

# History of ITE-ANZ

## Key Dates

**Early 1960s** Most of the 20 or so members of the ITE in Australia had developed an interest in ITE while attending the Bureau of Highway Traffic at Yale University, or programs at other Universities, as International Road Federation Fellows.

**15 August 1972** First Annual General Meeting of the Australian Section of the Institute of Traffic Engineers was held in Burton Hall, Australian National University, Canberra (where the Sixth Conference of the Australian Road Research Board was being held) and the first Executive Board was elected.

**21 August 1973** A full day symposium titled “Are Urban Freeway Really Necessary?” was held jointly with Transportation Engineering Branch of Sydney Division of the Institution of Engineers Australia at the University of New South Wales.

**1996** New Zealand joined the Australian Section which became the Australian and New Zealand Section, ITEANZ.

**1998** Ted Barton awarded Honorary Membership

**2005** The annual ITE Meeting was held in Melbourne.

**2007** Andrew O’Brien awarded Honorary Membership

**2020** Peter McCombs awarded Honorary Membership

**1960s** By the 1960s the rapid rise in car ownership was leading to traffic congestion and delays in some parts of the urban road network in Sydney and Melbourne. Road Authority engineers began to discuss how to deal with it. They looked to the UK and US for guidance. The need to train engineers in the emerging field of traffic engineering became clear. Engineers were sent overseas to study the new methods and techniques being developed there. Plans are developed for training engineers in Sydney and Melbourne and Road Authorities set up traffic engineering sections.

In the early 1960s there were less than twenty members of the then Institute of Traffic Engineers in Australia and New Zealand. There numbers included people like Ross Blunden, in Sydney; Veer Harding in Brisbane; Brian Pegrum and Bill Stafford in Perth; John Thorpe, Joe Delaney, Neil Guerin, and Robin Underwood in Melbourne; and Ross Palmer in Wellington. Most of the members in Australia had developed an interest in ITE while attending the Bureau of Highway Traffic at Yale University, or programs at other Universities, as International Road Federation Fellows.

**Circa 1970** Groups of engineers are getting together and discussing how best to deal with the rising traffic congestion often informally over a meal or drinks. The need for an association in Australia like the ITE in the US is identified.

**1972** A group has developed in Melbourne with links to ITE and plans to set up an Australian Section of ITE. There about 10 or 12 members: Neil Guerin, Robin Underwood, Bill Leslie, Alan Stempel, Bob Nairn, John Bayley (Melbourne CC Traffic Eng) and Ted Barton.

Ted recalls: "Most of us were also members of the Institution of Engineers Australia, Transportation Branch in Melbourne and several of us occasionally met for lunch & discussions separately from the IEAust when specific traffic matters became public issues and we generally agreed that an Australian Section should be set up either informally or formally through the ITE HQ. At about the same time the AITPM was being established (mainly based in Sydney, it was called the Australian Institute of Traffic Technology and formed in 1966) and there was competition for membership between ITE (local) and AITPM. We went through a couple of difficult years and I don't know exactly the date when the Australian Section of ITE was officially established, but shortly thereafter I was the Newsletter Editor and in the mid 80's took my turn as President."

**Mid 1970s** John Carlisle returned from living in Chicago with a good knowledge how ITE Sections operated in the US. He recollected: "I compiled the request to ITE to establish an Australian Section in the mid 70s. Gene Smith was the inaugural President and I was Secretary with the organisation established in Sydney. I became President the next year followed by Bob Nairn the year after before the organisation moved to Melbourne where it became well established. I recall the ITE luncheon meetings set up in association with ARRB, given that I organised the first one in Canberra which included a luncheon addressed by Larry Dondanville who was most supportive of an Australian ITE Section and visited Australia on a number of occasions including an ITE meeting in Melbourne at which someone agreed to write a history. I also recall an ITE meeting in association with ARRB in Adelaide but do not remember the year. Attendance at ARRB meetings was an established activity in the last decades of the 20th century."

