



## 2013 Annual General Meeting

### President's Report

#### Looking back on 2012

For many, 2012 has been a challenging year. I doubt if I speak only for myself when I say that we have all in some way experienced the obvious slowdown in the economy and the change in way in projects and services are being promoted, procured and delivered during these tougher economic times. Victoria has been particularly hard hit given delays that are occurring with the announcement of a number of new large/mega projects and the organisational changes that are happening within the various State Government departments at the present time. Many of our key contracting firms and professional resources are now almost permanently based in the other States.

These are all however short term responses to a rapidly changing internal political, social and economic climate and for this reason we all have to take a longer term view on what it means to be a transportation professional going forward; and by this I mean not today, but over the next decade or more.

For me personally, I see this as an exciting time. I say so without reservation, because we all know that with change, comes the opportunity to grow. Growth can however be painful and can take on many forms. For some of us this might mean changes in the way that we live, changes in the way that we work and changes in the way that we play. The challenge for all of us is therefore not one of despair, but rather an invitation to reinvent ourselves as a new and emerging professional in a new and emerging world.

#### The Board of 2012

Having sufficient hands on deck to keep up the smooth functioning of the Board is a continuing challenge. Not having all of the required positions filled at the beginning of each year places extra pressure on those people that are able to step in to help.

This year has been no different; however, we have been very fortunate in that we have a number of very able-bodied new Board members on board providing a renewed enthusiasm to the team. In this regard, I would like in particular to thank: Nick Szwed, David Nash, Richard Tay and Tim Absalom.

Our Regional Representation has continued to grow with Don McKenzie in New Zealand, Andrew Somers in WA, and Peter Croft in NSW continuing to wave the flag. And at a local level, our General Board Members: Howard McDonald, Andrew O'Brien and Daniel Przychodzki also still remain actively involved.

New members that have joined this year: David Nash & Tim Absalom

I would also like to thank Emma Donnelly for her assistance as ITEANZ Treasurer for over the last almost ten years, having recently been informed of her decision to resign. The time and dedication she has provided to the ITEANZ will be sorely missed.



### **Paid Admin Assistance**

As a trial, the Board approved the appointment of Kate Pratt in January 2012 on a casual basis to assist with some of the ongoing administrative tasks. Her assistance has been particularly useful in the run-up to our various industry events when she has assisted with producing event flyers, reviewing documents for the AGM, organising emails to members - event reminders, posting AGM notices, staffing the table at the Breakfast meeting, setting up an eventbrite website for free seminars

### **Annual Breakfast 2012**

Annual Breakfast held on Wednesday, 22 February 2012 at the Windsor Hotel, Melbourne. Our guest speaker, Mr Edward O'Donohue MLC, the Victorian Parliamentary Secretary for Transport, was very well received. Austraffic offered to be our major sponsor for the breakfast event as part of their own celebration of 30 years of operation as Australasian Traffic Surveys (ATS) and more recently as Austraffic. John Reid, Ian Greenwood and Scott Benjamin from Austraffic received special mention at the event.

### **New Life Members of the ITE**

As part of our own celebrations this year, we were also able to acknowledge the services of two of our most experienced previous Board members, Mr Bill Saggars and Mr David Axup. Both Bill and David were awarded Life Membership of the ITE last year in recognition of their contribution to our profession and within the ITE. They received certificates confirming their admission to this membership status at the Breakfast Meeting in February 2012 and attended our President's Dinner function in December 2012 as guests of the ITEANZ Board.

### **ITEANZ Panel Discussions and Seminar Program**

A number of seminars were organised and hosted by the ITEANZ in conjunction with Engineers Australia Victorian Branch during 2012. We have been consistently rewarded with high attendance numbers and a growing interest from a number of young engineers and undergraduates.

