

**SUPPLEMENT TO  
A HISTORY OF  
THE MUNICIPAL  
ENGINEERING  
FOUNDATION  
VICTORIA  
2017 TO 2022**

**Foreword**

The History of the Municipal Engineering Foundation Victoria, 1966 to 2016 was authored by Robin Nuttall OAM, Trustee of the Foundation from 1981 to 2016 including a period as Chairman from 1995 to 2006 and chronicles the significant events of the organisation during that period.

This supplement detailing the achievements of the Foundation during the period 2017 to 2022 produced by Merv Paton, Secretary of the Foundation since 1996, continues a record of the history of the Foundation.

Noteworthy is the effect of the pandemic Covid-19 particularly during 2020 and 2021 and the subsequent impact on the activities of the Foundation. Restrictions imposed on travelling, face to face contact, testing and vaccination requirements all resulted in a reduction of opportunities normally provided or undertaken by the Foundation. Despite this, the Trustees continued to meet regularly by video teleconferencing and where possible, continued to support public works officers by the provision of scholarships to undertake professional development through online programs.

From early 2022, most of the Covid-19 imposed restrictions eased and some normalcy returned allowing the opportunity for scholarship awardees to travel overseas on study tours and conferences and training activities were once again conducted in person.

In August 2016 the Foundation celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The event also acknowledged our achievements, recognised our heritage and paid tribute to previous Trustees and award winners. Scholarship Awards events continue to be held each year although suspended in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions.

During this period the Foundation adopted a Financial Strategic Plan to manage the finances of the organisation. Work also commenced on the adoption of a Communication Strategy with a view of revamping the website and other means of communication.

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## **Trustees**

Long-serving Trustee and Former Chairman Robin Nuttall (1981- 2006) died in October 2017. Robin's legacy lives on having recorded the history of the Foundation from its origins in 1966 until 2016. Former Trustee John Macklin (1973-1981) passed away September 2021.

On 14 June 2019 the Trust Deed of the Foundation was amended to increase the number of Trustees from five to six. On 1 January 2020, Vicki Shelton was appointed to fill the sixth position as a Trustee. Claudio Cullino resigned as a Trustee (2004-2020) on 31 December 2020. Steven White was appointed to the position of Trustee on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Further information on Vicki and Steven is detailed in Appendix A.

In March 2017, Trustee Chairman Warren Roberts was granted the prestigious award of Emeritus Membership of IPWEA.

## **Financial Focus**

The primary objective of the Foundation is to provide and administer the funds necessary for public works officers to undertake study and research and to obtain experience in the science of engineering and engineering practice.

In order to have sufficient funds to meet this objective, the Foundation is appreciative of the financial support provided by Victorian councils by way of donations to assist with the funding of scholarship and awards granted by the Foundation. This together with prudent investments and an astute attitude to expenditure by the Trustees, has enabled the Foundation to continue to manage its programs with a significant contribution to the scholarship awards program.

## **Foundation's Awards**

Overseas study tours proceeded in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2022. These were limited to the United States and Canada and participants attended the American Public Works Association PWX Conference in cities hosting the event in each of those years. Details of the award recipients for that period and their topic of research are shown at Appendix 2.

Four awardees were selected in 2020 to participate in a study tour to the United States and Canada but due to the Covid-19 crisis, travel overseas was not permitted by the Federal Government. In addition, entry into the United States was restricted and the PWX Conference was also cancelled. Similar conditions existed in 2021 and no overseas study tour took place. As a result, the 2020 awardees were offered deferral of their study tour. Due to various circumstances, two of the selected participants withdrew their selection and the remaining two participated in a tour during August-September 2022.

Numerous other scholarships for programs conducted within Australia were provided by the Foundation during the period 2017 to 2022 and details are included in Appendix 2.

## **APWA/MEFV Study Tour**

In 2019 following extensive consultation between the American Public Works Association (APWA) Chicago Chapter International Affairs Committee and the Foundation, it was agreed that a delegation from the United States would visit Australia to include attendance at the IPWEA International Public

Works Conference in Hobart and then undertake study tour visits to various municipalities within Victoria. The award to facilitate the study tour was made in partnership with the Chicago Chapter of the APWA. The inaugural awardee was Ms Karen Kase from the Chicago Metro Chapter of APWA, who was supported by Mr John Mick, a member of the Chicago Chapter International Affairs Committee.

