

President's Report 2016

Roads Australia exists primarily to facilitate high-level engagement between industry and government. Over the last decade or more, we have built a unique partnership that embraces government transport and infrastructure agencies in every state.

It is my great pleasure to report on the strongest year of growth in Roads Australia's membership and activity that we have ever seen.

Membership

This time last year our membership stood at 118. Today, it stands at 130.

I would like to acknowledge our new members for 2016:

3M Australia, Bechtel Infrastructure, BG&E, Burton Contractors, Civilex Victoria, Colas Australia, Ducere Business School, Egis Projects, FKG Group, Fluor, HDR, the Level Crossing Removal Authority, Melbourne Metro Rail Authority, Multiplex, North Projects, Plenary Group, Redflex Traffic Systems, Rider Levett Bucknall, Samsung C&T, Sydney Motorway Corporation, Workpac Group, Ward Civil, the Western Distributor Delivery Authority, WT Partnership, and Zitron Australia.

Policy Achievement

Our policy work this year has again been driven by the agenda identified by our agency heads at the RA Board workshop in January. Here are some examples:

- We progressed the harmonisation of road pavement marking across Australia.
- We worked with Austroads on a proposed training and accreditation scheme to increase safety in the installation and maintenance of road safety barriers.
- We are contributing to the development of new standards for traffic control at road worksites
- We commenced a major review to streamline procurement and tendering processes. A detailed survey is rolling out as we speak. When this project is completed next year, we will have the most comprehensive, national picture of procurement that has yet been produced in this country.
- Five years ago we launched the Transport Reform Network to advance road funding reform. The debate around road user charging has since converged with the challenges of integrating disruptive technologies on our roads. This year, Roads Australia has been working closely with the NTC and Austroads to identify the challenges and work towards a unified response. The challenges include capturing the real value of our road assets, and ensuring roads users pay their fair share. Alongside that, we need to ensure that the physical asset itself is ready to accommodate CAVs.

Services to Members

In 2016, RA has hosted 80 events across the country, ranging from policy and single table events through to major industry lunches, Forums and Fellowship events. More than half of these events were complimentary to members.

To illustrate how far we've come, in this month of November RA has hosted 15 events. This is one less than the total number of events we ran in 2004 and 2005, combined.

The annual Summit and the John Shaw Dinner sponsored by ARUP attracted over 500 guests at the Sydney Town Hall. We also ran successful one-day Forums in Perth, Brisbane and Melbourne.

Our website and newsletter continue to keep the industry informed – the newsletter now goes to nearly 9,000 subscribers. Our thanks to Cardno for their sponsorship.

Roads Australia Fellowship Program – Leaders of the Future

Our Fellowship program goes from strength to strength.

In 2016, we inducted 25 new Fellows into the Program, who met with their individual mentors over the course of the year.

The RA Fellowship has evolved into a Chapter in its own right, with the Fellows themselves actively driving activities. Only this month, they hosted a very successful Young Professionals event here in Sydney.

In 2017, another 29 leading young professionals will join the Program.

I thank John Holland Group for their sponsorship of the Program, and to all of our mentors who have been so generous in sharing their experience and wisdom.

Gender diversity

Our commitment to gender diversity is underlined by significant initiatives in 2016. Chief among these was our inaugural Women in Infrastructure lunch, held in Melbourne this month. We plan further events across Australia in 2017.

In 2016, we also introduced complimentary seats for maternity and paternity-takers to attend RA events as a means of staying in touch with the industry.

Acknowledgments

Thank you to all our members who supported our activities in 2016. I particularly acknowledge our Patron Sponsors - Advisian, Altus Traffic, Arcadis, Arup, Cardno, Coffey, John Holland and SMEC.

Other sponsors have included ACRS, AECOM, Aurecon, BMD Constructions, Boral, Clayton Utz, CPB Constructions, Fulton Hogan, GHD, Ingal Civil Products, Jacobs, Laing O'Rourke, Lendlease Engineering, OneSteel, Opus International, pitt&sherry, Transurban, Ventia, WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff, Austroads, Main Roads WA, Roads and Maritime Services, Queensland Transport and Main Roads, DPTI and VicRoads.

Although we've run 80 events in 2016, every one of them has had a sponsor. This is a remarkable demonstration of member commitment.

CPB Contractors' **Gordon Ralph was our John Shaw Medallist in 2016. Congratulations Gordon - you join the pantheon of industry legends.** At last year's annual lunch we announced Professor Mary Lydon as our Technical Excellence Award Winner. This year's winner will be named today.

I acknowledge the work done by your Board and, in particular, the 2016 Policy Chapter Chairs – Michael Bushby, Greg Steele, Marko Misko and Scott Olsen. They were ably supported by Deputy Chairs Dan Reeve, Jay Stricker, Michele Huey and Steve Cooley.

I also pay tribute to those Board members who retire this year. Michael Bushby has given invaluable service to the Board, firstly at the RTA and more recently at Ventia. So too, Stephen Troughton, who left his role as Managing Director of Main Roads WA during the year to take up a leadership role in Transport for NSW.

I am pleased to welcome RMS Chief Executive, Ken Kanofski, and Transport for NSW Deputy-Secretary, Clare Gardiner-Barnes, as our newest Board directors.

Finally, Roads Australia's achievements in 2016 would not have been possible without our staff, led by our Chief Executive Ian Webb. On behalf of you all, I thank Ian and his team - Lauren Streifer, Mark Bowmer, Mandi Mees, Rachael Rooney, Hannah Sauvarin, Thao Nguyen, Juliana Stackpool and Veronica Ong. .

Finally I would like to express the Board's appreciation to our members whose enthusiasm and engagement is a constant reward to the Board and our dedicated staff.