Larry Dondanville as the officer of the DeLeuw, Cather Organization responsible for direction of Australia Operations, played a big role in facilitating the establishment of ITE in Australia during the 1960s, '70s. and early '80s.

**1990** Aug George Giummarra attended Annual Meeting in Orlando Florida.

## **1991**

22 May Peter Spyker, Minister for Transport replied to ITE letter (from President Nelson English) querying advertising on tourist signs.

~ June International President Dr Johnathan Upchurch visited Melbourne.

26 July Lord Mayor of City of Melbourne Richard Wynne was guest speaker at President's Dinner. He spoke about Swanston Walk.

Sep Annual Meeting in Milwaukee Wisconsin attended by David A Nicholson (Secretary).

ITE HQ offered \$2,000USD to the best paper from D8.

## **1992**

Breakfast Meeting: speaker Alan Brown Shadow Minister for Public Transport 25 Feb

ITE Regional Meeting in Perth on 8 Nov.

## **1994**

Breakfast Meeting 23 Feb Neil Aplin CE of NRTC was to speak but had to pull out and sent Ross McArthur, Policy Analyst.

A joint ITE and Australian Section International Symposium on Road Capacity was held in Sydney.

**1995** Road Safety Conference at VicRoads [what was the role of ITEANZ?]

**1996** A joint ITE District 8 and Australian Section Regional Conference on Environmentally Sustainable Transport was held in Melbourne.

New Zealand joined the Australian Section which became the Australian and New Zealand Section, ITEANZ.

**1999** Road Safety Conference at City of Darebin [what was the role of ITEANZ?] Following this conference Bill Sagers, ITEANZ President was invited as an international speaker at the 2000 ITE Annual Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee.

**30 November 2000** The ITEANZ Section Inc is incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

**2005** The annual ITE Meeting was held in Melbourne. This was the first ITE Annual Meeting to be held outside of North America and only the second outside the US. Andrew O'Brien and Peter Daly were co-chairs of the Arrangements Committee for this Meeting.

### **Past Presidents**

|               |      |
|---------------|------|
| Gene Smith    | 1971 |
| John Carlisle | 1972 |
| Bob Nairn     | 1973 |
| Bill Leslie   | 1974 |

|                    |           |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Ted Barton         | 1982-1985 |
| Tony Fry           | 1986-1987 |
| Andrew O'Brien     | 1987-1988 |
| Nelson English     | 1989-1990 |
| George Giummarra   | 1991-1992 |
| David Bennett      | 1993-1994 |
| Joe Perone         | 1995-1996 |
| Bill Young         | 1997-1998 |
| Bill Saggars       | 1999-2000 |
| Peter Daly         | 2001-2002 |
| Peter Hunkin       | 2003-2006 |
| Daniel Przychodzki | 2007-2010 |
| Howard McDonald    | 2011-2012 |
| Derrick Hitchins   | 2012-2014 |
| Nick Szwed         | 2014-2021 |
| Sarah Zhang        | 2021-     |

### **ITE Honorary Members**

|                |      |
|----------------|------|
| Ted Barton     | 1998 |
| Andrew O'Brien | 2007 |
| Peter McCombs  | 2020 |

### **Outstanding Service to ITE**

2018 Nick Szwed  
2017 (no award)  
2016 Daniel Przychodzki  
2015 Tom Brahms  
2014 Peter Hunkin  
2013 Peter Daly  
2012 Tony Fry  
2011 John Carlisle  
2010 Peter McCombs

2009 Bill Sagers  
2008 Roger Dunn  
2007 Ted Barton  
2006 Larry Dondanville  
2005 Andrew O'Brien  
2004 Joseph Perone

Current Membership around 260

A large group of friends with over 1500 subscribers who receive our communications.

## **Student Chapters**

The ITE in the US has facilitated many University clubs which are called ITE Student Chapters. We have done the same at Monash a few times. The first chapter was set up about 20 years ago but then lapsed after a few years. The chapter was re-established about 10 years ago but then lapsed for a year or two. In 2017 it was re-established as a formal Chapter of ITE with an official Charter – see attached. Since then it has become very active. It has taken on the name of TEM and set up a pioneering Mentoring program. Throughout all this time ITE-ANZ has supported the Chapter with expertise, guidance, speakers and financially. TEM has their own page on our website.

