australian Public Service. This measure would ensure that highly qualified technical engineers may continue to build upon specialist knowledge while enjoying career progression in the public sector.

### Recommendation 8

5.39 The committee recommends that the government work with states and territories through the Council of Australian Governments to engage with engineering industry peak bodies with a view to developing measures to encourage the provision of practical, paid work experience to university students.

### Recommendation 9

5.47 The committee recommends that the government consider how it can encourage commonwealth contractors to provide graduate and cadetship programs through its procurement processes.

### Recommendation 10

5.68 The committee recommends that the government work with the Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency and employers to develop targeted policies that encourage women to remain in, or return to, the engineering workforce.

### Recommendation 11

5.75 The committee recommends that the government work with Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency to continue to develop targeted policies that encourage mature engineers to remain in or return to the workforce.

### Recommendation 12

5.86 The committee recommends that the government continues to work with the states and territories through the Council of Australian Governments to make a national registration scheme for engineers a priority area for reform over the next decade.

**Ken Halstead**  
**Portfolio Director Skills Shortage**



# Asset Management & Sustainability

IPWEA is recognised for its leadership in Asset Management. Through this leadership IPWEA continues to advance the development of the sector to respond to the challenges of managing infrastructure. To achieve this, IPWEA has resourced a program developed at the National level. The role of the Asset Management portfolio within the NSW division has been to provide input into the development of the national program, advocate at the state level, and provide the communication interface to ensure that the national program is connected and applied at the local level in NSW.

There has been a deepening maturity of the sector's understanding and application of asset management principles. To support this and further extend our leadership, IPWEA's asset management program has substantially expanded again this past year through NAMS.AU and the establishment of the Australian Centre for Excellence in Local Government (ACELG).

NAMS.AU is the National Asset Management Steering Committee. This is an internal IPWEA committee that allows the States Divisions to come together to share information and experiences and plan our program's development in a nationally consistent manner. IPWEA NSW remains committed to this process as a contributing member of NAMS.AU and thereby supports its work.

It is through the NAMS.AU program that IPWEA has continue to develop our suite of tools and training such as the NAMS.plus templates and industry support, condition assessment practice



notes, the Infrastructure Financial Management Guidelines, and the International Infrastructure Management Manual (IIMM). A key project for 2010/2011, in collaboration with Ingenium (the NZ Association of Public Works Engineers), has been the development of a revised edition of the IIMM.

ACELG was formed by a consortium partners being the University of Technology Sydney, University of Canberra, IPWEA, LGMA and the Australian and New Zealand School of Government. In addition to IPWEA's role in the corporate governance and management of ACELG, IPWEA is the appointed manager for the Centre's Organisation Capacity Building Program.

The objectives of this program include developing the capacity of councils in terms of their approach to infrastructure asset management and financial planning. Through the resources available from this program, this year IPWEA released a new manual being Asset Management for Small Regional and Remote Communities (AM4RRC). This manual is focussed on assisting those councils who because of size or location find it difficult to resource or attract professionals with specific asset management expertise. Other major projects completed or nearing completion including a Long Term Financial Planning Guideline, a maturity model and a national data set. The maturity model will assist organisations through a self assessment and benchmarking process enabling them to focus on the development of their improvement strategies.

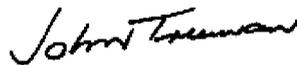
The NSW Division of Local Government has requested IPWEA to provide our expertise, resources and tools to deliver the asset management and financial planning program made possible from the Local Government Reform Fund. This fund has allowed us to offer all councils in NSW a subscription to NAMS.plus for a year, copies of our manuals and subsidised training. In addition to this, the DLG has selected 42 councils to receive a grant to complete a maturity gap assessment and prepare an improvement plan, supported by training in the AM4SRRC Manual.

The reform fund program is substantial and combined with the requirements for NSW councils to comply with the new integrated planning and reporting guidelines, we consider that the interest and skill development for asset management in NSW will significantly increase. Therefore it will be important for us to continue to develop our program so that it remains the source of industry leadership and responds to the emerging needs of the sector.

Last year I reported that we had included sustainability into this portfolio to recognise that we need to develop a response to the needs of our members who are attempting to deal with the management challenge of developing sustainable infrastructure, particularly in response to climate

change risks. Regrettably resources have been a constraint again this year meaning we have not made any meaningful impact against this objective. It remains my view that both the National and NSW Boards need to continue to examine the role and service we are able to provide in this area.

IPWEA's asset management program remains a significant component of our activities. As reported above the program continues to develop and is now benefiting from access to external resources which will only further accelerate the expansion of our capacity. The leadership that this program provides should be a source of pride to the membership as it makes a major contribution to the recognition and awareness of our what our profession provides to the communities we serve.



**John Truman**  
**Portfolio Director Asset Management & Sustainability**



# Road Safety



The Road Safety Program continued to evolve in 2011/2012 as IPWEA sought to meet the needs of all members and their employers in delivering safer roads and reduced trauma to the communities they serve. The Road Safety Panel has helped to provide direction and counsel on the delivery of our program.

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The future for Road Safety Officers within NSW Local Government still remains uncertain as no clear direction has been given by the RMS on funding for the Local Government Road Safety Program (LGRSP). The restructure of the RMS (formerly RTA) saw the role of road safety shift to the Transport for NSW portfolio.

