



MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING FOUNDATION VICTORIA

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT – 2018

Over the past year the Municipal Engineering Foundation has continued to deliver numerous opportunities to support and encourage the professional and personal development of public works engineering staff, to promote the achievements of Local Government and to further demonstrate the potential career opportunities and service outcomes within the sector.

To put our achievements in context I can advise that over the past year we awarded the following:

- 3 scholarships to public works professionals to participate in the 2018 Overseas Study Tour to USA and Canada. This included a number of site visits to the municipalities of Edmonton, Minneapolis, Oklahoma, Tulsa, Austin and Dallas, as well as attending the APWA PWX Congress in Kansas City, Missouri.
- 17 x University Student Scholarships awarded for attendance at the IPWEA (Vic) Annual Conference 10/11 May 2018.
- 5 x IPWEA (Vic) Young Committee Member Scholarships to attend the IPWEA (Vic) Annual Conference 10/11 May 2018.
- 1 x Management Leadership Program Scholarship for a rural council engineer.
- 4 x Scholarships for rural/regional engineers attendance at the National Works and Engineering Conference in September 2018.

At our annual Awards Recognition Luncheon in August we celebrated the 2018 International Study tour awardees and had the pleasure of listening to our guest speaker Mr Evan Tattersall CEO Rail Projects Victoria. I would also like to recognise the contribution of our Corporate sponsor of the event UMS and thank them for their ongoing support.

The Trustees have met regularly and continued to maintain the focus on our strategic vision and objectives to support and develop Public Works Engineers through study tours, attendance at conferences and training programs. To achieve this we maintain a close watch on our financial sustainability and, at the end of the year, I can advise that the Foundation finished with a slight operating surplus.

Our ongoing ability to deliver on our vision is clearly 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. Without their support we would not be able to achieve as much as we do.

During the year, Claude Cullino was re-appointed as a Trustee for a further five years.

Our plan for 2019 will see the Foundation continuing 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 Seattle, Washington State. 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.
- Additionally we are pursuing a new initiative to continue the development and sharing of ideas and practices between the US and Australia. We are partnering with The Chicago Chapter of APWA to jointly sponsor a Study Scholarship to enable an Engineer from Chicago to undertake a study tour in Victoria and participate in an appropriate IPWEA Conference.
- Ongoing support for IPWEA Vic initiatives and programs.

On behalf of the Trustees and the sector I would like to again recognise and thank our Secretary Mr Merv Paton. Your commitment, professionalism and contribution to the Foundation administration, accounting and webpage management is acknowledged and is greatly appreciated.

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 and to their collective passion, contribution and commitment.

We are all focused and committed to ensuring the Foundation is able to continue its contribution to both the local government sector and to the advancement of public works, for the benefit of future public works professionals and the communities we serve.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Warren Roberts", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Warren Roberts
Chairman