

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

As opposed to the regular blurb about how great things are for engineers here in Australia and how the many new projects being announced by the State and Federal Governments is going to make everything better, I thought for a change that we might want to look a little further afield for the inspiration we need to help us wrestle free of our current economic woes. One example of this way of thinking might therefore be to look at how some of our global neighbours are faring in the aftermath of the much publicised and now recovering GFC.

As with Australia, South Asia has experienced a long period of robust economic growth averaging 6% a year over the past 20 years. However, according to the World Bank's strategy for transport in South Asia, poor access to transport infrastructure and services is one of the most significant factors contributing to the continued conditions of extreme poverty still being experienced by the hundreds of millions of people living in the region at the present time. This means that for the northern countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, India and Nepal, access to services and geographic areas of increased economic activity is a growing area of concern that can only be described as dwarfing anything we have experienced in Australia and New Zealand to date (refer to [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)).

I make this comparison not only to highlight the plight of these people in particular, but also to suggest that this is a challenge that can only be addressed through the increased individual efforts of our many highly skilled and professionally qualified Australian engineers.

Being a not so recent immigrant to Australia myself, I do understand that for some the appeal of international travel might seem a bit daunting at first, but I am reminded of the fact that for many it is also a manifestation of the great contribution that engineering has made to our society as a whole. We therefore owe it to ourselves and the international community to rise to this challenge and start include a greater amount of international travel in the mix of skills and experience we all seek to achieve and it is to this end that the ITEANZ is best able to serve.

***Derrick Hitchens, ITEANZ President***

## RECENT EVENTS

### 2012 Annual ITEANZ President's Dinner

The Annual ITEANZ President's Dinner, held once more at the Kew Golf Club in mid-December, was an outstanding success with around 100 people in attendance from both the public and private sectors.

This year's guest speaker was **Brian Negus**, General Manager Public Policy of the RACV, who kindly gave an informative presentation on the road safety initiatives as outlined in the RACV's strategic plan which focuses attention on policies to improve the safety and efficiency of our transport system. As identified by their members and general research on 'hot spots', this plan addresses the missing links in Melbourne's arterial road and public transport network.

Members wishing further information are able to download this comprehensive document from the RACV website at [www.racv.com.au](http://www.racv.com.au).



**Brian Negus, General Manager Public Policy (RACV)**

In addition to the keynote speaker, several awards were presented:

- **Contribution to the Transport Industry**  
Presented to Dr David Bennett
- **Outstanding Service to the ITE**  
Presented to Tony Fry
- **Valuable Contribution to the ITE**  
Presented to Howard McDonald
- **Emerging Professional**  
Presented to Amy Stebbing



Tony Fry and Andrew O'Brien



Julian Lyngcoln , Amy Stebbing, Derrick Hitchins, and Con Stasinos



Nick Szwed, Derrick Hitchins and Dr David Bennett



Derrick Hitchins and Howard McDonald

## 2013 Annual ITEANZ Breakfast

The Annual ITEANZ Breakfast, proudly supported by Engineers Australia (Vic) Transport Branch and sponsored by the RACV, was held on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> February, at the RACV City Club in Melbourne.

With the Minister of Public Transport & Roads, **The Honourable Terry Mulder MLA**, as this year's guest speaker, the 90 or so people who attended were entertained by an informative presentation on the State Government's various priorities for delivering both sustainable transport and land use planning outcomes outlined in the Victorian Transport Plan.



The Honourable Terry Mulder MLA

Key issues discussed were the economic importance of the future East-West tunnel, the Dingley Bypass and the Regional Rail Project, where great interest was evident by the number of questions raised by the audience.

Upon conclusion of questions to the Minister, the Student Award was presented to **Samantha Gelfand** of Monash University where her final-year research paper focused on dwell time scenarios for different types of designs for tram platform stops.



Samantha Gelfand and Derrick Hitchins

## Speed Limits Seminar

The Speed Limits seminar recently held at the Department of Transport's theatre was well attended with much positive discussion. Keynote speakers included **Amy Stebbing** (VicRoads), **Doug Braybrook** (Shire of Mornington Peninsula) and **Haig Poulson** (City of Melbourne).



Amy Stebbing of VicRoads

## ITEANZ 2013 AGM

Directly following the ITEANZ Breakfast Meeting, the ITEANZ Annual General Meeting was held to elect a new Executive Board for 2013 and close-out outstanding activities from 2012, as well as providing a financial summary for the past year and indicative budget for this year.