Nevertheless IPWEA believes the skills which reside with our RSO members are extremely valuable to Councils and the community alike. I was pleased that our RSO members provide valuable input into our submission to the Staysafe Committee on the topic of school safety zones. Our Executive Manager was invited by the Staysafe Committee to speak to our submission in late November. The Committee expressed strong interest in the work and initiatives of our RSO and requested follow up information; gladly provide by our RSO and road safety member network. When the Staysafe report finally emerged in March 2012 two of the recommendations confirmed support for the role of Road Safety Officers and the local Government Road Safety Program. Key recommendations included:

#### **RECOMMENDATION 13**

The Committee reiterates previous recommendations in relation to the future operation of the Road Safety Officer Program and again recommends that the Program be maintained and expanded to provide greater certainty of employment for staff currently employed and to increase its effectiveness and reach across NSW council areas.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 14**

The Committee recommends that Roads and Maritime Services, in conjunction with local councils examine the feasibility of supporting school zone

safety projects undertaken by Road Safety Officers by initiating an awards system to recognise significant road safety projects in school zones.

The Road safety forum was held on 8th May in conjunction with the Roads Congress and Awards for Excellence Dinner. The venue was the Novotel Pacific Bay Resort in Coffs Harbour. The one day forum provided a range of papers on the theme "Closing the Gap".

The Awards for Excellence Dinner recognised key Road Safety projects. Congratulations to Lisa Marshall from Lismore Council for their "drive to conditions" project. Highly commended awards went Parkes Shire Council and Bathurst Regional and Blayney Shire Councils. I thank the awards panel who reviewed the submissions for the awards. They noted each of the award winning projects shared a common theme: that Road safety in Local Government is a whole of community affair adopting a safe systems approach. The role of the Road Safety Officer in these projects was as an "agent of change" and a strong endorsement of their influence in the community.

The award nominations also provided excellent subject matter for peer presentations in the road safety forum. Phil King and Mel Sutor provided strong visual support for their paper on the Parkes Elvis festival with the "King" himself making a rare appearance.

A communiqué was developed from the forum and, armed with the recommendation from the Staysafe Committee; IPWEA will continue to promote Road Safety through RSOs with the RMS and their ministers.

The VETAB accredited courses on Road safety auditing has not been picked up by the RMS but they remained a valuable asset in our PD portfolio. However the existing but revised Road safety auditing courses continued to enjoy strong support with several two day course delivered.

I am encouraged that our RSO members have remained dedicated and focussed on the role within Council and continue to deliver great outcomes.

**Warren Sharpe**  
**Road Safety Portfolio Director**

# Stormwater and Floodplain Management, Environment

It has been a busy year for local government with floods, drought, bushfire and all the usual extremes of weather experienced in Australia. Climate change, carbon tax and La Nina weather have attracted news headlines throughout the year.

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The IPWEA continues to work with State and Federal agencies to ensure that local government has the most accurate information available to use as input for stormwater and environmental considerations.

Work on Australian Rainfall and Runoff continues to progress, with several project reports and seminars of outcomes being delivered by the revision team. Information on this process, including links to the reports and advice regarding seminars and other related news can be found on the Australian Rainfall and Runoff website at <http://www.ncwe.org.au/arr/index.html>



New Guidelines for Controlled Activities in Riparian Corridors have been released by the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries Office of Water (NoW). These will have significant impact on stormwater management and treatment. The Guidelines offer more flexibility than was previously available and allow a range of activities to occur within the riparian corridors that are consistent with the risks and opportunities available. IPWEA will work with NoW to ensure local government is aware of the changes in policy and understands the impact of these changes for our core business activities. More information can be found on NoW's website at <http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/Water-licensing/Approvals/Controlled-activities/Controlled-activities/default.aspx>

**Cathy Kinsey**  
**Stormwater, Floodplain Management and Environment Portfolio Director**





Institute of  
Public Works  
Engineering  
Australia  
(NSW Division)

# IPWEA (NSW) ROADS & TRANSPORT DIRECTORATE

The 2011/12 year has been another fruitful one for the Roads & Transport Directorate. The 2012 Local Roads Congress was again held in conjunction with the IPWEA Annual conference in Coffs Harbour on 8th May 2012. The Congress was attended by 108 delegates including a number of Councillors and General Managers. Feedback confirmed the suitability of this venue as a regional location for the Congress. Delegates valued the presentations made by the Deputy Director General of Transport for NSW, the CEO of Austroads and representatives of the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR), the COAG Road Reform Plan (CRRP), Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) and the Australian Trucking Association (ATA).