*28th August 2012 held at the Department of Transport Theatrette.*

- Professor Jack Singh of La Trobe University - Wireless technology between trains and vehicles approaching a level crossing
- Kelvin Goh of Monash University - The impact on road safety of bus priority schemes in Melbourne

*16 October 2012 held at the Department of Transport Theatrette*

- Mr Geoff Underwood - Planning System Reform in Victoria
- Mr Chris De Gruyter - Travel Planning Practice for New Urban Developments
- Professor Nicholas Low - The Global Dilemma of Mobility

Thank you to Richard Tay for organising yet another successful seminar program. All of our speakers were very good.



Interest in our next seminar planned to be held on 24th April 2013 at the Richmond Town Hall is gathering momentum. The format of this meeting will somewhat different in that we propose to turn this event into forum style discussion, with the focus Bicycle Safety.

### **2012 Strategy Planning Session**

On 29 June 2012, the current Board members along with a number of previous Board members and senior General Board Members held a ½ day Strategy Planning Session in Melbourne. They were joined by our New Zealand representative, Don McKenzie, and Andrew Somers from WA. The aim of the session was to reconfirm our commitment to the ITE and reflect on the challenges we are experiencing and opportunities we see in the Australian and New Zealand market for consolidating and then expanding our membership base. Minutes of this meeting were taken and distributed to all who attended.

ITEANZ Strategic Plan 2012–2015 was officially launched at the ITEANZ President’s Dinner which was held prior to the Christmas break. Work on achieving some of the ‘Priorities for Action’ had already commenced. Key Actions agreed to in the short to medium term included:

#### Partnering

- Increase partnering with other associations
- Communication – resurrect the ‘newsletter’, but more in the form of the website

#### Students and Young Professionals

- Make students aware of the ITE membership process as part of their course work.
- Consult with tertiary educational institutions about undergraduate research projects;
- Provide a “safe speaking environment” for young graduates and post-graduates.

#### Sustainability

- Revisit the membership paradigm. Investigate opportunities to charge ‘more’ for events?
- Increase local membership benefits (more seminars, newsletters & better website)

#### Advocacy

- Lobbying for, and assisting where possible to achieve:
  - (a) robust planning for a sustainable future;
  - (b) efficient day-to-day operational management of transport systems; and
  - (c) safety for users.

A copy of the Strategic Plan 2012–2015 will be uploaded to our new and improved website when this comes alive at the end of January 2013.



### **Waving the flag for District 8**

In September 2012, Peter McCombs was able to provide us with an update on his recent visit to the ITE International Board meeting held in the USA. As reminder, he was able to include a note to all readers that was of particular relevance to members from outside the USA and Canada.

The ITE is comprised of 10 national and international Districts. The Australia & New Zealand District (the 'ITEANZ') forms part of District 8 and is currently the only active section running as part of District 8.

He went on to say that the ITE Community website has proved to be a very useful and highly popular addition to the range of ITE member services, especially for those in District 8. "We have seen a number of months through the past year in which District 8 members have topped the charts for usage and download."

### **New ITEANZ Website upgrade**

In October 2012, the Board approved the use of some of our savings to upgrade the ITEANZ website. This expenditure was agreed to and approved in accordance with our revised Strategic Plan 2012-2015 which is aimed, amongst other, to growing our Australian and New Zealand membership by appealing to our younger and more technology-savvy professionals. Not only has the process of updating and refreshing the information contained on our website been somewhat reactive, but the technology driving the site has become out of date.

As part of the upgrade the Board has designed and approved a revised logo for the ITEANZ. We are very grateful to Tim Absalom for taking up the challenge of upgrading our current website. Work is ongoing, but is nearing completion ahead of the planned launch of the new website at the end of January 2013.

### **President Dinner 2012**

The annual ITEANZ President's Dinner was held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2012 at the Kew Golf Course in Melbourne. This has been the key event for the profession for a number of years.

The speaker for this year was Mr Brian Negus, General Manager - Public Policy at the RACV.