The program was put on hold in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions but was revitalised in 2022 with three delegates from the USA attending the IPWEA International Public Works Conference in Adelaide and a study tour in Victoria visiting various municipalities. The Foundation again provided support in partnership with APWA to assist with the visit by Dan Kemp and Jon Sfondilis from Wheeling, Ill and Tom Rickert from Kane County, Ill.

### **Excellence Awards to Individuals**

Awards for Excellence were granted by IPWEA National, IPWEA Victoria and the Municipal Engineering Foundation Victoria from 2017 to 2022. These included Emeritus Membership, Leadership Awards and the Cedric Tuxen Medal. Full details are shown at Appendix 3.

## Appendix A

### Trustees of the Foundation



Until recently Vicki was the Manager Engineering Services at Greater Geelong City Council. In March 2021 she was appointed as the Manager Asset Services at Golden Plains Shire Council. She holds a degree in Civil Engineering, completed an MBA Technology Management and Post Graduate in Municipal Engineering and is a graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Vicki has over 33 years' experience working in the local government industry across a broad variety of engineering functions.

Vicki is actively involved with the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia, currently holding board member roles at State (2008 – current, serving one year as President in 2012/13) and board member at Australasian level (2019).

Vicki received the 2008 Municipal Engineering Foundation Vic Overseas Study Award and was awarded the IPWEA Victoria Professional Engineer of the Year in 2017 and IPWEA Australasia Public Works Leadership medal in 2017. Vicki was recently also recognised as a Fellow of Engineers Australia in October 2019.

Vicki has a commitment to the professional development of public works engineers and is a strong supporter of women in the engineering profession.

Vicki was appointed a Trustee of the Foundation effective 1st January 2020.

## Steven White



Steven is the Director Infrastructure at Whitehorse City Council. He holds a civil engineering degree and a graduate diploma in management. He commenced his local government career in 1991 and has held senior management positions across a number of organisations since 1998. During this time he has been responsible for leading a wide range of municipal services and projects.

Steven 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.

Steven was appointed a Trustee of the Foundation effective 24th May 2021.

## Appendix B

### Record of Awardees

#### 2016

OVERSEAS STUDY TOUR TO USA AND CANADA (PWX MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA)

Debbie Leeson-Rabie, Senior Project Engineer, City of Yarra - [Best Practice in Engineering Maintenance](#)

Bailey Byrnes, Team Leader – Transport Planning, Banyule City Council – *Integrating Policy into Capital Works*

Steven Quick, Works Engineer, Golden Plains Shire Council – *Sustainability in Municipal Road Engineering*

IPWEA VIC PUBLIC WORKS CONFERENCE

19 University Student Scholarships provided by MEFV

NATIONAL WORKS & ENGINEERING CONFERENCE

4 Regional Engineers

#### 2017

OVERSEAS STUDY TOUR TO USA AND CANADA (PWX ORLANDO, FLORIDA)

Frank Vassilacos, Senior Strategic Land Use and Transport Planner, Manningham City Council – *Complete Street and Place-making*

Matthew Varcoe, Unit Leader Development Engineering, City of Whittlesea – *Integrated Water Cycle Management*

Emma Dalton, Infrastructure Services General Manager, Campaspe Shire Council - *Participative Engagement for Effectual Policy Development*

IPWEA INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS CONFERENCE - PERTH

Kanch Withana, Monash City Council

Stewart Joyce, Morphum Environmental

24<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL WORKS AND ENGINEERING CONFERENCE

Joel Turner, Yarriambiack Shire Council

Ron Sneddon, Indigo Shire Council

David Sutcliffe, Central goldfields Shire Council

Alex Philalay, Bass Coast Shire Council

IPWEA VIC PUBLIC WORKS CONFERENCE

11 University students attended sponsored by MEFV

#### 2018

OVERSEAS STUDY TOUR TO USA AND CANADA (PWX KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI)

Les Stokes, Manager Operations, Melton City Council – *Advanced Waste Processing*

James Kelly, Manager Delivery and Assets, Banyule City Council – *Growing Leaders*

Daniel Kelabora, Senior Project and Process Engineer, Manningham City Council – *Engineering Disruptive Technology*

IPWEA VIC PUBLIC WORKS CONFERENCE

17 University students and five Young IPWEA Vic members attended sponsored by MEFV  
5 YIPWEA Committee members sponsored by MEFV

IPWEA VIC MANAGEMENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Corrine Jacobson, Senior Project Engineer, Moorabool Shire Council

