



NEWSLETTER

1st Quarter 2006 Edition

INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND SECTION INC

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the first edition of the ITEANZ Newsletter for 2006. The Executive Board of ITEANZ joins with me in wishing you a successful year in both your business and private ventures.

The 2005 year was a huge one for ITEANZ with the ITE Annual Meeting & Exhibit being held in Melbourne. All reports were highly complimentary of the event, of Melbourne and the combined efforts of the Local Arrangements Committee and the Executive Board. A combined thanks to all involved.



ITEANZ President Peter Hunkin introduces guest speaker at the ITEANZ/Engineers Australia Annual Breakfast Meeting

It is a big act to follow such a year as 2005 and we are seeking your support as we strive to make the ITEANZ relevant to each of you in your specific situation.

The ITEANZ Executive Board held a Planning Session at the RACV offices in Noble Park on a sunny Sunday in early February. The session *challenged* us and *asked* how to better service the ITEANZ membership. Some principles evolving from that session included:

- The need to develop a new ITEANZ website with information that is relevant to local Australian and New Zealand personnel;
- The need to continue to provide information to the membership through the Newsletter; and
- The need to work more closely with aligned professional groups including EA Transport Branch and AITPM.

Various members were charged with the responsibility for delivering on these challenges. So far the website team is progressing well with the framework of the site developed and the actual website is currently being designed for implementation over the next couple of months.

The ITEANZ Annual Breakfast Meeting, held in conjunction with Engineers Australia Transport Branch was also a big success. We had 112 guests who were fortunate to hear the Minister for Transport outline some transportation issues that the Victorian government faces and outline some elements likely to be included in the upcoming Transport and Liveability Statement.

It was an entertaining session with some challenging questions from the floor and attendees were pleased to have the opportunity to hear the Minister speak on these issues (more details below).



A full house at the ITEANZ/Engineers Australia Annual Breakfast Meeting

Stay tuned to this space for new features and services to be available through the ITEANZ.

If you have any suggestions on how we can assist you in your personal development or business activities we would be pleased to hear from you. In the meantime, best wishes for 2006, we look forward to seeing you at our next function.

Peter Hunkin

ITEANZ President



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2006 ITE-ANZ/ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA ANNUAL BREAKFAST MEETING

Wednesday 15 February, 2006 saw a large contingent of ITEANZ and Engineers Australia Transport Branch members turn out for the Annual Breakfast Meeting held at the Naval and Military Club in Melbourne. The guest speaker was Victorian Transport Minister, the Honourable Peter Batchelor. The Minister also presented the Department of Infrastructure's *Women in Freight* award which is bestowed each year to a woman pursuing post-graduate studies in the field of freight and logistics.



Victorian Transport Minister, the (Hon.) Peter Batchelor addressing the ITEANZ/Engineers Australia Breakfast Meeting

The full text of the keynote speech will be posted on the ITE ANZ website (www.ite.org.au) when it goes "live" shortly but extracts from the speech are provided below.

Minister Batchelor began by pointing out that the effectiveness of a city's transport system impacts on most of the key measures of "liveability" used by the Economist magazine to rank cities around the world. He then went on to identify catering for the transport infrastructure and service needs of Melbourne's new suburbs that lie beyond the established fixed rail public transport network as one of the key challenges for the Victorian government in the coming years, particularly in light of the fact that much of the existing rail infrastructure is operating close to or at capacity.

Minister Batchelor also pointed out that traffic congestion in Melbourne continues to grow, eating away at the liveability of the city and the viability of its economy.

Minister Batchelor said that addressing these transport issues was not simply a matter of 'fixing' the rail network or building new freeways although these things may form part of the solution. Instead he highlighted the importance of policy frameworks in helping to manage the future demands on Melbourne's transport system including:

- Melbourne 2030 – a land use blueprint that contains designated growth corridors, protected "green wedge" areas, urban growth boundaries, and identifies activity centres that could accommodate higher densities of activity.
- Metropolitan Transport Plan (2004) – outlines the proposed method for addressing personal and freight movements in Melbourne



Engineers Australia President William McDougall Thanks Minister Batchelor

The desirability of "spreading" the peak periods to more efficiently use transport infrastructure with the provision of higher off-peak and outer suburban public



transport service levels one of the tools that would be aimed at encouraging this spread.

The Minister concluded his scripted remarks by challenging those present to consider how the policy settings he had discussed impacted on their daily work as engineers and planners and how engineers and planners can contribute to the "common vision" for the city.

Following his speech, the Minister fielded questions from the floor for about 15 minutes, which provided some very interesting and entertaining moments.