As always, the dinner was very well attended and provided an ideal opportunity for networking and renewing old acquaintances. Special guests included:

- AITPM Victorian President – Liz McGregor and her partner Duncan
- Our Guest Speaker for this evening – Brian Negus and his partner Carol

Our table sponsor for the evening was SIDRA Solutions. The company was represented by Mr Rahmi Akcelik and a large number of his staff who also took up a table sponsorship.



In building on our professional reputation, we presented several achievement awards that included:

- Emerging Transport Professional Award – Ms Amy Stebbing
- Contribution to the Transport Profession Award– Dr David Bennett
- Recognition of Outstanding Service to the ITEANZ Award – Mr Tony Fry

The Student Paper Award was carried over to the Annual Breakfast Meeting, given that many of the most deserving students were still in the process of finalising their theses and final reports.

#### **Prize Award Committee Chairs:**

As part of our ongoing activities behind the scenes, a number of our Board Members have worked tirelessly throughout the year to identify and encourage our new/old members to nominate for awards. In doing so, they are able to reconfirm the commitment of our older members to the organisation and encourage a greater interest by our younger members in the activities of the ITEANZ. Chairmen that I wish to thank include:

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|----------------------|--|
| • Richard Tay        | Student Paper Award                              |
| • Peter Daly         | Emerging Transport Professional Award            |
| • Daniel Przychodzki | Contribution to the Transport Profession Award   |
| • Andrew O'Brien     | Recognition of Outstanding Service to the ITEANZ |

I do not know all of the names of everyone else who has assisted in reviewing and evaluating the various submissions, but please be assured that your help is greatly appreciated whoever you are.

#### **Annual Breakfast 2013 - 13 February 2013**

Our famous ITEANZ Annual Breakfast will be held at the RACV City Club this year. We are hoping, that with this move we will maintain our strong sponsor relationship with the RACV.

It is with great pleasure that I look forward to introducing, the Honourable Mr Terry Mulder, Victorian Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Roads as our guest speaker at the event. Thanks to a lot of hard work by Mr Brian Negus of the RACV and Mr Nick Szwed, our Secretary, we were able to coordinate this event with a Parliamentary non-sitting week.

Our major sponsor for the morning is the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria (RACV). Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Brian Negus, General Manager Public Policy, for the generous sponsorship we have received. Mr Dave Jones (Manager, Roads & Traffic - Public Policy) will deliver the RACV sponsor's speech.

The event will be co-hosted by the Engineers Australia, Victorian Branch who will be represented by Mr Christian Griffith, the current President of Engineers Australia, Victorian Transport Branch

The 2013 Student Paper Award will be presented to Ms Samantha Gelfand of the Monash University. The award has been made possible by GHD who has once again offered a generous cash prize to the successful student applicant.



### **Looking forward to the year ahead**

Our Strategic Plan has identified a number of specific goals and objectives that the ITEANZ will focus on during the coming three to five years. These can be summarised as follows:

- To make ITE the premier source of global transportation information, insights and solutions tailored to the needs of our Australia and New Zealand transportation professionals.
- To provide a collaborative environment that advances technical knowledge, provides opportunities for workforce participation and creates forums for global information exchange and networking.
- To achieve recognition for professional contributions made towards helping to address the call for change in transportation-related policy issues within our State and Federal Governments.

The key actions that we will take towards unlocking our potential over the next three years will include:

- Better use of the ITE headquarter resources and looking for opportunities to strengthen our links into Asia
- Provide opportunities for our younger members to present their work to their peers in a friendly and unchallenging environment
- Securing the regular participation by our members in our ongoing monthly seminar program and major annual major events
- We would like to change our membership model towards a more commercially focused outcome
- Do more to “speak up” on behalf of our profession

These actions have all been agreed to by the Board and will form the basis of our communications and actions going forward, and for this I seek your support.

Best regards,

**Derrick Hitchins**  
National President ITEANZ  
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ITEANZ, IEAust, AITPM