

# ACCESS

MAGAZINE

MUNICIPAL WORKS  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2021

Disruption and Change

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021  
Melbourne Showgrounds, Bendigo

MAJOR

Jeff Kennett gives

## Keynote address at Annual Conference

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LIFE MEMBERS AWARDED



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PO Box 1254  
Geelong, Victoria 3220  
PH: 0408 129 394

Email: [admin@mwoa.com.au](mailto:admin@mwoa.com.au)  
Website: [www.mwoa.com.au](http://www.mwoa.com.au)

Membership Contacts:  
Please contact your State Representative on one of the following numbers:

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# REPORT FROM THE MWA CEO



## CEO's Message

After our very successful 27th National Municipal Works and Engineering Conference, we are now focused on our events for 2021. We have just released a revised program of events which kicked off at our Ballarat and Central Branch Networking Event on 21st April.

We are taking a slightly different approach in our branch meetings this year as members' feedback included wanting a bigger focus on networking and learning and less on the more formal meeting aspects. You do not have to be a local branch member to attend our branch meetings. Our networking events are open to all our members, so feel free to book your spot via the association's Eventbrite booking system: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/municipal-works-australia-27626780159>.

You may have noticed that we implemented some changes to this year's conference.

These included increased opportunities for networking and product demonstrations,

changes to ticketing and the timing of presentations, and the introduction of an international speaker to provide some understanding of what is happening in the municipal works industry in other parts of the world. You can read about the conference in the MWA Events section on p13 of this edition of Access.

Feel free to pick up the phone or contact me by email should you want to discuss any issues relating to the association or the municipal works industry. My contact details are [ceo@municipalworks.com.au](mailto:ceo@municipalworks.com.au) and you can also find them on our new website [www.municipalworks.com.au](http://www.municipalworks.com.au)

Peter Ali  
MWA CEO



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# NATIONAL ROUNDUP



## Victoria

**Peter Young, Melbourne Branch President and MWA Board Member**

The municipal works field in Victoria is slowly transitioning back to normal after the disruption caused by COVID. It was great to hear that the 27th National Municipal Works and Engineering Conference was a great success. I could not make it there this year unfortunately but the reports that I received from our members was extremely positive. Plans have commenced for the staging of next year's event. While there are some details to finalise, based on the extensive feedback we have received from both our local government and corporate members, we will be looking to hold next year's event in March 2022 at the Bendigo Showgrounds.

As you may have seen in our Networker newsletter, we are running an expression of interest, and if required, election process to fill two vacancies on the five MWA Board representative panel. These vacancies will occur because of both our current Board Chair

Ms Lynn Undy and I have chosen not to stand for another term on the Board. We both feel that it is time for some new faces to join the Board. Three current MWA Board representatives, Neil Whiteside from Brimbank City, Mauro Starc from William Adams CAT, and Darren Findlay from the City of Hobsons Bay, have all agreed to serve another term.

On that note I would like to thank Lynn, who is a life member of the association, for her tremendous work over the years. She has served the interests of the industry and the association in an exemplary manner during her tenure as a board member and Board Chair. I would also like to thank the people I have met during my time as a general member and a Board member of the MWOA and MWA. It has been a pleasure to serve you all. I'll still be around, and I look forward to catching up with you all at a MWA function in the future.



## Queensland

**Brian Weeks, State President WOAQ and MWA Board Member**

Hello from sunny Queensland. It has been a hectic time up here in the municipal works space, but we would not have it any other way! Those of you that keep an eye out for the MWA's Networker E-newsletter would have seen the work that we recently undertook to complete Quilpie Shire's Avodale Road sealing project. For those of you that missed it you can have a look the [video](#) on the MWA's YouTube channel. The work is typical of the infrastructure projects that are being rolled out across Queensland to keep the state moving and communities functioning.

We are in the final stages of organising our traditional end of year networking event on the Gold Coast. There will be a range of sponsorship opportunities available for our corporate members, with opportunities to find out about the latest innovations and best practice services in the municipal works industry. The last day of the event will once again feature an Ambrose golf tournament, which in 2019 was won by the bandits from Victoria! We will let you know when arrangements for the event have been finalised, including registration and sponsorship options.



## Tasmania

**Peter Donato, Tasmania Branch President and MWA Board Member**

Just like the other states, things remain relatively stable in the municipal works industry in Tasmania. We had a little hiccup in early February with a border closure, but apart from that things are pretty much back to normal. It was great to see the MWA's CEO Peter Ali out and about the state in February. I showed him around my local patch in the City of Clarence, and he also took a trip up to visit the crew in the City of Launceston and the City of Burnie amongst other stops.