WHEN BOB MET LARRY

One of the intangible benefits of ITE involvement is the lifelong friendships that are created – even on the other side of the world. Lynda Edwards reports.

Larry and Bob talk about their contribution to civil engineering, why they continue to travel to engineering conferences (even though both are retired) and how they have an uncanny knack of bumping into each other – regardless of how far flung the road project may be.

When Laurence Dondanville, a civil engineer from Illinois came to Australia in the 1960s to work on a major freeway study he never dreamed meeting a civil engineer from Canberra would lead to a 45 year friendship.

One of the first people Larry met on the project was fellow Australian civil engineer Bob Nairn. Larry soon found that wherever he worked throughout the world, Bob would mysteriously appear. Just like the movie Planes, Trains and Automobiles - from Sri Lanka to Istanbul or Canada, Larry would agree to the project and then, oops! Bob would walk in soon after.

Speaking at the Institute of Transport Engineers conference in Melbourne, held for the first time in the Southern Hemisphere in 2005, Larry said it got to the point where Bob was unavoidable and after 45 years of friendship he still can't believe Bob's ability to appear – literally all over the place.



Larry and Bob at the Annual Meeting in Melbourne

"I was in Shanghai conducting a seminar in transportation planning. Suddenly I looked up and out

of the blue in walked Bob. No matter what project I worked on, I just kept bumping into him," Larry said.

Bob said it got to the point that he just expected Larry to be there and the more unusual the circumstances the more likely Larry would be involved.

"I have worked in about 60 different countries all around the world. I seemed to meet Larry accidentally in Shanghai, Saudi Arabia and so forth. In our industry wherever you go there are connections because our profession is an international one and people all over the world use our skills. Roads and bridges need to be built regardless of which country you live in," Bob said.

Larry said before his first study in Australia which consequently led to the building of a road to the north shore, few people lived there because there was no road to get there. He said he was chosen for the study because he had worked in a similar project to build a suspension bridge in Istanbul.

"Believe it or not, Istanbul and Sydney are remarkably similar," Larry said.

"You have a major body of water where the two parts of the city – cannot be integrated without bridges. Imagine what Sydney looked like before the Harbour Bridge? In the 1960s there weren't many people who lived on the north shore," Larry said.

The two hold the deepest of professional respect for one another and the warmth of their friendship is obvious to an outsider. Speaking at the Institute of



Transportation Engineers conference in August, Larry said it was good to catch up with Bob and that he felt partly responsible for some of the changes in Australia over the past 45 years.

"We design the world as we know it – did you know that fact?" Larry said.

"I came to Australia in the 1960s to work on a freeway study and that study has been the basis for all of the freeways constructed in Sydney over the past 45 years," Larry said.

"It took about 18 months but out of that study immediately began the start of building the Warringah Freeway – going North off the Harbour Bridge."

Bob agreed the initial studies were revolutionary on Australian infrastructure.

"The Sydney study was for the justification of freeways – the Adelaide study was to determine the balance of railways and freeways and infrastructure," Bob said.

"I'd like to think that these studies have had a major impact on the cities as we know them today. It probably hasn't had all of the development which we thought that it should have because people have been reluctant to implement all of the changes," Bob said.

Feed the next engineering generation

Although both retired, Larry and Bob said they were attending the ITE conference to catch up with friends, pass on their valuable experience to young engineers

and keep up to date with industry changes. They both agreed they were passionate about their profession.

"Our knowledge is very valuable. As professionals we want to encourage young engineers, enthuse them to do the research and to keep learning by going to work in other people's countries to learn how different cultures approach the same issue," Bob said.

Larry said as a young man he revered people like Sir Robert Risson who was at the Chairman of the Melbourne Metropolitan Tramways Trust.

"All of a sudden we are in that position ourselves, we are the old timers and one of the reasons we stick around today is we hope that some of our knowledge will rub off on the younger members."

"I continue to update my knowledge – I am still learning, in the same way things you learn as a freshman over time become obsolete," Larry said.

Challenges to designing roads for the future

Larry said Australians faced unique road conditions and being a civil engineer was an honourable profession which compared to having the same responsibilities as a doctor.

"We see ourselves as being responsible for people lives. An engineer has people's lives in their hands just as much as a doctor does. In the US you take a professional exam and you are licensed just as a doctor is licensed. Institution of Engineers has

chartered engineers because they understand the importance of being licensed," Larry said.

"I think it is a prestigious profession, we literally design the world – you know?"

Larry said although the profession was honourable it was not always easy.

