



MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING FOUNDATION VICTORIA

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT – 2021

The following report provides a reflection on the performance and operation of the Municipal Engineering Foundation during 2021.

Not surprisingly the past year again provided a number of challenges for the Foundation, which reflected the ongoing impact of COVID19 restrictions, lockdowns and the closed borders both at a national and international level.

We continued to meet via zoom meetings to ensure the Trustees could focus on the important work of the Foundation. The revised Financial and Strategic Plan was adopted at our AGM in January 2021.

We managed a change from the previous domain website to mefvic.com.au as a result of a regulatory change.

Disappointingly we had to cancel our 2021 Scholarship Awards Function planned for 13th August due to COVID19 imposed restrictions on the number of guests permitted. We have commenced early planning for our 2022 Awards Function.

The Foundation is continuing to work with the 2020 awardees as we work towards the finalisation of the planning for the US and Canadian Study Tour, which, dependent upon restrictions may occur during 2022.

We have continued our ongoing relationship with the Chicago Chapter of APWA and successfully provided speakers for an international webinar in February 2021 which allowed attendees to gain an insight into the impacts of COVID19 on Public Works.

The webinar was a success and Mark Varmalis MEFVic Trustee, Debbie Leeson-Rabi and Steven White provided learnings and observations to an engaged audience in Chicago. This event was a first for both the Foundation and Chicago Chapter of APWA.

In fact, based on the success of the event, the Foundation has again been asked to collaborate with APWA at a further webinar in March 2022. Our speakers for this event will be Ross Goyne, Lachlan Johnson and Tony McGann who will share experiences on Asset Management, Learnings from International Study Tours and other relevant insights.

The Foundation has continued to provide support for the public works sector and IPWEA Victoria and Municipal Works Australia as detailed in the following summary:

Scholarships and Awards – 2021

- MEFV Award for Excellence in Engineering (the Cedric Tuxen Medal) – Awarded to Terry Alford and presented to him by Chairman MEFV at IPWEA Vic function on 10th December 2021
- Municipal Works Australia – 2 scholarships provided by MEFV for attendance at Municipal Works and Engineering Conference in Bendigo – March 2021
- IPWEA Victoria – 14 scholarships provide by MEFV for attendance of selected university students at IPWEA Vic Public Works Conference 13/14 May 2021.
- IPWEA Victoria – 4 scholarships provided by MEFV for Emerging Leadership Program
- 2 Scholarship for attendance at IPWEA International Public Works conference deferred until 2022.

Scholarships and Awards – Committed for 2022

- MEFV Overseas Study Tour to USA and Canada – Deferred from 2020 – 4 scholarships awarded – 2 subsequently withdrew
- 3 scholarships provided to Municipal Works Australia for 2022 Municipal Works and Engineering Conference
- Scholarships to the value of \$4,000 provided to IPWEA Vic for attendance by students to IPWEA Vic Pubic Works conference (should provide for 5 students)
- 10 scholarships provided to IPWEA Vic for attendance by regional members at IPWEA Vic Public Works Conference (\$8,000)
- 2 scholarships provided for IPWEA Vic Asset Management Program (\$2,400)
- 2 scholarships for IPWEA Vic Project Management Program (\$3,000)

- 2 scholarships for IPWEA International Public Works conference in Adelaide (\$3,800)

From a financial perspective we have been focused on maintaining our financial base to ensure we are well placed to resume our full program of support for the professional and personal development of public works professionals in a COVID normal environment. This necessitated a review of our original 2021 budget to reflect the impact of COVID.

Our ongoing ability to maintain the delivery of awards and programs that support public works requires strong financial backing to ensure the sustainability of the Foundation. This has been supported in a significant way by donations from Councils. As such I want to formally thank and recognise those Councils that were still able to make a financial donation to support the Foundation's work. This will enable us to continue to plan for and hopefully deliver a practical and focused program into the future.

As reported in my last Annual Report, Mr Claude Cullino formally retired as a Trustee effective 31 December 2020, after serving the Foundation for over 17 years.

I am pleased to advise that Mr Steven White was appointed as a Trustee effective 24th May 2021. Steven is the Director Infrastructure at Whitehorse City Council. He holds a civil engineering degree and a graduate diploma in management. He has served on the Board of the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia Victoria (IPWEA Vic) and has been on the organising committee for the National Works and Engineering Conference convened by Municipal Works Australia and IPWEA Vic since 2002.

He is an active participant and contributor to sector organisations and events with the aim of providing learning, development and career advancement opportunities to engineers working in the municipal sector. He holds Fellow membership of IPWEA.

I also have to advise that a former Trustee Mr John Macklin recently passed away. John was a Trustee from 1973-1981 and we send our condolences to his family.

Financially the Foundation finished with a slight operating surplus.

The Trustees continue to maintain a strong focus on managing and maintaining our investments, revenues and expenditure in line with our relevant policy to ensure the

ongoing financial sustainability of the Foundation. The 2022 Budget was adopted and provides for the ongoing financial sustainability of the Foundation.

To our Secretary Merv Paton, on behalf of the Trustees, I wish to thank you for your support and guidance and acknowledge your ongoing commitment, professionalism and contribution to the Foundation.

The Trustees have worked hard during the year to continue to ensure the aims and objectives of the Foundation have been met. Reviews of the needs of the local government engineering profession have been a constant consideration. Meetings of the Trustees have been held on a regular basis throughout the year.

Again, I extend my personal thanks to my fellow Trustees and Secretary for their dedication and support in maintaining the sustainability of the Foundation.

Warren Roberts
Chairman