- RMS Pavements Conference
- Parkes Inland Rail Symposium

Presentations were delivered to:

- 2012 Local Roads Congress
- UTS Corporate Planning Course
- BRIDGEguide Pilot training course
- Greenspec training course
- The Australasian College of Road Safety (ACRS)
- A number of IPWEA Group Meetings

A number of projects have been completed during the year including:

- Traffic Control Training (In conjunction with RMS and Austroads)
- Crushed glass in road pavements project at Great Lakes
- Improved Route Assessment Guidelines for HML applications on local roads (LGSA and RMS)
- Land Matters Manual in conjunction with Water Directorate

During the year the Roads & Transport Directorate represented member's interests in a variety of forums including:

- The Road Freight Advisory Council 'Last Mile' Access Sub-Committee
- IPWEA (NSW) Road Safety Panel
- National Pavement Management Systems User Group
- NAMS Meetings
- Presentations at each of the Regional Group Meetings
- The Street Openings Conference
- RTA Road Maintenance Council Contracts (RMCC) Review Committee
- Transport for NSW Level Crossing Working Group



- Road Condition Assessment Guidelines (With South East Group)

Several more projects are about to be signed off including:

- Indexing of previously unpublished research projects
- Pavement and seal design information sheets
- The implications of the 4th power rule to the assessment of Higher Mass Limits Vehicles on local roads.
- Optimum life of bitumen seals and asphalt surfaces for NSW Opportunities to lower the life cycle cost of bitumen and asphalt (Combined)

The new financial year sees a number of exciting projects underway including:

- 2012 Asset Benchmarking Project (The third data collection exercise)
- Construction Cost Forecasts 2012 to 2022 Publication
- Maintenance of Unsealed Roads Project

Both the Bridge Working Party and the Technical Committee have met regularly over the past twelve months. They have provided invaluable advice to the Roads & Transport Directorate and have provided practical review of project proposals and draft publications.

This year has been a busy year and I would like to thank all members of the Roads & Transport Directorate Committee for their committed efforts, lateral thought and attendance at our meetings, especially elected members, Allan Smith and Ken Keith as LGSA representatives, whose input has been invaluable.

**Warren Sharpe**  
**Roads & Transport Directorate Portfolio Director**



# Regional Group Reports



## IPWEA (NSW) Group Meetings

DATE	DAY	REGIONAL GROUP or OTHER EVENT	VENUE
7 July 2011	Thursday	North Coast Group	Goonellabah
14 July 2011	Thursday	Illawarra Group	Moss Vale
3 August 2011	Wednesday	Central West	Forbes
16 August 2011	Tuesday	Metro North	Ryde
21 - 25 August 2011	Sun - Thurs	International Public Works Conference	National Convention Centre, Canberra
2 September 2011	Friday	South West Group	Gundagai
14 September 2011	Wednesday	New England North West	Tamworth
15 September 2011	Thursday	Hunter	Heatherbrae
16 September 2011	Friday	Mid North Coast	Gloucester
19 September 2011	Monday	North Coast Group	Casino
22 September 2011	Thursday	Illawarra Group	Shellharbour
23 September 2011	Friday	Orana Group	Mendooran
28 September 2011	Wednesday	Metro West	Penrith
21 October 2011	Friday	Combined Metro	Coogee
4 November 2011	Friday	South West	Lockhart
16 November 2011	Wednesday	New England North West	Guyra
23 November 2011	Wednesday	Central West	Orange (AGM)
25 November 2011	Friday	Mid North Coast	Bellingen
2 December 2011	Friday	Orana Group	Gilgandra (AGM)
15 December 2011	Thursday	North Coast Group	Tweed
16 February 2011	Thursday	Hunter	Newcastle
20 February 2012	Monday	Regional Conference South West Group	Canowindra

22 February 2012	Wednesday	Regional Conference Orana Group	Nyngan
24 February 2012	Friday	Regional Conference New England / North West Group	Moree
5 March 2012	Monday	Regional Conference South West Group	Echuca
7 March 2012	Tuesday	Regional Conference South East Group	Thredbo
9 March 2012	Friday	Regional Conference Illawarra Group	Bowral
15 March	Thursday	South Metropolitan	Mascot
19 March 2012	Monday	Regional Conference North Coast Group	Ballina
21 March 2012	Wednesday	Regional Conference Mid North Coast Group	Forster
23 March 2012	Friday	Regional Conference Hunter Group	Wyong
29 March 2012	Thursday	New England North West	Armidale
13 April 2012	Friday	Mid North Coast Group	Kempsey (inspecting longest bridge in southern hemisphere under construction)
17 April 2012	Tuesday	Regional Conference Metropolitan West Group	Windsor
19 April 2012	Thursday	Regional Conference Metropolitan North & South Group	Sans Souci
7 May - 9 May	Mon - Wed	2012 IPWEA NSW State Conference	Novotel, Pacific Bay Coffs Harbour
16 May & 17 May	Wed - Thur	CivEnEx	Sydney Dragway, Eastern Creek
14 June	Thursday	Illawarra Group	Wollondilly Shire City Council
15 June	Friday	South West Group	Yass (combined SE group)
15 June	Friday	South East Group	Yass (combined SW group)
20 June	Wednesday	New England / North West Group	Bingara
20 June	Wednesday	Central West Group	Forbes
21 June	Thursday	Hunter	Lake Macquarie
29 June	Friday	Orana (AGM)	Dubbo

## Central West

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The Central West group has had an excellent 12 months of meeting and visiting some of the exciting projects being undertaken in the region. Meetings were held in Orange, Canowindra (Regional Conference), Forbes and Cowra. These meetings were well supported with numbers averaging around 20 for each meeting.

I believe that one of the strengths of the group meeting format is the opportunity for local presentations to be made at each meeting. These presentations provide an excellent opportunity for public works engineers to showcase what they have been working on to their peers. We have had some tremendous discussion stemming from these presentations, particularly when considering the idea of "what would I do differently/what could be done better?" By coming into these discussions with an open mind and willingness to share our experience, the whole group can benefit particularly without having to reinvent the wheel.

