

President's Report

To the ITEANZ AGM on 28 February 2017

Last year was another great year for ITEANZ.

The Team

President:	Nick Szwed
Vice President:	Tim Absalom
Treasurer:	John Smelt
Secretary:	David Nash
Assistant Secretary:	Shelley Cao
Seminar Coordinators:	Kenn Beer, Sam Linke
New Zealand Representative & District 8 Director:	Don Mc Kenzie
Academia & Student Representative:	Richard Tay
Membership Co-ordinator & Local Government Representative:	Daniel Przychodzki
Newsletter Editor & NSW Representative:	Aaron Hargraves
Web Master:	Jared Tan
Ordinary Members:	Andrew O'Brien Ken Hall Peter Daly Sahan Wijyaratna Nirosha Kariyawasam Sara Moridpour David Rolland Trent Ekanayake

If you'd like to know a little more about these people who are working for you go to:
http://ite.org.au/exec_board.

I'd like to particularly thank three people:

- David Nash for the work he does as Secretary and for his oversight of our website,
- John Smelt for his management of our finances, and
- Don McKenzie for his work as NZ representative and District 8 Director. Don has done an outstanding job in encouraging our brethren in Nth American to think more globally. He has also facilitated a couple of online video meetings between the Board and people over there.

The Program

The 2016 program of events was comprehensive and attracted attendances averaging around 70 to 80.

- 60 Years of Road Safety Successes & Failures – Emeritus Prof Jack McLean – 9 Feb
- 2016 Annual Breakfast Meeting – speaker the Honourable Jacinta Allan, the Minister for Public Transport, Minister for Employment and Leader of the House in the Legislative Assembly - 10 Feb
- Keeping Cities Moving – Rose McArthur, Mott MacDonald – 21 Mar
- Working in Asia – Meg Holmberg, VicRoads, David Singleton, Maurice Burley, Sam Linke, Jacobs - 12 May
- Age-Friendly Transport - Tricia Williams, Elegant Solutions, Duane Burt, Victoria Walks, Jennie Oxley, MUARC, David Williamson, Safe System Solutions – 16 June
- PPPs Public Value in Uncertain Times – Prof Colin Duffield, Univ Melb, Prof Graeme Hodge, Monash Uni – 20 Sep
- Careers in Transport – Shelley Cao, Emily Coldbeck & Wilson Ma, DEDTJR, Trent Ekanayake, Arup, Chris Lai City of Greater Dandenong, Jessie Ellis, Level Crossing Removal Authority – 14 Oct
- Transport Planning for Ballarat – Terry Demeo, Ballarat City Council, Sam Brown, VicRoads, Jim Carden, Western Distributor Authority – 10 Nov
- President’s Dinner – Michel Masson, Infrastructure Victoria - 15 Nov

Nirosha has been making audio/video recordings of presentations and placing them on our website. So if you missed a seminar and would like to find out what transpired, thanks to Nirosha you can now do that. If you want to find out more, go to: www.ite.org.au.

Advocacy

In 2013 we prepared a position paper on **Motor Vehicle Window Tinting** which argued that there is long-standing and increasing evidence that window tinting has a detrimental effect on road safety. I met with the Minister for Roads and Road Safety and his advisor in February last year and while I felt the Minister understood our position he gave no commitment to do anything in particular. You can see our position paper at: http://ite.org.au/public/editor_images/Vehicle%20Window%20Tinting%20-%20ITEANZ%20Position%20Aug%2014.pdf

In April we made a submission to the National Transport Commission on window tinting. Whilst it is not clear where this matter lies now various newspaper reports indicate that the window tinting industry is winning the battle.

At the above meeting with the Minister we also discussed a statement about the **Uncrashable Car** which we gave him in December 2015. Again he listened intently but made no commitments. You can see our statement at <http://www.ite.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Towards-the-Uncrashable-Car.pdf> This statement has also been submitted to a VicRoads inquiry into autonomous vehicles.

In May I attended a **meeting** between **VicRoads** staff and a number of bicycle lobbyists. We discussed the proposal for a **minimum passing distance, window tinting, speed limits and cyclist safety in general**. Again the meeting was amicable enough but no commitments came from VicRoads to do anything specifically for cycling safety. I think it is most unfortunate that later in the year VicRoads argued against a minimum passing distance at the Parliamentary Road Safety Inquiry. Despite that position taken by VicRoads, the parliamentary Committee recommended that minimum passing distances should be adopted. Refer: <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/eic/inquiries/article/2948>

If there are any other topics that you would like the ITEANZ to speak out on, please let us know.

Working with EATP & AITPM

The Transport Planning for Ballarat forum was our third joint event with Transport Australia Society (formerly Engineers Aust Transport Panel) and AITPM. This was very well attended and another successful event.

We are also building on this relationship by attending each other's end-of-year functions.

This year we intend to hold another regional forum.

Working with Monash Uni

On behalf of ITEANZ I was invited by the Institute of Transport Studies at Monash Uni to sit on the Advisory Committee for the revision of the text "Traffic Engineering and Management". The revision is well under way and this year Monash Uni proposes to hold a number of informative seminars around the new publications and the ITEANZ will probably have a role in facilitating these seminars.