One of the things we discussed was the plans for a networking event for our Tasmanian

members. The event will provide an opportunity for our members to get to know each other and to provide feedback to the MWA's Board on what they would like from the association in the future. We are also putting the final touches on a study award program that will provide Tasmanian based local government members the opportunity to attend the MWA's National Municipal Works and Engineering Conference and other interstate training and development events.

Stay tuned for more on both fronts.



## Western Australia

**Ken Markham, President LGSA WA Inc.**

Just like the rest of the country, we too in WA had a change in the way we did things over the past year.

Our conference date had to be moved from August to November, our meetings were of course socially distanced and less frequent, and our exhibitors and delegates held reservations that the conference would go ahead at all as the venue, Joondalup Resort, was an AFL hub for most of the year and then went through a change in ownership.

The LGSA WA Conference and Expo 2020 did go ahead and was a great success with 80 exhibitor bays and 50 delegates able to join us. The weather held off in most part with only a small shower during the golf day, which was once again a great success.

We thank all our sponsors for their continued support of this event and the resilience and

determination of the committee to make the conference happen.

We have again had a change in committee with some leaving the industry and two female members joining us. This will bring another perspective to not only the conference but also to our association.

At the AGM, the members voted unanimously to change our name from the "Local Government Supervisors Association of WA Inc" to the "Local Government Works Association of WA Inc," which covers more aspects of our industry and its diversity of roles.

The LGSA WA continues its partnership with Local Government Professionals Australia (WA), providing increased benefits to our members. This year the conference/expo will go back to August (11th and 12th) at the Joondalup resort, we hope to have even more Shires represented now that restrictions (within WA) have been lifted.



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# HIDROMEK'S NEW HMK102B SUPRA BACKHOE LOADER

The European-made construction equipment brand Hidromek is now available in Australia. Since Onetrak became the nation-wide dealer for the brand a range of equipment has arrived including 15.6-tonne HMK140LCD, 23.3-tonne HMK220LC, 31.9-ton HMK300LC and 39.2-ton HMK370LC Excavators. In addition, 214HP Motor Graders and Backhoe Loaders ranging from 59HP-100HP are now also available. Other models include the 51.1-ton HMK 490LC HD excavator, 15.9-ton HMK140W and 22.1-ton HMK200W Wheeled Excavators and also the 23.5-ton HMK200WMH Material Handling Excavator.

Here is a closer look at the Hidromek HMK102B Supra Backhoe Loader.

Supra Series Backhoe Loaders come with dual LCD displays (front and rear) allowing the operator to easily check all gauges both in the loading and excavating position. When operating for long hours at a time this is a big plus - saving the operator from neck and back aches.

The machine is smooth to operate thanks to its 6-forward 3-reverse fully automatic transmission. Optional torque converter lock is automatically engaged in 5th and 6th gear providing great fuel economy.

The Supra comes standard with crane valves on both the front and rear cylinders. Hydraulic side shift is also included - which is a great tool as there is no need to shift manually.

The optional MSS (Motion Stabiliser System) works as a shock absorber on the loader lift cylinders. By damping the shock that occurs when a full loader bucket is used on rough terrain it is comfortable to operate while not compromising on speed. The cab is also very

spacious with more room front and rear than many other models on the market.

Another great feature is the TIPSHIFT button (Forward-Reverse Direction Control). This is provided so that the operator can apply both loader and forward-reverse commands from one single point. This is both safer and more comfortable as you don't have to break contact with the steering and loader controls.

There is an extensive range of options including upgrading to the all-wheel steer version with four equal size wheels, switchable between two-wheel, all-wheel and crab steering.

Also worth noting is Onetrak's Guaranteed Trade Back offering on the entire Hidromek range providing peace of mind when making your equipment purchase.

It is safe to say that this is a great contender in the Backhoe segment. We're very impressed with the features and quality of this machine and the Hidromek brand in general. The Hidromek HMK102B Supra is well worth a look if you're in the market for a Backhoe Loader.



# LIFE MEMBERS AWARDED



At its June 2020 meeting, Municipal Works Australia's Board unanimously voted to bestow life membership to three people who had made outstanding contributions to the association. Stephen Hockham, the managing director of R&S Grating, was formally presented with his award at the Ballarat Branch Christmas function at Mars Stadium in Wendouree in November 2020. The Board thought that it was fitting that Neil Whiteside from Brimbank City and Tony Gellatly from the City of Greater Bendigo should receive formal recognition of their achievements and contributions to the association at the Komatsu Municipal Works and Engineering Conference Dinner at the Bendigo Showgrounds on 11th March 2021.

