



MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING FOUNDATION VICTORIA

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT – 2015

I have much pleasure in providing the Chairman's report. During 2015 the Foundation was active and continued to maintain the focus on developing the professional, technical and personal development opportunities for public works engineers.

The ongoing success and delivery of relevant awards to the Local Government sector would not have been possible without the contribution and commitment of our Secretary Mr Merv Paton and the dedication and focus of the Trustees. I wish to formally acknowledge and record my appreciation of their contribution and support over the year, for without their dedication the Foundation could not continue to be relevant and successful.

During 2015 the Foundation awarded:

- 3 scholarships for public works engineers to attend the IFME/IPWEA International conference in Rotorua and undertake a study tour of New Zealand.
- 3 scholarships for public works engineers to attend the APWA Public Works Congress in Phoenix and to undertake a study tour of USA and Canada.
- 2 awards for attendance at the National Works and Engineering Conference in Bendigo
- 11 awards for students to attend the IPWEA Vic Conference; this provided the opportunity to showcase public works engineering and expand the horizon and understanding of the breadth and complexity of local government as an employer.
- 1 award for the Young Emerging Leader to attend the IFME/IPWEA International Conference.

All of the awardees benefit from the opportunity to engage with colleagues, councillors, authorities and suppliers, to experience the diversity and differences of operations, structure and challenges of local, national and international Councils. The sharing of information and experiences provides a tangible and direct benefit to all Victorian Councils and public works staff.

The Trustees have continued to support and engage with the Board of IPWEA Vic to ensure the Foundation Fellowship Programs, Awards and Grants are aligned to current trends in local government engineering and management and that they meet the needs of education and training for engineering professionals.

Financially the Foundation finished with a slight operating surplus and, as would be expected, one of the key objectives of the Trustees is to maintain our financial sustainability through managing and maintaining investments, revenues and expenditure. The Trustees reviewed the strategic plan and other policies and adopted a prudent budget for the upcoming year.

Our ongoing sustainability is also dependent upon the generous support of a number of Victorian Councils and I must recognise and thank those Councils that have responded to our annual request for donations.

The upcoming year sees a period of change for Local Government in Victoria with the introduction of Rate Capping. This challenge may impact the contributions to the Foundation, although given our record of providing significant support and professional development opportunities to the sector, it is hoped that Councils will continue to be generous in their support.

During 2016 the Foundation will continue to provide a range of opportunities for the ongoing professional and personal development of public works engineers through opportunities such as:

- the provision of scholarships for public works engineers 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 Minneapolis. The awardees will study topics that are relevant and current for the industry.
- Attendance for public works engineers and students at relevant conferences and events

As Chairman I must acknowledge and recognise that 2016 will provide a milestone 50th anniversary for the Foundation. This milestone is a testament to the vision, foresight and commitment by former Trustees who established and maintained the focus of the Foundation over the decades. Our history is rich and I believe demonstrates a significant contribution to the sector. The legacy of our awards programs is evident in the career and professional development of the many successful awardees.

In recognition of this milestone I am proud to announce that the History of the Municipal Engineering Foundation 1966 – 2016 has been completed. This captures the history of the Foundation and was written by Mr Robin Nuttall OAM – Emeritus Member IPWEA.

The history also documents a record of the Trustees and Officers of the Foundation, Record of Awardees and Excellence Awards to Individuals. This celebrates our achievements and reinforces the valuable contribution and legacy that the Foundation has made over 1966 – 2016.

On behalf of the Foundation I would like to thank Robin for his dedication and work in compiling an interesting and informative record on the history of the Foundation.

On a sadder note I also have to record the passing of Mr John Nicol a former Trustee of the Foundation. John was a Trustee for 17 years – from 1987 – 2004 and through his many Local Government and consulting roles made a significant contribution to the sector and the profession in a career that spanned from Cadet Engineer with the City of Hamilton, to City Engineer of the City of Werribee. - John was also recognised for his contribution through the Award of the Order of Australia Medal in 1989, and the Cedric Tuxen Medal in 1990.

John was highly regarded by the community and the local government sector and will be greatly missed.

To our Secretary Mr Merv Paton, on behalf of the Trustees, you are thanked for your continued commitment, professionalism and contribution to the Foundation administration, accounting and webpage management. Your contribution is acknowledged and greatly appreciated.

The Trustees have met regularly and worked collaboratively to focus on the aims and objectives of the Foundation to ensure we are delivering the stated objectives and are meeting the current and future needs of the local government engineering profession.

I extend my personal thanks to my fellow Trustees and Secretary for the way in which they have contributed to the continued success of the Foundation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Warren Roberts', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Warren Roberts
Chairman