We have had some great support within our group for many younger engineers given an opportunity to attend our meetings, and being able to build up their networks, again another strength of the group meeting format. Taking one day every 3 months out of an undoubtedly busy schedule, can be quite valuable to these guys, especially when so many are studying through distance education on traineeships with their respective council.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mark Turner, John Roydhouse, Mick Savage and Michelle Burgess for their continued support of our meetings and making the trek out to meet with us at different times and for providing their thorough updates of IPWEA activities. Josh Devitt and I are also grateful for the continued support from the group towards our meetings over the past 12 months of being group secretary and chairperson.

**Phil King**  
Chairperson

**Josh Devitt**  
Secretary

## Hunter

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Three meetings were held by the Hunter Region Group of IPWEA over the past year. The meetings were:

### September Meeting

- Hosted by Port Stephens Council.

A tour and inspection of the Williamstown Drainage saga was undertaken near the Newcastle airport, Williamstown. The evening was sponsored by Tropic Asphalts.

### February Meeting

- Hosted by Newcastle City Council.

A guided tour of the No.2 sportsground reconstruction was followed by a presentation on the project by Denis Hainsworth (NCC). The sponsor for this meeting, James Hardie, provided a presentation prior to dinner.

### June Meeting

- Hosted by Lake Macquarie City Council.

An inspection of the construction of a new sustainable resource centre in Teralba was undertaken with an information session on OEH exemptions at Lake Macquarie City Councils' City Works depot. The meeting also had an informative presentation by guest chairperson Wayne Cone on his recent IPWEA National study tour to Finland, Sweden and Estonia.

The evening's sponsor was the Foundation and Port Stephens Council.

All three meetings were well attended by both members of IPWEA and LGEA, with thank you to John Roydhouse and Mark Turner from IPWEA for their informative reports at the meetings, and Gordon Brock for his informative advice from the LGEA on industrial matters.

**John Maretich**  
Chairperson

**Rick Mackenzie**  
Secretary

## Illawarra

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The Illawarra Group comprising of engineers and technical staff from Wingecarribee, Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama, Wollondilly, Shoalhaven Councils, Local Consultants and NSW Public Works have met three times. At each meeting there is an average of 15 members and the discussions on current work, successes and challenges has been very interesting.

We have set up organisation representatives to assist in gaining more interest from staff at each council in our group. These members have been working well to assist in organising meeting rooms/venues and suggesting places to had a meal and relax afterwards.

Our first meeting was held in Moss Vale in winter? The meeting was well attended and sponsored by 'Local Government Procurement' (LGP). Angela Tesoriero provided a real time example of using the Vendor Panel for the host Council (Wingecarribee) who were looking for design service quotes to replace ten local bridges. The Southern Highlands in winter does live up to its reputation and the when members left after dinner it was a balmy 2 degrees!!

The second meeting was held at Shellharbour City Council, and hosted at the Warilla Bowls Club on 22 September 2011. The venue has a great little adjoining restaurant to the meeting room where a meal was provided to members being sponsored by 'Fulton Hogan' and 'James Hardie' (pipes). The sponsors discussed new and improved products in the pipe business and the proposed asphalt plant to be built at Kembla Grange. The meeting went really well and special thanks to Murray Davis for his help in organising.

Next came the Regional Conference, held at the Gibraltar Hotel in Bowral on 9 March 2012. The day, the venue and presentations went brilliantly all thanks to Michelle and the team at IPWEA. All attendees I have spoken too had a great time and really appreciated the networking opportunity.

Lastly, but by no means the least important we held a meeting in Picton at Wollondilly Shire Council on the 14 June 2012. Yours truly was an hour late for the meeting being caught in a 'carpark' en-route from Sydney; otherwise known as the M5. Special thanks to Michael Brearley for keeping the show 'on the road' before I got there. The meeting was sponsored by 'Solar G' who is a Solar Electronic Applications Company. There presentation was very informative and examples of their work are all

over Sydney. Thanks to Ian Berthon for arranging the meeting room and dinner venue.

Special thanks to IPWEA staff that attended our local meetings and provided an update of the goings on in IPWEA, John Roydhouse, Mick Savage & Mark Turner.

**Mark Roebuck**  
Chairperson

**Royce White**  
Secretary

## Metropolitan North

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During the 2011/12 year the group met in August 2011. This meeting commenced with on-site tour of Ryde Council's Resource Recycling Facility presented by Barry Hodge, Manager Operations. At this facility asphalt and concrete is collected and crushed. The significant benefit has been the fact that Ryde has not bought any quarry products for over 15 years. The meeting was sponsored by Fulton Hogan who gave a presentation on the growth of their company in the Australasian asphalt and surfacing market. In addition Anthony Ogle gave a preview of the interesting paper he presented to the Canberra IPWEA conference on "The Human Scale" of asset management under IP&R. There was also general discussion on Street Lighting, Road / Rail Interface agreements, and Climate Change Adaptation.

The group also met at the regional meeting in April 2012. The next meeting is scheduled in October 2012.

**Anthony Ogle**  
Chairperson

**John Van Hesden**  
Secretary



## Metropolitan West

During the 2011/2012 year, the Metropolitan West Group, which comprises councils across the Western Sydney (WSROC) and South West Sydney (MACROC) areas, met on one occasion due to the coincidence of other IPWEA events held at times normally set aside for Metro West Group meetings.