From this meeting, it is our pleasure to announce the following Executive Board members for 2013:

<b>President:</b>	Derrick Hitchins
<b>Immediate Past President:</b>	Howard McDonald
<b>Vice President:</b>	Tim Absalom
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Andrew Somers
<b>Secretary:</b>	Nick Szwed
<b>Assistant Secretary:</b>	David Nash
<b>Student Chapter:</b>	Richard Tay
<b>Membership Co-ordinator:</b>	Daniel Przychodzki
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	Howard McDonald
<b>Web Master:</b>	Tim Absalom
<b>Ordinary Members:</b>	Andrew O'Brien Don McKenzie (NZ)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Confirmed Seminars

#### Bicycle Safety Forum

Scheduled for Wednesday afternoon, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2013, at Richmond Town Hall. Potential speakers include cycling lobbyists and consultants as well as representatives from VicRoads, Monash University, Bicycle Victoria and Local Government. A flyer with further information will also be distributed shortly.

### Proposed Seminars

#### Travel Demand Management

Tentatively arranged for mid-2013 at the Department of Transport's theatre. Potential industry experts are presently being sought.

## OTHER ITEANZ NEWS

### Website Development

A new website for the ITEANZ was launched in March 2013. It is being tested and updated in order to provide members with information regarding ITE Technical Councils, Seminars and Conferences and Affiliated Organisations. It also provides details of the ITEANZ Executive Board, Awards, Student Chapters and Consultants Forum, as well as how easy it is to become a member of the ITE. Please have a look at [www.ite.org.au](http://www.ite.org.au).

### 2012-15 Strategic Plan

A strategic plan for ITEANZ has been prepared, in the context of the strategic plan of international ITE. It can be found on our new website and will be a roadmap to guide us over the next three years.

The document identifies key objectives to increase awareness of what the ITE has to offer for students and young professionals as a way of expanding membership throughout Australia and New Zealand.

The plan also lists the key goals that international ITE would like to achieve over the next three to five years to advance transportation knowledge and practices throughout the world for the benefit of society and the professional community that it serves.



## Revitalisation of the Student Chapter

ITEANZ and Monash University are in the process of reactivating the Student Chapter of the ITEANZ. Student volunteers are encouraged to contact **Richard Tay**, Chair in Road Safety Management at LaTrobe University ([r.tay@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:r.tay@latrobe.edu.au)), for more information.

## Obituaries

ITEANZ has been sadly notified that two well-known members of the transportation community have recently passed away:

- **David Gamble** from Dunedin, New Zealand; and
- **David O'Sullivan** from Ballarat, Victoria.

We recognise both of their contributions to the ITEANZ and pass on our condolences to their families.

## ITE INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### 2013 Annual Conference and Exhibition

Nearly 1,000 transportation professionals recently attended the ITE Annual Conference and Exhibition held in San Diego, California, during 3-6 March 2013.

Highlights included numerous technical and conversation sessions where participants shared their perspective through open dialogue with the audience. In addition, exhibits showcased the latest products and services, such as Google's self-driving car as seen at the recent Transportation Forum in Austin, Texas (<http://transportationblog.dallasnews.com>).

For further information regarding the conference and exhibition, visit the ITE website at [www.ite.org](http://www.ite.org).

### 2014 Election Candidates

Candidates for the roles of ITE International President and Vice President have been confirmed. The Institute's Nomination Committee has selected the following transportation professionals as their nominees to run for election to serve starting 2014:

#### International President

- Walter H Neel Jr, President Neel-Schaffer Inc.

#### International Vic President

- Jeffery M Arey, Vice President of Transportation and Infrastructure, Reynolds, Smith & Hills Inc.
- John J Kennedy, Senior Principal, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin Inc.

For further information on these candidates, visit the ITE website at [www.ite.org](http://www.ite.org) to download their respective brochures. Although not compulsory, voting by ITE members is encouraged.

## MEMBERSHIP

Did you know that individual membership with ITE can cost less than A\$170(US\$175) a year? Visit our website ([www.ite.org.au](http://www.ite.org.au)) and navigate to the "Join ITE" page for more information or contact our membership coordinator, **Daniel Przychodzki**, at [daniel.przychodzki@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:daniel.przychodzki@cgd.vic.gov.au).

Membership in the ITEANZ is the best investment you can make to enhance your transportation knowledge and technical skills. As an ITEANZ member, you will be part of a dynamic group of more than 16,000 dedicated transportation professionals spanning more than 90 countries who are working toward the goal of meeting society's needs for safe and efficient surface transportation.

## ITEANZ NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is produced as part of the benefits of the ITE. Members are encouraged to provide material for future editions.

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