

CEO's Year In Review, Leigh Cunningham

It has been another whirlwind year for our sector. Time marches on persistently and change is the norm; it's not something to prepare for but something to accept, and embrace if one wishes a less stressful existence.

This financial year began with the pivotal appointment of Craig Moss, our Director, Professional & Career Development. Craig's brief was to deliver an outcomes-focussed program that exceeds the needs of industry, establishing IPWEAQ as the 'go to hub' for relevant, practical training for the sector. The 'career' element of Craig's role is to identify gaps in the education, training and registration of those actively engaged in the delivery of public works projects. Some initiatives in development include a cadetship (residential and onsite) program, graduate development program, task-based courses aligned with RPEQ competencies and an RPEQ pathway, nationally-recognised programs eg for supervisors, a Centre of Excellence and a new 'public works' university major in conjunction with identified universities.

We rolled out the 8-day version (four x 2-day blocks) of the Supervisor's workshop in Charleville in June 2016 based on the substantively revised Supervisor's Handbook for the Construction and Maintenance of Infrastructure. The second 8-day course was delivered in Rockhampton and Yeppoon with 2-day courses held in Emerald and

Cloncurry. Ross Guppy, engaged as a contractor, delivered seven further courses in this financial year in Roma, Emerald, Yeppoon, Charleville and Cloncurry. See details of courses delivered this financial year on page 10 of the Report.

The ADAC Technical Reference Group (TRG) met in August 2016 to scope enhancements required to the ADAC Schema 4.2. As a result of their tireless efforts over the past year, we will be launching ADAC 5.0 at the state conference in Townsville in October. The primary changes in this major body of work include:

- Introduction of a Bridge Asset Class
- Separate Class for Road Safety Barrier
- Removal of WSAA specific wording e.g. Pipe Embedment Types
- Removal of Main Roads specific references e.g. Geotextile Class.
- Pram Ramps to be collected as polygons
- Simplification of Kerb and Channel
- Changes to Stormwater End Structures
- Additional options in several areas e.g. frog flaps, fire trails, ductile iron, SN8
- Addition of Stormwater flow management devices

Recipients of the IPWEAQ Foundation International Study Tour scholarships, Andrew Ryan (Director Infrastructure Services, Sunshine Coast Council) and Gleb Kolenbet (Land Development Engineer, Redland City Council) travelled to Spain, the Netherlands and the USA where they also attended the APWA Public Works Exhibition and Conference in Minneapolis. As part of their scholarship, Gleb and Andrew submitted reports documenting their findings which have been published

in Engineering for Public Works (March 2017 and June 2017). They will also present at the 2017 state conference in Townsville.

The NQ Branch conference was held in Lucinda, 17-19 August 2016. The conference was opened by Mayor Ramon Jayo who impressed delegates with his knowledge of road statistics and more importantly, for understanding how interesting these are to engineers. This set the scene for a successful conference with 19 papers delivered to 96 delegates with 26 trade exhibitors. Natasha Murray received the Best Paper award for her presentation on the transport asset revaluation process undertaken by Cairns Regional Council. The next NQ Branch conference will be held in Cairns, 18-20 April 2018.

The Queensland Urban Drainage Manual (QUDM) was first published in 1992 as a joint venture between IPWEAQ, Brisbane City Council (BCC) and the Department of Energy and Water Supply (DEWS). BCC has subsequently assigned their copyright and intellectual property rights to be held jointly between IPWEAQ and DEWS but will remain a key stakeholder and consultant on future revisions. In a separate agreement, IPWEAQ has assumed management of the publication including the funding of future reviews which has been incorporated into a new pricing structure. The 2013 provisional edition of QUDM has undergone a major redevelopment and will be launched at the state conference in Townsville in October. We are indebted to the contributions of the QUDM Steering Committee (see committee members on page 13) led

by Russell Cuerel (DEWS) and our own Ross Guppy with development work done by Grant Witheridge, legal by Sarah Hausler (McCullough Robertson) and much of the review work by Frank Scheele (South Burnett Regional Council).

The cover of the September issue of *Engineering for Public Works* featured Brisbane's new parallel runway, the largest aviation infrastructure project under construction in Australia. This issue included Member Profiles for Val Shannon and Andrew Foster (both from Mareeba Shire Council) and a farewell to Ian Fairweather, the institute's first secretary, 1987-1992 who passed away last year.

In Rockhampton in October, Hastings Deering once again hosted the annual CQ Technical Forum. The program included presentations from two CQUniversity (CQU) engineering students as part of the Young IPWEAQ program to support and encourage recent graduates and final year students.

The 2016 state conference held in Brisbane was our most successful to date with 333 delegates (369 at the excellence awards ceremony and dinner) from 36 councils and 52 organisations with 43 exhibitors. A few new concepts were introduced at the conference including IPWEAQ Bingo at the welcome function, the fireside chat which offered centre stage to three of our emerging leaders (Celisa Faulkner, Ashleigh Tomkins and Ashlee Adams) with Emeritus member, Patrick Murphy in the hot seat.