The Metro West Group met in September 2011 at Penrith RSL with approximately 30 persons attending.

The meeting received generous support, sponsorship and a presentation from Veolia Water Network Services, which is a French multi-national company specialising in water supply and wastewater needs. In particular, Veolia WNS, are able to provide related condition assessment, design, project management, construction and rehabilitation services.

Topics reviewed and discussed included:

- Industrial and Professional Issues
- Road and Transport Directorate
- Road safety initiatives
- Topic of special interest
- Review of Group meeting time(s) and information presented

The subsequent meetings, nominally scheduled for November 2011, February and May 2012 were not held with members respectively being encouraged to attend the IPWEA NSW Annual General Meeting held at Coogee, the Regional Conference program held at The Sebel Resort & Spa Hawkesbury, Windsor, the IPWEA NSW State Conference held at Coffs Harbour and CivEnEx at Eastern Creek.



The Metro West Group recognises and welcomes the opportunities provided by the various forms of IPWEA initiated electronic information and communication services, but also recognises the value of personal networking and interaction; hence the Group looks forward to meetings proposed for September 2012 and early 2013.

The Group continues to welcome new members from all Councils within the Group.

The Group continues to appreciate the attendance of IPWEA NSW, Executive Manager Mark Turner and other IPWEA representatives, during the past year as well as the receipt of topical and informative advice from the LGEA on industrial matters.

On behalf of the Group, both the Secretary Alex Burjan, and I would like to thank all members for their continued support and interest in the Group's activities.

**Hans Meijer**  
Chairperson

**Alex Burjan**  
Secretary

## Mid North Coast

The Group held 3 meetings during the period from July 2011 to June 2012.

- 16 September 2011– Hosted by Gloucester Shire Council
- 25 November 2011 – Hosted by Bellingen Shire Council
- 13 April 2012 – Hosted by Kempsey Council

In addition a Regional Conference was held at Boomerang Beach in Great Lakes Council area on 21 March 2012.

During the year the positions of Chairperson and Secretary were filled by Great Lakes Council (Ron Hartley and Stuart Small) in accordance with the Regional Agreement, with MidCoast Water programmed to take over at the start of 2013.

Meetings were well attended by approximately 40 members as well as representatives of IPWEA and LGEA and provided an opportunity for a number of technical tours and presentations including:

- Fish ladders and canoe launching facilities
- Traditional Stone Arch bridge
- Coal Seam Gas & Hydraulic Fracturing
- CBD Enhancements
- Depot upgrades
- River bank stabilisation
- Boardwalk construction

- Youth Centres
- Flood studies
- Traineeship opportunities
- Instrumentation, telemetry and water solutions for local government
- Kempsey bypass (longest bridge in Australia, 3.2km)

In addition members were enlightened by the regular updates on the award provisions and negotiations provided by Gordon Brock, senior industrial officer LGEA, as well extensive updates on the business of IPWEA by John Roydhouse, Executive Officer, and Mark Turner, Executive Manager.

The group is also fortunate to have Geoff Metcalfe representing them on the IPWEA NSW Board of Directors and Noel Chapman (as Secretary) and Stuart Small (as Vice President) representing them on the LGEA Committee of Management, with these members providing feedback to the group on events that are happening in both organisations.

Thanks to our meeting presenters and sponsors including:

- Fulton Hogan
- MCRS
- GHD
- Mid Coast Telemetry
- Murray Thompson Water Services
- Mid Coast Group Training
- Humes

**Ron Hartley**  
Chairperson

**Stuart Small**  
Secretary

## **New England/ North West**

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The Group held four meeting during the year. The AGM in Guyra saw David Steller and Sharn Woolnough re-elected to the chair and secretary roles.

The Regional Conference in Moree was well attended and the papers presented by the local Moree members were exceptional, giving attendees a real understanding of the impact of the Moree floods and an opportunity to understand the workings. The conference also feature a visit to the Moree Aquatic Centre and Natural Spa facility; a new tourist feature for Moree.

Group meetings were held in Armidale with a visit to the Armidale Waste Management Facility; Bingara with a visit to the Copeton Dam upgrade,

a massive project with the construction of four stage fuse plug; and Tenterfield to visit their new wastewater treatment facility.

Thanks to all the organizers of the site visits and meeting venues who made members so welcome. A special thanks to all the sponsors of the meetings CJD Industries, Local Government Procurement and Local Government Engineering Services.

Key issues that the Group worked on during the year were:

- Initiatives targeted at the skills shortage with several members providing major input into the industry advisory panel for the UNE BTech. degree course in civil and environmental engineering.
- Support of the Science and Engineering Challenge held at Armidale, Tamworth, Inverell and Narrabri.
- Careers advisory open days in Tamworth and Armidale.
- Development of the Plant Operators School held in July 2012.
- Sponsorship of UNE Engineering Society.

A major initiative for the group was the 2012 Plant Operators School held in Armidale over two days in July. The plant school was attended by 45 participants from Councils across the region and provided hands on training for grader, backhoe and excavator operation and heavy patching and compaction skills training. Special thanks to NSW IPWEA executive staff for their support and organization skills and to Komatsu Australia (Craig "Shine" Summerfield and Aaron "Swampy" Marsh and Fulton Hogan (Ken Little) for providing excellent professional training to the participants.