"It is always a question of priorities, and transportation is just one of the infrastructure items which requires consideration," Larry said. "All of the highways built in Western Australia are built without wire. In the United States all our roads are built with wire so we can only learn from the Australians."

Bob agreed.

"The political and environmental framework can make it very difficult. People that get a half baked idea can make a lot of waves," Bob said.

Larry gave an example of a case where a city council placed a footpath on a road which narrowed the road to the point the fire truck could not get through.

"I think there is a mix of social awareness where you have to have enthusiasm for the research, keep up-to-date with what is going on and not be stuck in your ways – you need to think outside the square and be in a position where people believe you," Bob said.

Larry and Bob said the Institute of Transportation Engineers had been progressive and for now, the two said they were happy reminiscing old times. Bob said



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as an Australian he was proud road transport conferences were being held outside North America.

"We are delighted that the conference could be held in Australia – our chance to say to North America we can do it too," Bob said.

Larry worked as a civil engineer on the Sydney metropolitan freeway study and met Bob who was working on a similar metropolitan Adelaide transport study.

As the two sipped their coffee and reminisced on the good old times, both seemed to enjoy one another's company and spend a few moments of peace at the fact that they had built the world around us and made a significant contribution to the next generation of civil engineers.

Lynda Edwards is a Melbourne journalist who attended the ITE 2005 Annual Meeting and Exhibit.

INTERNATIONAL ELECTIONS 2006 – MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT

Make your vote count in selecting the leadership of your Institute. Alf Guebert (www.alf4ite.com – see also his article in the October 2005 Edition of this newsletter) and Rod Kelly (www.ite4you.com) are the two candidates for 2007 International Vice President and are more than happy to answer any questions you might have.

Please take the time to familiarize yourself with their background and policies and cast your vote in July this year. Visit their websites or see www.ite.org for further information, brochures and contact details, or see the January 2006 edition of the Journal.

E-balloting—and for those requesting a paper ballot—will commence on June 29th and close on July 27th. If you are an eligible voter as of May 15th (having paid your 2006 international dues and are an Associate, Member, or Fellow), you will be provided with a username and password with the June issue of ITE Journal as well as the Web site address where you may cast your ballot. If your current e-mail address is on file, you will also be sent an e-mail that also includes your username and password.

ITE Calls for Expressions of Interest from Prospective 2008 Vice President Candidates

If you are an ITE Fellow and interested in a life and career-altering experience (for the good!), consider how you might help to lead the Institute in 2008.

ITE's Nominating Committee is currently requesting expressions of interest from ITE Fellows to run for 2008 International Vice-President. If this might be you, contact Peter Daly, ITE International Director, on + 61 3 9790 2923 for further information.

ITE ANNUAL MEETING AND EXHIBIT 2006

Who Should Attend This Meeting?

Nearly 2,000 transportation professionals are expected to attend the ITE Annual Meeting and Exhibit. The meeting is divided into six tracks, Planning; Engineering and Design; Safety; Mobility and Operations; and Implementing Transportation Solutions/Professional Development.



Attending this growing annual event will give you access to dynamic paper presentations, technical tours and professional development seminars. You can also earn Professional Development Hours (PDH) and International Association of Continuing Education and Training (IACET) approved Continuing Education Units (CEU) by attending the Institute's high-quality, in-depth professional development seminars and technical sessions taught by experts in their fields. Or stay



abreast of the newest technologies and services at ITE's Transportation Products and Services Exhibit where displays from the public and private sectors—from pavement marking trucks to computer software displays to planning service providers and much more—will be on hand. On average, 120 companies participate in the Exhibit. This year's Exhibit is shaping up to be even bigger.

In addition to a renowned technical program you will have the opportunity to network with transportation professionals from a wide range of specialty areas including:

- Traffic Engineers
- Transportation Agency Administrators
- Transportation Planners
- Geometric Design Professionals
- Consultants
- Expert Witnesses
- Transit Planners
- Transportation Demand Management Specialists
- Transportation Safety Specialists
- Transportation Educators
- Researchers

- Installation and Maintenance Professionals

Visit www.ite.org for detailed information and registration.

A "Not To Miss" Baseball Experience at the 2006 Annual Meeting

Milwaukee Brewers vs. Chicago Cubs At Miller Park

Wednesday, August 9, 2006, 7:05 P.M., Rain Or Shine

Game Tickets Us\$55 Per Person. Order Now! Tickets Are Non-Refundable.