Awards

The recipients of Awards for 2016 were:

- Contribution to ITE - Daniel Przychodzki
- Contribution to the Transportation Profession – Emeritus Prof Mary Sheehan
- Emerging Transport Professional – John Richardson
- Sustainable Transport – Travel Choices, TfNSW
- Student Paper – Navreet Viridi
- Postgraduate - Kasun Wijyaratna
- Award for Excellence – Aaron Hargraves

Thanks go to the selection panels for their good work.

Our Sponsors



ARUP



RACV is Event Partner for our annual Breakfast Meeting.

SIDRA SOLUTIONS sponsor the Postgraduate Award.

GHD sponsor the Student Award. SMEC, ARUP and OBT are corporate sponsors.

Austraffic have just agreed to a level of sponsorship that is above our advertised offer. We intend to call it Platinum level sponsorship.



Students & Academia

Richard and Shelley continue to run careers seminars for students. Student Chapters are rather ephemeral because it is senior students who set them up but they graduate and leave before any permanency can be established. So the future focus will be on the careers seminars.

Communications

Aaron has continued to produce an excellent Newsletter. He has really modernised the online method of presentation of the newsletter items. Aaron, Sahan and Jared have been providing very interesting snippets of news from around the states. Jared and David are keeping the Website up to date. District 8 Director Don has been doing a great job building bridges across the ditch and to North America.

Strategic Planning

We have a strategic plan which is guiding our direction due to the vigilance of Ken.

Andrew O'Brien

After nearly 40 years of service to the ITE Andrew O'Brien has decided to make a break. He is not nominating for the next ITEANZ Executive Board.

We can't let him move on without acknowledging his extraordinary contribution to the ITE and to the transport profession in general.

Andrew joined the ITE Executive in 1978.

Andrew soon became involved with a number of ITE technical/standards committees in the US which develop policy and practice. From 1990, almost every year he attended the mid-year Conference in the US and the Annual ITE Meeting. He soon built up a large network of contacts in the US. His NZ work originated from a meeting with Roger Dunn and one of his colleagues at the 1993 Annual Meeting in The Hague.

His contribution in the professional debate internationally has been critical on design/operation of roundabouts, metering, infrastructure safety, etc. He's brought areas of practice where Australia is/was world best to practitioners and agencies in North America and more widely. He was and still is a member of a number of ITE technical/standards committees which formed policy and practice on these and other areas.

In 1985, he and Emmerson Richardson authored an Annual Meeting paper on roundabouts – the first published by ITE. He was subsequently engaged on the design of the first 'modern roundabout' in the US at Long Beach. He became an 'invited international member' of the TRB's Roundabout Task Force, and then the Roundabout Committee in the mid-2000's.

Andrew was elected President of ITEANZ 1987-88 and continued to raise the profile of the Australian & New Zealand (ANZ) Section both nationally and internationally. He was elected as the District 8 director on the International Board of Direction for a 3-year term in 1996. The electorate was about 90 countries outside of the US and Canada. His wife, Trish, was not overly impressed with the electioneering phone bill during those years.

Moreover, he won a great deal of respect for encouraging the ITE to take a truly global perspective beyond North America. He had considerable influence as a change agent in this regard. Andrew played a major role in convincing ITE to come to the other side of the world for the ITE Annual Meeting and Exhibit in 2005. It was a long campaign which started in the 1980s. This was and still is, the only time this meeting has been

held outside of North America. A lot of effort went into attracting and in some cases, sponsoring international experts to Australia for professional forums. A number of policy manuals and the ITE Journal started to acknowledge practice and news beyond North America.

He had an impact administratively also, building the District profile, introducing lower cost / more relevant memberships and better connecting our section to ITE HQ. The results of this were epitomised in the ITE Study Tour of ANZ of two years ago. Andrew gradually became the elder who looked after ITEANZ. He has been a wonderful mentor and role model to many people in ITE.

In 2005 he received the Award for Outstanding Service to ITEANZ.

In 2007 he was made an Honorary Member of the ITE.

Andrew not only contributed personally, but often committed his business and personnel to the ITE cause. Many, if not the majority of his staff have been directly involved in ITE matters and Board membership as well as in other supportive roles. Many of his staff attended ITE meetings in the US.

For a small business this is a pretty big financial commitment, though Andrew would probably say that the business and staff benefitted from that investment.

Andrew is one of the key reasons why the ITEANZ has managed to survive over the years. ITEANZ is a relatively small organisation in ANZ (compared to EA or AITPM) and relies totally on volunteers giving their time and resources. These resources fluctuate and 15 years ago reached a rather low ebb. Andrew threw more of his own resources (including his own son and daughter-in-law who worked for him). Then he looked about for new recruits and cleverly found a recent retiree who had time to spare and ITEANZ has now made a resurgence.

To sum up, Andrew joined in 1976 and became very active and threw himself and later his firm's resources into making ITEANZ very successful. He became involved both locally and internationally.

He is very highly respected widely both professionally and personally within the ITE family and the traffic and transport arena in general.

Ted Barton who, along with Bert Beukers (Netherlands) are the only other Honorary ITE Members outside North America said "In my opinion his contribution is absolutely unmatched by anyone prior to or since his term as a Board Member/President of the ANZ Section".

Looking Ahead

For the year ahead a few of the themes that I would like us to focus on are:

- Continue to strengthen links with ITE in North America,
- Watch for opportunities to strengthen links with Asia,
- Continue to look for ways to promote gender diversity, and
- Continue to speak out on issues important to our profession.

Nick Szwed

27 February 2015