



MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING FOUNDATION VICTORIA

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT – 2023

On behalf of the Municipal Engineering Foundation Victoria, I am pleased to provide my chairman's report for the year ending 31 December 2023 that provides an insight and overview of our activities and achievements for that period.

As expected, our focus has seen the Foundation delivering opportunities to support and encourage the professional and personal development of public works engineering staff, to promote local government and the potential career opportunities and service outcomes within the sector.

It has been a successful year and our achievements over the year have included:

- 2 scholarships awarded to public works professionals, Evan Nesbit - Coordinator Priority Development from Baw Baw Shire Council and Anita Johnstone - Manager City Assets and Presentation Bayside City Council to participate in the 2023 Overseas Study Tour to USA and Canada. This included a number of site visits to municipalities in California, Washington State, Texas, and Vancouver, as well as attending the APWA PWX Congress in San Deigo, California.
- Additionally, this year our 2024 awards were advertised in October and as such I can advise that the 2024 Awardees are Faina Levin – Circular Economy Lead, City of Boroondara and Trent Daisley – Coordinator Civil Design, Hume City Council
- The MEFVic Award for Excellence (Cedric Tuxen Medal) was awarded to Vito Albicini – Director Assets and Development, Murrindindi Shire Council at the Annual IPWEA Conference Dinner 18 May 2023
- IPWEA Vic

- 10 Awards were provided for attendance at the IPWEA (Vic) 2023 Public Works Conference
 - Two subsidies for participation in the IPWEA(Vic) Communications Foundation Program
 - Two subsidies for participation in the IPWEA (Vic) Resource Management Foundation Program
 - Six subsidies for participation in the IPWEA (Vic) Traffic and Transport Foundations Program
 - One subsidy for participation in the IPWEA (Vic) Project Management Foundations Program
- Municipal Works Australia
 - Three Awards were provided to attend the 2023 Municipal Works Australia - National Works and Engineering Annual Conference

Our annual Awards Recognition Event was held on Friday 18th August which provided the opportunity for over 80 guests to recognise our 2023 International Study Tour awardees prior to their departure and listen to an engaging discussion with our special guest speaker Ms Kelly Grigsby – CEO of the Municipal Association of Victoria.

The Trustees have continued their work on the Strategic Plan and focus for the Foundation to ensure we are able to continue to support and develop Public Works Engineers through study tours, attendance at conferences and training programs. Our ability to deliver on these strategic objectives requires a strong focus on our financial position and I would like to acknowledge and thank the councils who were able to continue their support during the year.

During the year, I can advise that Sam Romaszko was appointed as a Trustee effective 7th July 2023 – replacing Rob Mitchell. Additionally, Geoff Glynn was reappointed as a Trustee for a further 5 years.

During 2024 the Foundation will provide a range of opportunities for the ongoing professional and personal development of public works engineers through opportunities such as:

- The scholarships for our 2024 awardees' to undertake a study tour to the United States and Canada on an itinerary of up to three weeks incorporating attendance at the American Public Works Association Congress in Atlanta, Georgia.
- Attendance for public works engineers and students at relevant conferences and events and training programs.
- Continuing to develop new initiatives and opportunities that allow for the development and sharing of ideas and practices between the US and Australia. To quote one of our international colleagues – “we are striving to make the world a smaller place!” This includes supporting APWA Chicago Awardees during their 2024 study tour which includes attendance at the 2024 International Public Works Conference in Melbourne.
- Ongoing support for IPWEA Vic initiatives and programs.
- Ongoing support for MWA

On behalf of the Trustees and the sector I would like to recognise and thank our Secretary Mr Merv Paton. Your professionalism, ongoing support and commitment to the Foundation is acknowledged and is greatly appreciated.

I also extend my personal thanks to my fellow Trustees and Secretary for their support, contribution and passion. Their contributions will ensure the Foundation delivers relevant and innovative outcomes for the sector and communities we serve.



Warren Roberts
Chairman