



Our Ref: RL:rl

File No. 44/06/04

Doc. No.

19th August 2013

Mr. Warren Roberts
Chairman of Trustees
Municipal Engineering Foundation Victoria
PO Box 5175
SOUTH MELBOURNE, VICTORIA 3205

Dear Warren,

**RE: INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC WORKS ENGINEERING AUSTRALASIA
2013 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE REPORT.**

Following my recent attendance of the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia conference in Darwin, I provide the following report on how attending the conference provided me advancement in my career as a local government engineer.

Personal Development.

Many of the papers presented were by young engineers like myself from regional areas, of particular interest was the session presented by Anthony McMahon who is the Assistant General Manager of Booroow Shire Council in New South Wales.

Anthony's presentation showed how even as a young engineer in a senior position as Assistant General Manager he relied on his network of experience professionals to provide guidance, and called on more experienced members of the engineering community to provide assistance in advancing those starting there career.

Anthony's presentation also showed that younger members of the engineering community should not be afraid of challenging themselves to achieve senior roles in local government. Anthony detailed how the General Manager, Director of Corporate Services and he were all less than 35 years in age, at Booroow Shire Council.

I also benefited from the panel session held by three young rural female engineers and hearing about the challenges they faced not only being young and limited in available resource, but the additional challenges faced being in a male dominated industry.

Pyrenees Shire



Lawrence Street
Beaufort Vic. 3373

Telephone 03 5349 1100

Facsimile 03 5349 2068

Email pyrenees@pyrenees.vic.gov.au

www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au



Technical Development

Technically I gained a large amount of exposure to sessions on bridge loadings, inspections and rehabilitation. This was of particular interest and assistance as Pyrenees Shire Council has over 160 bridges, of which 37 have recently been advised as requiring substantial weight restrictions, following our three yearly level two inspections.

The presentation by Richard Cassidy from Pitt and Sherry in Tasmania, who detailed bridge loadings utilized during the 1950 – 1960's and how modern SM1600 loadings are not that much dissimilar even though the vehicles modeled are vastly different.

This presentation also exposed me to new technologies in bridge strengthening by detailing how carbon fiber strips can be applied to cantilevered bridge cross heads to improve performance.

I also gained a large amount of information from the presentation of Michael Kahler from AECOM, on how they managed performance based rectification contracts in Toowoomba after the large flood events Queensland experienced.

Michael's presentation showed how running an open book performance based contract saved the Queensland Government 20% in a \$120 million contract.

Overall Experience.

Over the three days of the conference the exposure to technical experts and the ability to network with younger engineers from rural municipalities throughout Australia is an experience that I simply would not be able to have without being able to attend such a leading conference.

I have made many new contacts that I am sure I will maintain throughout my career, and have been able to expand my technical abilities that I will be able to apply first hand during my normal duties at Pyrenees Shire Council.

I thank Municipal Engineering Foundation Victoria for this opportunity.

Yours sincerely



Robert Ladd
Manager Engineering, Waste Operations and Contracts