NATIONAL WORKS AND ENGINEERING CONFERENCE

Jackson Fary, Cadet Engineer, City of Warrnambool  
Wendy Lie, Student Engineer, Bass Coast Shire Council  
William Hughes, Design Engineer, West Wimmera Shire Council  
Trent Homden, Graduate Engineer, Northern Grampians Shire Council

**2019**

OVERSEAS STUDY TOUR TO USA AND CANADA (PWX SEATTLE, WASHINGTON)

Kurt Pitts, Project Engineer, Cardinia Shire Council – *Smart Cities – Smart Maintenance & Asset Management of Key Infrastructure*  
Tony McGann, General Manager Infrastructure and Leisure Services, Colac-Otway Shire Council – *Hard Decisions Easier*  
Lachlan Johnson, Manager Project Services, Port Phillip City Council – *Technological Innovation in Local Government*

IPWEA VIC PUBLIC WORKS CONFERENCE

17 University Students attended sponsored by MEFV

IPWEA VIC MANAGEMENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Sam Pye, Coordinator Infrastructure Development, Wellington Shire Council

NATIONAL WORKS AND ENGINEERING CONFERENCE

Bivish Ghimire, Campaspe Shire Council  
William Kerr, Glenelg Shire Council

INAUGURAL - APWA CHICAGO AND MEF VICTORIA INTERNATIONAL STUDY TOUR

Ms Karen Kase – Natural Resources Manager – Hampton Lenzini and Renwick Inc – Elgin IL

**2020**

OVERSEAS STUDY TOUR TO USA AND CANADA (PWX NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA)

Selected participants deferred study tour until 2022 due to Covid-19 travel restrictions

**2021**

MUNICIPAL WORKS AND ENGINEERING CONFERENCE

Jane McHenry, Graduate Engineer, Southern Grampians Shire Council  
Hailey Spoke, Fleet Coordinator, Colac-Otway Shire Council

IPWEA VIC PUBLIC WORKS CONFERENCE

14 University Students attended sponsored by MEFV



IPWEA VIC EMERGING LEADERSHIP PROGRAM  
Mitchell Cunningham, Moorabool Shire Council  
Michael Masin, Rural City of Wangaratta  
Brendan McDonald, Warnambool City Council  
John Relayson, Golden Plains Shire Council

## 2022

APWA CHICAGO AND MEFVICTORIA INTERNATIONAL STUDY TOUR  
Dan Kaup – Director of Public Works – Village of Wheeling - Wheeling IL  
Tom Rickert – Deputy Director of Transportation/Chief of Staff – Kane County IL  
Jon Sfondilis - Village Manager – City of Wheeling IL

OVERSEAS STUDY TOUR TO USA AND CANADA (PWX CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA)  
Edward Pocock, Manager Infrastructure and Delivery Environment, Bass Coast Shire Council -  
*How can infrastructure contribute towards a Circular Economy?*  
Anthony Stratikopoulos, Coordinator Drainage, Boroondara City Council - *Integration of sustainable infrastructure in public open spaces*

IPWEA INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS CONFERENCE - ADELAIDE  
Rick Kwasek, Stonnington City Council  
Daniel Kelabora, Latrobe City Council

IPWEA VIC PUBLIC WORKS CONFERENCE  
6 University Students  
5 Regional Engineering Members  
4 YIPWEA Committee Members

MUNICIPAL WORKS AND ENGINEERING CONFERENCE  
Steve Gilmore, Team Leader Roads and Drainage Maintenance, Golden Plains Shire Council  
Bivish Ghimire, Capital Works Development Officer, Moorabool Shire Council  
Mohit Jain, Project Engineer – Infrastructure, Southern Grampians Shire Council

IPWEA VIC PUBLIC WORKS CONFERENCE  
15 University Students attended sponsored by MEFV

IPWEA VIC ASSET MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
2 scholarships (TBA)

IPWEA VIC PROJECT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
2 scholarships (TBA)

## **Appendix C**

### **Excellence Awards to Individual Engineers**

#### **MEFV Award for Excellence in Engineering (Presented as The Cedric Tuxen Medal)**

2017	Geoff Barrow
2019	Geoff Glynn
2021	Terry Alford

#### **Other Prestigious Awards**

Warren Roberts awarded Emeritus Membership of IPWEA in March 2017

Mark Varmalis presented with the IPWEA Vic Public Works Leadership Award for 2018

Steven White presented with the IPWEA Vic Public Works Leadership Award for 2022