**David Steller**  
Chairperson

**Sharn Woolnough**  
Secretary

## **New England/ North West Works Officers**

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**Dave Coulton**  
Chairperson

**David Graham**  
Secretary

## North Coast

Three meeting plus the Regional Conferences were held on the North Coast in 2011/2012 details as follows:

### 1. Meeting held July 7th, 2011

Location: Invercauld House – Invercauld Road,  
Goonellabah  
Chair: Garry Hemsworth  
Secretary: Barry Goodwin  
Attendees: 17  
Sponsor: Iplex Pipelines

#### 1.1 Election of Office Bearers for the 2011/2012 Year

- **Chairman**

The current President Garry Hemsworth indicated that he would like to vacate the chair after more than 6 years as Secretary and Chairman.

Nominations were asked for and received from Jason Young Tweed Shire Council and accepted by Garry and consequently Jason was voted in as Chairman.

Special Thanks to Garry for his efforts over the past 6 years in holding several roles and ensuring the progress and stability of the North Coast Group.

- **Secretary**

Barry Goodwin (Current Secretary) nominated and with no other nominations was re-elected as Secretary.

- **Treasurer**

Corey Ryan (current Treasurer) wasn't present at the meeting but verbally indicated that he would like to stay in role.

There were no other Nominations and Corey was re-elected to the role.

### 2. Meeting held September 19th, 2011

Location: Casino RSM – Jupiter Room  
Canterbury Street Casino House  
Chair: Jason Young  
Secretary: Barry Goodwin  
Attendees: 21  
Sponsor:

### 2.1 Presentation – Mick O'Brien

from Metgasco Ltd

Update on the Richmond Valley Power Station Project and Possible Future Lismore Power Station

- Mick provided a update on the status of the project
- The truth about Coal Seam Gas
- CSG activities not a danger to Water
- Fracking not an issue – has been developed and monitored in the US for 50 years

Development of Australian Coal important to Australian Economy.

### 2.2 IPWEA – NSW, Update – Mark Turner

#### 2.3 Presentation – Gillian Marchant

Richmond Valley Council to Report on their Engineering Excellence Award at the IPWEA NSW 2011 Engineering Excellence Awards for Environmental Enhancement Project or Initiative Winner:

Richmond Valley Council – Salty Lagoon Ecosystem Monitoring & Rehabilitation

#### 2.4. Presentation by Sponsor Fulton Hogan – Johan Fourie and Daniel Clements

### 3. Meeting held December 15th, 2011

Location: Tweed Civic Centre – South Sea Islander Room – Brent Street  
Tweed Heads

Chair: Jason Young  
Secretary: Barry Goodwin  
Attendees: 25

Sponsors: CJD Equipment Pty Ltd  
INGAL CIVIL Products

#### 3.1 IPWEA Update – John Roydhouse

#### 3.2 Presentation – Banora Point Upgrade Alliance

Bianca Di Fede – Community Engagement Officer and Ken Edwards Project Engineer RTA

An upgrade on the progress of the Banora Point Upgrade Alliance was presented.

The project was opened to traffic in May 2012 with the completion of adjoining accesses planning for completion by end of 2012 on schedule.

#### 3.3 Presentation – Ingal Civil Products

Brad Turner – Sales Manager – Northern NSW  
Brad introduced and presented EZY GUARD

#### 3.4 Presentation – CJD Equipment

Andrew Egan – General Manager

#### 4. Regional Meeting Held March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Location: The Ramada – The Point, Ballina  
Chair: John Roydhouse Executive Officer  
Secretary: Michelle Burgess  
Attendees: Approx 35

**Sponsors: Downer, Westrac, Local Government Procurement and GMW Group Attended by Committee and Board Members**

**Greg Moran**, President NSW  
**John Roydhouse**, Executive Officer  
**Mick Savage**, Roads & Transport Directorate Manager  
**Bill Woodcock**, Conferences and Events  
**John Truman**, Board Member

#### 4.1 Local Presentation – Lismore City Council

**Garry Hemsworth – Executive Director Infrastructure Services**

#### 2011 Study Tour to USA, Belgium and France

Garry presented his Study Tour of the United States and Europe and spoke of the importance and rewards of being involved in the IPWEA Group and highly recommending the involvement for any young Engineers in the organisation.

Garry was also presented with a 2011 Service Excellence Award – for dedication and support in promoting achievement and Excellence in Public Works Engineering.

Garry has been one of the core promoters of the IPWEA Northern Region over the past 8 years as secretary and Chair for 6 years retiring from office in 2011.

#### 4.2 Local Presentation – Clarence Valley Council

**Peter Lane – Capital Works Engineer**

Peter spoke about a recently constructed major corrosion repair on the Yamba Reservoir which cost approximately \$1.2M.

Recent investigations determined that there was severe corrosion appearing the concrete reservoir structure and the roof requiring urgent remedial works.

It was an interesting and challenging project for Clarence Valley.

<b>Garry Hemsworth</b> Chairperson	<b>Barry Goodwin</b> Secretary
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#### North Coast Works Officers

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<b>Ian Firman</b> Chairperson	<b>Mark Ellis</b> Secretary
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## Orana

For 2011-2012 the Orana Regional group re-elected office bearers, chairman, Ian Bailey (Dubbo) and Owen Johns (Wellington) as Secretary/Treasurer.