Hi Nick and all

Attached is the letter from Larry Dondanville to me written in 2004. Larry was President of the Institute in 1974, and made an Honorary Member in 2000. The handwritten names at the end were my then recollection of our first 'Section meeting' held at TE Division of CRB in High St in 1980 or 1981 – Chris Fox Ted Barton Bria Negus Neil Guerin, me, and one other.

Keep well

*Andrew O'Brien*

*0419 33 44 04*

*21 Apr 2020*

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December 18, 2004

Andrew P. O'Brien  
22 Gillman Street  
Hawthorne East, Victoria 3123 AUSTRALIA

Dear Andy:

This past August you asked me to jot down my recollections of events leading to formation of the Australia-New Zealand Section of The Institute of Transport Engineers. The process of doing so brought back many fond memories of my involvement in Australia during the 1960s, '70s. and early '80s as the officer of the DeLeuw, Cather Organization responsible for direction of Australia Operations.

In the early 1960s there were less than twenty members of the then Institute of Traffic Engineers in Australia and New Zealand There numbers included people like Ross Blunden, in Sydney; Veer Harding in Brisbane; Brian Pegrum and Bill Stafford in Perth; John Thorpe, Joe Delaney, Neil Guerin, and Robin Underwood in Melbourne; and Ross Palmer in Wellington. Most of the members in Australia had developed an interest in ITE while attending the Bureau of Highway Traffic at Yale University, or programs at other Universities, as International Road Federation Fellows.

In 1960, the Department of Main Roads in New South Wales retained DeLeuw Cather & Company and Rankin & Hill to develop an Inner Metropolitan Area Freeway Plan for Sydney. Simultaneously DeLeuw was retained to design the first stage of the Warringah Expressway, the north approach to the Sydney Harbor Bridge. Almost to a man, the expatriate staff that DeLeuw, Cather assigned to that project were members of the Institute of Traffic Engineers.

Shortly after DeLeuw, Cather's assignment in Sydney, Wilbur Smith and Associates was selected for major assignments in Brisbane. Again their expatriate staff was predominately ITE members. Through the 1960s and early '70s both companies encouraged local staff to become active in ITE. By 1970 the two companies had offices throughout Australia. There were 24 ITE members in Australia and eight of those were DeLeuw or Wilbur Smith employees. By 1974, three years after the Australian Section was chartered, both of those numbers had doubled.

In the mid 1960s DeLeuw, Cather sent Gene Smith to Adelaide as Project Manager of the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study. Gene later left the company and established his own consulting practice in Sydney. In 1970 John Carlisle, who had joined DeLeuw, Cather in Chicago, was transferred to the Sydney office. These two became the spear head of the movement to establish an Australian Section.

On October 30, 1970 I met with Peter Casey, Gene Smith John Carlisle, and Bill Stafford to discuss possible formation of a local section. The consensus was that the timing was right. Two weeks later, on November 13, I met with Marshall Rich and Harold Hammond at Wilbur Smith's office in Melbourne, and later that day with Joe Delaney, Ken Thompson, Neil Guerin, and Brian Harper. The seed was planted.

In January 1971 a petition for formation of a section was presented to the International Board of Direction. Charter # 21 was granted to The Australian Section. Gene Smith was the first President and John Carlisle was Secretary-Treasurer. The executive Committee included Veer Harding, Queensland; Bill Stafford, New South Wales; Bill Leslie, Victoria; Jim Watts, Tasmania; and Fred Bottoms, Western Australia.

In the early 1970s it was not practical for the Australian Section to hold regular meetings.

Australian Road Research Board Conferences became their main venue. In 1972 the Section Held a luncheon meeting during the ARRB Conference in Canberra. I was International Vice President at the time and was the guest speaker. Over sixty people attended that luncheon including all six State Highway Commissioners. I was again the speaker, when the Section met during the Conference in Adelaide in 1974 That was during my year as International President.