MWA life member Shane Hickey was on hand to formally present Neil and Tony with their awards. You can read all about Shane's journey with the association in the Life Member article in this edition of Access. For those of you who didn't attend the conference dinner, you can see Neil's and Tony's acceptance speeches on Municipal Works Australia's YouTube page <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtK9Cfw4ubWGFj8KfzSIY9A>



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# GREAT TURNOUT FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 27th National Municipal Works and Engineering Conference was held at the Bendigo Showgrounds from 11th to 12th March 2021. From what we can tell, this year's conference was one of the first face to face conference events in Victoria since the emergence of COVID-19 over twelve months ago.

The event brought tremendous relief to the local companies working in event management and the people these companies employ. These include our long-term partners Two Sisters Catering, our audio-visual partners Power AV, Craig and his team from Barlens Events and Ian Furze and his team from the Bendigo Event and Exhibition Complex. Your support of this year's conference provided a post-COVID boost to your fellow members as well as a significant part of the Bendigo community. Congratulations all round.

The conference is an important part of the association's event calendar, being an annual opportunity to deliver on the association's core objectives: support the development, advance knowledge and strengthen the influence of people and organizations working within the municipal works and services industry, and foster innovation and best practice in the provision of municipal works and services. Organising an event of this scale under the circumstances prevailing over the last year created some major challenges. This was made easier because of the tremendous goodwill demonstrated by everyone involved.

This year's theme was Disruption and Change. Municipal works staff were on the frontline of managing the impacts of the disruption and change affecting communities over the past twelve months. The conference featured a range of presenters giving local and international case study examples of municipal workers tasked with managing disruption. Locally we heard from Steven White, General Manager Infrastructure, Whitehorse City, about the challenges of managing a large operational workforce through change. We also heard from Michelle Tetreault, President Public

Works Management Corporation, from Alberta, Canada, who took our delegates through her journey in managing that state's crisis management response to COVID. Michelle, who is the Canadian representative on the Public Works Association of the America's Emergency Management Committee, was thrilled to present to a live audience for the first time since the COVID lockdown (albeit via a live stream from Alberta). She congratulated Municipal Works Australia on their efforts in facilitating the conference and accepted the association's offer to become its first "honorary international member".

The conference program was also designed to raise awareness of the impact that disruption and change can have on the mental wellbeing of people operating on the front line. The delegates heard from a range of expert presenters, including Victoria's former Premier, the Hon. Jeffrey Kennett AC, Simon Griffiths, the CEO and founder of Who Gives A Crap, and Marnie Williams, commissioner and director of Energy Safe Victoria.

The Board would like to send out a big thank you to everyone who helped make this year's conference a success. This includes our corporate and local government members who turned out in force, our major sponsor of events Komatsu, and supporting sponsors EnergySafe Victoria, Fulton Hogan, OneTrack, Delnorth, Zammit Trailers, KOR Equipment Solutions and William Adams Caterpillar. We would also like to thank the members of the conference organising committee Steven White, Shane Hickey, Mauro Covacci, Brad Byrne, Darren Findlay, Mandy Van Den Nouwland and David Hallett.











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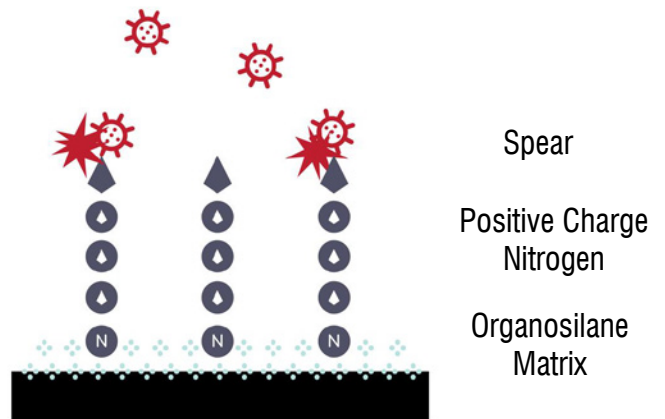
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# MEN'S HEALTH – SCOTT CAMPBELL



Hi, my name is Scott and this is my story.

It all began back in early September 2019, I was driving from job to job out western Qld and I began to feel my left leg going to sleep. Having a bit of time up my sleeve, I pulled over and tried to walk it off. Well after about ten minutes it felt a bit better, so I went on with my day.

Later that day I was having flu like symptoms, tired, could not catch my breath, and generally felt unwell. It was a Thursday afternoon, and I still had a five-hour drive home, so I headed off non stop to home on the Gold Coast. When I got home, I had a shower and went to bed early to rest up.

Throughout the weekend I spent most of it in bed trying to sleep off what I thought was the

flu. I got up a few times as I had a bad cramp behind my left knee. Thinking the cramp was from being bed ridden I brushed it off and drove back out west on Monday morning.