The group held three ordinary group meetings, as well as one AGM, and hosted a regional conference. Meetings have been well attended with an average of 19 attendees at each meeting. These meetings offer valuable networking opportunities as the long distances between Orana LGA's sometimes make it difficult to have regular 'face to face' time with our neighbouring local government colleagues.

In September, Warrumbungle Shire Council hosted a group meeting in Mendooran. At this meeting valuable updates were presented by Mark Turner on current IPWEA issues and Eric Poga (Wellington), on Water Directorate matters.

Kevin Tighe, Director of Technical Services at Warrumbungle Shire Council, presented a technical talk and hosted a site visit to the recently completed Mendooran water treatment plant. Our sponsor for the day was Rocla and their representative, David Bell, gave an informative session on Rocla's Plastream SRP ribbed plastic pipe.

Gilgandra Shire Council was the host for our December group meeting. An informative technical presentation was given by Shireen Murphy, Manager of Environment at Mid Western Regional Council. Shireen showed how Mid Western Council is addressing the problem of identifying and protecting endangered ecological communities within their local road corridors. Western area councils are under increasing pressure to undertake 'low environmental impact' road maintenance activities. The handbook and maps developed

by Mid Western Council are a practical way for maintenance crews to achieve this.

In February the Orana Regional Conference was held in Nyngan (Bogan Shire Council).

In June the final ordinary group meeting for the year was hosted by Dubbo City Council. A comprehensive update on IPWEA (head office) matters was presented by Mark Turner. These are very informative sessions and eagerly anticipated at each meeting. Mark announced at this meeting his impending retirement from the Executive Managers role. All Orana group members thank Mark for the dedication and enthusiasm he has shown in this role.

Eric Poga (Wellington) presented an update on Water Directorate matters

A number of brief technical presentations were given.

Robert Flakelar, Operations Engineer at Dubbo City Council, spoke on the recent construction, by Dubbo Council, of a \$750000 concrete footbridge across the Macquarie River in Dubbo.

Rolly Lawford, Director Works and Technical Services at Gilgandra Shire Council, gave a presentation on Gilgandra Council's asset management undertaking to identify and value councils transport, stormwater, fleet, recreation, water supply, natural assets, fire trails and cemeteries infrastructure.

Tim Wark, Services Manager at Cobar Shire Council, gave a presentation of his experience in delivering a program to refurbish Cobar's ageing water fluoridation plant.

A presentation from our sponsor for the day, Humes Holcim, was given by their NSW Engineered Structures and Pipeline Systems manager.



A very interesting presentation on Hume's pre cast bridge and platform solutions including Humedeck highlighted the options available in the market place for councils looking to build or replace bridges

At the June 2012 Orana group AGM, the incumbent Chair and secretary stood down. Going forward, the new chair is Rolly Lawford (Gilgandra Shire Council) and new secretary/treasurer is Robert Flakelar (Dubbo City Council).

**Rolly Lawford**  
Chairman

**Robert Flakelar**  
Secretary/Treasurer

## South Metropolitan

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The Southern Metropolitan Group has been reasonably active through the course of the last year. We coordinated the Combined Metropolitan Meeting held on 21 October at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Coogee. This meeting was in conjunction with the AGM.

The New Year started with the NSW Regional Conference Metropolitan North & South which was held at the St George Motorboat Club at Sans Souci. This was a well attended and most interesting regional conference.

On Thursday 15 March 20 members attended the meeting of the Group held at the Graphic Arts Club, Mascot sponsored by SuperSealing. They provided a practical demonstration in the carpark of crack treatment which clearly showed the advantage of sealing cracks as well as sealing pothole edges to prevent moisture penetration into the pavement. The Club management was pleased that a number of failure points within the carpark were treated. This meeting also had a presentation by Waverley Council on the building of the new Waverley Pavilion; a \$12 million dollar project including grandstand and multipurpose sports hall along with community rooms and café.

This meeting was also the meeting for the election of officers for the group with Mark Turner presiding over the election.

On Thursday 26 July 25 members attended the meeting of the Group held at the Graphic Arts Club sponsored by Wagners. Wagners provided a presentation on their composite fibre technology and its use as structural sections in construction. The installation times for bridge girders and decking structures are significantly quicker than the traditional methods of concrete or steel. A presentation by Jake Matuzic from Woollahra Council on sustainable capital works projects was also very informative.

Members from the Southern Metropolitan Group also attended the NSW Roads Congress held at Coffs Harbour in May.

**Bill Woodcock**  
Chairperson

**Tony Reed**  
Secretary

## South Eastern

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The South East Group had a very successful and productive year during 2011/12. Meetings of the group were held 7 December 2011 in Moruya, and 15 June 2012 in Yass. The Regional Conference held in Thredbo on 7 March 2012.

The major achievement of the group was gaining the support of the IPWEA to assist with the development of a Road Condition Assessment Guideline that could be used by each Council to try and improve consistency of road asset data collection and assessment across our region.

A draft guideline has now been developed and this has been picked up by NAMS for further development and inclusion as a future Practice Note that can then be used by all Councils subscribing to NAMS.

This is a major achievement for our group and it is hoped that this guideline can become the national standard for road condition assessment in the future. This would assist with consistency of data across Councils and help with lobbying government for further financial assistance.