In those early days the magazine was mailed to overseas members by sea mail. It often took up to six weeks for members in Australia to receive their copies. In 1971 Ken Layer, then Executive Director, began sending a special copy to DeLeuw, Cather's Sydney office by express airmail. DeLeuw staff would then cut and paste the news items of interest to Australian members, local news was added, and it would be mailed to members throughout Australia.

John Carlisle followed Gene Smith as president and Rob Caldwell, in Canberra, became the second secretary-treasurer. In 1974 Bill Leslie in Melbourne became the third president and John Carlisle again became secretary-treasurer. By 1974 the membership had grown to fifty, twice the number there were the year before the Section was established. Membership in Victoria had increased at the fastest rate, and by 1974 was 50 percent of the total.

Since Bill Leslie's presidency, leadership of the section has continued to be centred in Melbourne. I have always thought that John Thorpe, as Deputy Commissioner of the Country Roads Board, and the young engineers from CRB who attended the Yale Bureau of Highway Traffic in the 1950s were instrumental in Melbourne's early dominance of the section.

I have a few other recollections that are noteworthy. While very few senior staff in highway and transport agencies were ITE members. Most were very supportive. Keith Johninke and Bob Moflin attended the annual meeting in Houston in 1970, at the time they were the Deputy Commissioners in the South Australia and Western Australia Highway Departments. Earle Johnston, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Main Roads in NSW attended the Montreal Meeting in 1971.

Shortly after the Australian Section was chartered Ken Thompson related to me that there was concern within The Institution of Engineers, Australia that ITE might be attempting to usurp IEAust's position as the primary professional society for engineers in the transportation field. Ken and I met with the then Executive Director. I explained that, under ITE's membership requirements, an Australia Engineer, where there was no professional registration system at the time, would first have to be a Fellow in IEAust in order to qualify as a Fellow in ITE.

New Zealand's incorporation into the section came after my years of involvement so I can be of no help with that aspect of the section's early history. I am taking the liberty of sending a copy of this memo to John Carlisle and Gene Smith for any further input they might be able to provide. I suggest that you also check my recollections with Neal Guerin, Ken Thompson, Bill Leslie and a few of the other Melbourne old-timers if they are still around.

I indicated to you in August that, while I would love to attend the meeting in Melbourne, it was very possible that I might not. As I reminisced over past history, in preparing this letter, I convinced myself that I must attend. I look forward to seeing you in Melbourne in August.

Rose Mary and I extend our very best wishes to you and Trish for the holidays.

Larry Dondanville

Ted B  
A...  
C. Fox  
B - Neys  
N Guerin  
L 1 other ?

1980-1



Hi Nick, good to hear of this initiative.

As a contribution I put forward a few matters that I was involved with for our consideration re the history of ITE . Sorry but I have no 'fun 'things nor photos that I can remember.

- Running very successful national ITEANZ meetings in conjunction with ARRB conferences. These were held a day prior to the ARRB conference allowing many ITE delegates to attend both conferences. National meetings were held in Canberra, 1988, Darwin 1990, Perth 1992, Brisbane 1994, Christchurch 1996, Sydney 1998
- Hosting a number of an International ITE Presidents visiting Australia. This included James H Kell, Allen Swanson and Jonathon Upchurch accompanied each time by Thomas Brahm
- Initiating the now very successful and popular Breakfast meetings held at the beginning of the year. The initially meeting was held at the Naval and Military Club, where I was a member
- Supporting various bids by the ITEANZ Section to have the International Annual meeting and exhibition held in Australia. This finally occurred for the first time ever in ANZ held in Melbourne in August 2005 in cooperation with ARRB, where I was employed and played a part in organizing the asset management stream of the conference.

Good luck with your venture.

Cheers,

George Giummarra

20 Apr 2020



David O'Sullivan

Chris Fox

Tom Brahms

George Giummarra

Dorothy Saristavros

Tony Fry

Andrew O'Brien

Matthew James

1988

ITE Aust Section meets Tom Brahms