The first IPWEAQ Great Debate, 'women make better engineers than men' closed the conference with the affirmative team declared winners with 75% of the vote cast through a live poll. Michael Pascoe did a brilliant job as moderator of the debate and noted that a woman has in fact 'made' all engineers, a point not picked up by either team. Michael was also MC for the conference program. He thoroughly enjoyed being involved and learnt

a lot about engineers and what is special about the public works sector, in particular our sense of community.

We also launched conference podcasts for those unable to attend the conference offering 12.5 hours of CPD for all nine keynote and plenary sessions, all presentations delivered in all 12 streams plus delegate and exhibitor interviews.

The 2016 excellence awards saw the Sunshine Coast Council take out the overall winner award for the Nambour Youth Activity Precinct and RSL War Memorial which was also featured on the cover of the December journal. This project also won the Innovation in Public Works award and is featured on the cover of the inaugural awards Commemorative Book. The top people awards were won by Paul Keech (Engineer of the Year) and Angela Fry (Woman in Engineering). Please take a moment to view the commemorative book for all project and people award winners. This year's gala awards ceremony and dinner will be held in Townsville, 25 October 2017 with our own Carlie Sargent in charge of ceremonies once again.

At the 2016 state conference, we also launched our new University Outreach program which saw three students from CQU, USQ and JCU receive scholarships to attend the conference. The students documented their conference experience and learnings including highlights of the program and what they enjoyed the most. These reports were published in the December issue of *Engineering for Public Works*. The scholarship recipient from CQU, Jessica Kahl impressed us immensely as she made the most of the opportunity and as a result, Jessica is now our inaugural IPWEAQ Ambassador. You can read Jessica's scholarship report in the December issue of the journal.

In November we signed a cooperative agreement with the ARRB Group with a commitment to

transfer best practice transport and roads management knowledge to our respective members and across industry in Queensland.

Amanda Mikeleit joined the team in January as our Events Manager returning to work after a break for the birth of her first child, Spencer. She was previously the National Events Manager for FTI Consulting and prior to that, Sales & Marketing Coordinator for Allianz. Amanda is looking forward to welcoming delegates to the state conference in Townsville in October.

On 10 February we celebrated the valued partnerships we have with those who provide products and services for our sector – our IPWEAQ Partners – at the annual President's Breakfast. This year's breakfast was held at The Pavilion, Alan Border Field with a keynote presentation from Andrew Ryan, Director Infrastructure, Sunshine Coast Council and 2015 IPWEAQ Engineer of the Year. Andrew's presentation was based on his learnings and observations from the international study tour. The event was streamed live and is available together with the PowerPoint presentation in the new IPWEAQ Knowledge Centre.

Mark Lamont was engaged as our Information Resources Manager to oversee the development of the Knowledge Centre. Owing to the vastness of information available today, it is incumbent on professional associations to take responsibility for maintaining a knowledge/resource centre specific to their stakeholders as the task has become too onerous for libraries.

The Knowledge Centre is fully searchable by subject, key words, speaker/author, event, type (image, podcast, articles, PowerPoint etc) or by date. It includes articles, PowerPoint presentations, podcasts, reports, case studies, recent media and other information on engineering in the public works sector of interest to Queensland practitioners. A lot of content in the Knowledge Centre is restricted to

IPWEAQ members or to subscribers of our Standard Drawings, ADAC or other publications eg QUDM.

The first branch conference for the year was held in Dalby, 2-3 March 2017 with 127 delegates and exhibitors and a high number of younger upcoming engineers in attendance and presenting papers. Aaron Meehan delivered a pivotal paper on change management and how to 'future fit' an organisation which won the Best Paper award which Aaron will now present at the state conference in October in Townsville.

The CQ Branch conference followed two weeks later in cyclone-affected Yeppoon. The weather did not prevent 150 delegates and exhibitors from enjoying a two-day program which concluded with a highly enjoyable and interactive dinner at the Yeppoon Town Hall. Livingstone Shire Council mayor, Bill Ludwig aka Billy the Mountain returned to his former vocation as DJ for a memorable karaoke session evidencing that engineers are not particularly good vocally (unless you are Emeritus member, Kev Bickhoff).

The Best Paper was awarded to Celisa Faulkner for her account of Gladstone's economic growth and subsequent decline, 'Boom went Development in the Gladstone Region'. A popular paper and runner-up for the Best Paper award was Qld Water Directorate's Dr Rob Fearon who delivered a paper on 'The History of Urine' and became known as 'The Urine Guy'. Celisa will present her paper at the Townsville conference.

The cover of the March issue of the journal featured the award-winning Pickanjinie North Road project. The upgrade to this important access road for rural properties and recently established liquefied natural gas sites was successfully delivered through an innovative partnership between Maranoa Regional Council and RoadTek.

The March issue also included our International Women's Day feature

with articles from Seren McKenzie, IPWEAQ's first female president (incoming October 2017); Angela Fry (Woman in Engineering); Jenny Hill, first female mayor of Townsville; Jessica Kahl, our inaugural Ambassador and Celisa Faulkner, our Young IPWEAQ Chair.