The group has also been working towards increasing resource sharing across Councils by development of various working groups to share ideas and information. Examples of these working groups are:

- Construction and Development Specifications;
- Roads maintenance & management;
- Bridge inspection and maintenance;
- RMCC management.

In a first for our area, the South East Group hosted a joint meeting with the South West group in June 2012. This was well attended by members of both groups and gave a great opportunity to meet some of our colleagues and to share ideas.

The group is generally experiencing good levels of participation and is looking forward to another productive year.

**Warren Sharpe**  
Chairperson

**Simon Cassidy**  
Secretary

## South West Group

The South Western Regional Group has been well supported by members throughout the year with good attendances at the quarterly meetings. The Regional conference held in Moama in early March was also expected to be well attended with a high number of attendees registering. However, with the storms, heavy rainfall and flooding throughout the Riverina prior to the event, many attendees had to cancel.

Other meetings throughout the year included:

### 2<sup>nd</sup> September – Gundagai Shire Council

The meeting discussed the use of recycled glass in road pavements. A presentation was made by Mick Savage from IPWEA and Julie Briggs Chair of REROC discussed the Regional Councils views on recycled glass and possible glass crushing on a regional basis.

A presentation was also made by Gordon Manzione from Solar G on the uses of solar power for roadside lighting and other uses. Solar G also sponsored the meeting.

A third presentation was made by Leon Paterson, National Director Infrastructure Management for IPWEA who updated the group on National Asset Management. It was good to welcome Leon back amongst the group as he was formerly the Manager of Engineering at Gundagai Council and a regular member of the group meetings.

### 4<sup>th</sup> November – Lockhart Shire Council

This quarterly meeting was also the AGM with the re-election of Gary Arthur as Chair and Mark Ellis as Secretary/Treasurer: Both officers being from Cootamundra Shire Council.

The main topic discussed at the ordinary meeting was heavy vehicle usage and access. The sponsor for the meeting was Craig Day from Riverina Pre-cast products, who also being a member of the Australian Trucking Association was asked for his views on heavy vehicle usage on the local road network.

The group also discussed the possibility of the IPWEA promoting Engineering as an occupation to local school students in the region.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> March – Regional Conference Moama

As reported above, attendees at the meeting were down on initial expectations due to flooding around the region. However, those that attended were well informed, with topics of relevance to all.

As the numbers of the SW group attendees was low, the agenda for the SW meeting was held over until the next meeting.

Many thanks to Michelle Burgess and the IPWEA team for organising the Regional Conference(S)

### 15<sup>th</sup> June – Combined meeting with SE and SW groups at Yass Valley Council.

The SW group took the opportunity of combining the scheduled June meeting with the members of the SE Group at Yass.

Being a combined meeting there was a wide range of topics discussed including IPWEA update, SE Transport Strategy update, Road inspection training for RMCC, Rail Interface Agreements, Road condition assessment project and developing a standard condition assessment guideline for roads. There was also discussion on a standard drawing set for the AUSPEC documents, Regional training opportunities, and the Quad axle HML discussion paper.

The meeting wrapped up with a visit to the Yass Dam Upgrade project being undertaken by Yass Valley Council.

Finally like to thank all the SW Regional group members for their participation over the year as well as the various hosts and sponsors of our meetings.

**Gary Arthur**  
Chairperson

**Mark Ellis**  
Secretary

# IPWEA NSW 2013 Events Calendar

Date	Event	Location/Venue
<b>FEBRUARY</b>		
<b>Monday 11 February</b>	Regional Forum North Coast Group	Ramada Point, The Point Ballina 2 Martin Street, Ballina
<b>Wednesday 13 February</b>	Regional Forum New England / Northwest Group	Quality Hotel Powerhouse Tamworth 248A Armidale Road (New England Hwy) Tamworth
<b>Friday 15 February</b>	Regional Forum Mid North Coast Group	Rydges Port Macquarie 1 Hay Street Port Macquarie
<b>Tuesday 19 February</b>	Regional Forum Metropolitan West Group	Penrith / Blacktown / Rooty Hill
<b>Thursday 21 February</b>	Regional Forum Metropolitan South Group Metropolitan North Group	Northbridge Golf Club Sailors Bay Rd Northbridge
<b>MARCH</b>		
<b>Monday 4 March</b>	Regional Forum South West Group	Griffith
<b>Wednesday 6 March</b>	Regional Forum Central West Group	Carcoar
<b>Friday 8 March</b>	Regional Forum Orana Group	Gilgandra
<b>Thursday 14 March</b>	Regional Forum Hunter Group	TBC
<b>Tuesday 19 March</b>	Regional Forum South East Group	Merimbula
<b>Thursday 21 March</b>	Regional Forum Illawarra Group	Berry
<b>MAY</b>		
<b>Mon 6 – Wed 8 May</b>	2013 IPWEA NSW State Conference	Crowne Plaza Hotel, Terrigal
<b>Wed 15 – Thur 16 May</b>	CivEnEx	WSID
<b>OCTOBER</b>		
<b>28 October</b>	AGM	TBC



## IPWEA NSW DIVISION

Level 12, 447 Kent Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

Telephone: 9267 6677

Facsimile: 9283 5255

Email: [ipwea@ipwea.org.au](mailto:ipwea@ipwea.org.au)

Website: [www.ipwea.org.au](http://www.ipwea.org.au)



Institute of  
Public Works  
Engineering  
Australia  
(NSW Division)