The Wisconsin Section of ITE invites you to join fellow ITE members, annual meeting attendees and other baseball fanatics to see the Milwaukee Brewers play the Chicago Cubs. The Brewers play, rain or shine, at Milwaukee's Miller Park, one of the marquis facilities in major league baseball. Miller Park has the only fan-shaped, convertible roof in North America, which guarantees the perfect conditions for every game. The 12,000-ton, seven-panel roof opens and closes almost silently in just 10 minutes.

Tickets are limited and will be sold on a first-come-first-serve basis. Register online at www.ite.org. Hurry, tickets are limited and selling fast!

INTERNATIONAL BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

As many readers would be aware, ITE is an international organization with more than 16,000 members in 80 countries. ITE is governed by an elected board, known as the International Board of Direction (IBoD), which is based in Washington DC and meets three times a year.

Each of the eight ITE Districts has a Director on IBoD. District 8 covers all countries outside the USA and Canada and Peter Daly represents District 8 from Jan 2005 to December 2007. Peter is generously supported in this role by RACV, who provide financial and resource assistance to enable his full and active participation as a Board member.

The March 2006 IBoD meeting (Friday 17th and Saturday 18th) covered a number of issues related to the governance of the Institute and continued to devote time to brainstorm 'mega-issues' (see www.ite.org). The current topic is 'designing for all users'. Investigation and development of these topics form part of ITE's strategic plan, with targeted outputs financed and resourced by ITE HQ in annual business plans.

While all items discussed at IBoD are relevant to members in the ANZ Section in one way or another, the most relevant items included:

- ITE closed out the financial year (Jan to Dec in the USA) in a healthy financial position, with a



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positive balance of US\$120,000 (revenue over expense). Expenses, at around \$7 million, were similar to 2004. Revenue overall was slightly down on 2004, with lower publication sales and fewer registrations for the 2005 Annual Meeting. However big increases were achieved in ITE Journal advertising volumes, the Las Vegas Technical Conference in March and uptake of ITE's e-learning courses. ITE's financial reserve met its budgeted target and stands at approximately \$2.3 million.

- The Board accepted the 2005 Audit Report.
- The Board approved rescission of a number of ITE Standards related to National Transportation Communications for ITE Protocols.
- A White Paper was presented on the Board's March 'Mega Issue' – Designing for all users. Increased attention is being paid to the need for transportation professionals to better accommodate the needs of all roadway users in planning and design of transportation systems. The White Paper made a number of recommendations to help set the course for ITE's future role in addressing this issue. The Board provided input to guide ITE staff on the level of effort, ITE's role, audience and priorities.

- The Board rejected a proposal to introduce a toll-free telephone enquiry number. It requested instead that ITE staff present a report as to steps that are being taken to enhance customer service, knowledge management and access on the ITE website.
- A number of changes to various Board of Direction Procedures were adopted. These were mainly related to improving the efficiency of administration.
- Proposed changes to ITE Policies were approved by the Board (these were published for member comment in the Oct 2005 edition of the Journal).

Please feel free to contact Peter Daly, ITE International Director, if you want more information about the International Board.

FROM OUR MEMBERS

Low-tech, "honesty system" parking meters in Albuquerque, New Mexico – appropriately located in the city's "Old Town" area. Coins are placed in the slot that corresponds to a particular parking space number and then falls into a common cash pile at the bottom of the meter.



Photos Submitted by Andrew O'Brien from Andrew O'Brien & Associates Pty Ltd, Melbourne.



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NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND

The latest news from the New Zealand section is that Peter McCombs will present at an ITEANZ seminar in Melbourne in April on the latest developments in the travel demand management work for the Auckland motorway system.

ITEANZ WEBSITE

Web development company Simple Net (www.simplenet.com.au) has been engaged to assist with the production of a new and improved ITEANZ website that will go live in the second quarter of 2006 at www.ite.org.au. Please check this link in the coming months as we would love to receive your feedback on the website as it develops.

NEW REPORTS FROM ITE

Context Sensitive Solutions in Designing Major Urban Thoroughfares for Walkable Communities: An ITE Proposed Recommended Practice

This report advances the successful use of context sensitive solutions (CSS) in the planning and design of major urban thoroughfares for walkable communities. It provides guidance and demonstrates for practitioners how CSS concepts and principles may be applied in roadway improvement projects that are consistent with their physical settings. The report's chapters are

focused on applying the principles of CSS in transportation planning and in the design of roadway improvement projects in places where community objectives support walkable communities-compact development, mixed land uses and support for pedestrians and bicyclists, whether it already exists or is a goal for the future. Many of the principles, concepts and design guidelines are directly applicable to urban thoroughfares in other contexts. ITE, 2005. ISBN No: 1-933452-11-0.

Item RP-036. Member price: \$25.00, Non-member price: \$30.00