Urban design has advanced considerably since Complete Streets was launched in 2010 and a review is now in progress. We are extremely grateful to the efforts of John Derbyshire who volunteered his valuable time and considerable expertise as an engineer and senior planner to undertake a detailed review of Complete Streets with reference also to its predecessor, Queensland Streets. John's 45-page report was adopted by the IPWEAQ Board and a Steering Committee has been established bringing together key people from government and industry, from engineering, design and planning.

In April, we made a submission to the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning on proposed policy and principles for the adoption of BIM for infrastructure projects across Queensland. Our submission highlighted the benefits of ADAC with its proven track record delivering significant efficiencies, value and improved productivity for local councils. Our proposition was that ADAC and BIM are complementary and together, offer enormous potential value to government and utilities.

This year's SEQ Branch conference was held at the Logan Metro Indoor Sports Centre with the theme 'Building on Smart Solutions'. The conference began on Tuesday 9 May with a technical tour of the Logan Metro Sports Park which is currently under construction. The Best Paper award was hotly contested with Ari Craven, Principal Engineer, Engeny winning with his paper, Australian Rainfall & Runoff 2016 - Local Government and Development Perspectives. Ari will present his paper at the state conference in Townsville. Craig Young (Sunshine

Coast Council), Bryan McSweeney (TMR) and Marty Wallace (Logan City Council) narrowly missed out on the award.

The 2016-2017 inaugural Grand Slam winner, Greg Kennedy from Steel Mains was announced at the Logan conference. Greg attended all five IPWEAQ conferences during the year: Lucinda, Brisbane, Dalby, Yeppoon and Logan. Congratulations again, Greg and thank you to Steel Mains for their support.

In May, we welcomed Johanna Vanling to the team as our new Administration Officer. Many of you would have spoken with Johanna as she has been busy finalising the member renewal process. Johanna comes to us from NSW and was unfortunately on the wrong team for the State of Origin, again. She is looking forward to meeting members at the state conference in Townsville in October.

In June, we made a submission in response to an inquiry conducted by the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee on the long-term financial sustainability of local government in Queensland. The essence of our submission was to link the decline in financial viability to the de-engineering of local government. The position of Chief Engineer has disappeared from many councils as the focus of councils moved from being engineering-driven to financially-driven. Councils are also asset-intensive and the management of those assets is linked intrinsically to financial outcomes. In many councils, asset decisions are no longer made by engineers who best understand the longer term implications. We proposed that councils should commit to rebuilding their engineering capacity and involve engineers in the relevant decision making processes eg asset acquisitions.

The June issue of Engineering for Public Works featured the Sunshine Coast Council's three fraction underground Automatic Waste

Collection System (AWCS). This nation-leading collection service will have waste transported at up to 70kmh through a 6.5km system of underground vacuum pipes to a collection station on the outskirts of the CBD.

The Standard Drawings Working Group (see page 13) released a number of new and updated drawings throughout the year including:

- Two new drawings covering Indented Bus Bay Options.
- Amendments to the pram ramp drawings for DDA compliance.
- DS-010 – requirement for minimum fall through access chamber was added.
- RS-049 – reviewed and modified the allowable number and width of residential driveways.
- GS-047 – updated dimensions to the single swing gate.
- RS-080 – modified the kerb lip radius (small aris) to a chamfer.
- RS-92, 93 & 94 – changed the kerb ramp angle.

The Working Group is now conducting annual reviews which involves evaluating various council's drawings to identify those to advance as part of the IPWEAQ set. The Parks Drawings were reviewed

in August and will include a new drawing on bicycle safety fencing as a result.

A special thank you to two of our longest standing Group members: Peter Crutch (since 1988) and Paul Paszek (Chair for many years). Their technical knowledge, passion, drive and support for working collaboratively to develop standards to benefit our sector will be difficult to replace. On behalf of all of us at IPWEAQ, thank you both very much.

Throughout the year we continued with our regular meetings with ministers, department Director-Generals and other industry bodies eg Building Queensland. We also meet quarterly with the Queensland Auditor Office (QAO) to discuss priorities for the sector.

The development of our technical products and publications will remain high on our agenda for 2017-2018 as we confirm our status as the peak body representing those delivering public works and services to Queensland communities.

Through our professional development program, we will ensure that Queensland has the strongest pool of competent public works engineering professionals at

all levels.

We will continue to work to reverse the de-engineering of local government which we believe has had a negative impact on the long-term financial sustainability of councils.

We're eternally grateful for the contributions of our members on branch committees, working groups, steering committees and specific projects and we're infinitely grateful for the support of our Partners, Supporters and sponsors.

Finally, a huge thank you to the incredible team of people who work to deliver the best possible membership experience for you: Craig Moss, Carlie Sargent, Ross Guppy, Amanda Mikeleit, Johanna Vanling and Jeannette Saez.

See you in Townsville to celebrate our achievements of the past year.



Leigh Cunningham
Chief Executive Officer