Throughout Monday & Tuesday I found it hard to catch my breath, and the cramp in my leg had spread to my calf which was hot, tight, and swollen. Again, I brushed it off, I had been pushing myself lately doing long hours and walking many kilometres each day, and I just thought my old frame was telling me to slow down a bit.

By Wednesday I really was feeling unwell, and my calf was really swollen. Still thinking I was suffering from the flu I tried to get into a doctor in Chinchilla, they were all booked out, so I

went back to work. Around 10am, my left leg was throbbing and pins and needles, so I rang my wife to try and find a doctor that would accept a walk in. She called me back and said she had found a doctor in a nearby town that would see me straight away.

The doctor examined me and said he was 99% sure that I had a deep vein thrombosis in my leg. As there were no facilities there to do an ultrasound, he gave me an injection of RIVAROXABAN ( blood thinners) and asked me to drive to Dalby, 1.5 hrs away, the nearest town that does ultrasounds. So not knowing anything about DVT's I set off to Dalby.

The ultrasound confirmed I had an extensive blockage from my lower calf to my groin. I was then told I was not to drive anywhere until they talked to the referring doctor. He asked me to drive back to Miles to see him. So, I drove back west the 1.5 hrs, once there he explained how dangerous these things could be especially if the clots spread to my lungs, so he wrote me out a script for high strength blood thinners and he advised me to see my own GP back on the Gold Coast once I was home.

I still brushed it off and went back to my unit in Chinchilla thinking well I will head home tomorrow a bit earlier and try to see my GP then.

On Thursday I went about my workday, thinking I'll be ok, I'll just pace myself and struggle through. By lunch time the bosses got together and sent me home, so I drove back to the Gold Coast thinking, oh well a three-day weekend of rest is probably what I need. I rang my wife to get her to book an appointment with my GP for Friday, as they would be closed by the time I got home.

Friday morning, we got the kids off to school, then off to the docs for what I thought was a routine follow up. He sent me off to have a CT scan of my lungs to see if any clots had made it to my lungs. Well... the scan revealed I had Pulmonary Embolisms in both my lungs, multiple clots with a 70% complete blockage to both lungs, they described the scan as the appearance it was raining clots in my chest.

Well, right there was when my whole world fell apart.

I was rushed to Hospital by ambulance and admitted for three days while they did a multitude of tests to find why my blood was clotting so bad. My cardiologist had a long talk and said I had a potential time bomb in my chest & was very lucky the clots didn't make it any further than my lungs, and said I would be on blood thinner drugs for the rest of my life, and were unsure as yet exactly how much permanent damage was done to my lungs.

I was off work for the next two weeks, resting and undertaking more tests. Finally on Friday, ( after being poked, prodded, and pricked by more needles than I could count) I was booked in for a colonoscopy and gastrocope to see if there was any cancers in my system causing the clots.

During the gastrocope procedure, I aspirated and vomited into my lungs. Once awake, they told me of the aspiration and put me on high strength antibiotics and sent me home. About three hours later, I went downhill fast, I had a serious lung infection that sent my temperature sky high. Once again, I found myself in an ambulance heading to hospital with no idea of what was next. At the hospital I was put on drips to control the infection, and countless blood tests and drugs to bring my temperature down. I spent another three days in hospital, and they let me home early only if I took it easy.

The following week I was back in hospital under the knife to try and clear the DVT in my leg. It all went well, the main arteries were cleared, however some smaller ones are permanently damaged.

After a week's rest I returned to work, only I now require a driver to get me around ( due to the potential of black outs). It will be months until they can do more scans to see how my lungs are recovering, and I need to have respiratory tests in six weeks to determine if I could drive again. The specialists have been great, not pulling any punches, they explained that if my lungs were too damaged, even if I was able to drive, I would have to go on a special driver's

license that I would have to prove each year that I was capable of driving without blacking out.

Well six months have passed, bottom line after all the follow up tests. My lungs are classed as on the top end of the poorest scale, irreparable damage that I'll have to monitor for the rest of my life. Dead scarring tissue to my leg that might cease to function later in life to the point of amputation. High strength blood thinners for the rest of my life, which can also cause many other complications.

So, this is my story... I went from being an active 54yr old, to having an unsure future.

But....I can call myself one of the lucky ones, I am a DVT / PE survivor.

If my story can give my friends and work mates a heads up, don't be naive like myself, thinking you are bullet proof, please be aware of the smallest signs that your body is not right and seek help immediately.

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# TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE IN TASMANIA



We took a trip down to Tasmania recently to see what was happening with our local government and corporate members in

that beautiful part of the world. The good news is that things are going gangbusters in Tasmania, said MWA Board member and Tasmania Branch President Peter Donato, Operations Group Manager at Clarence City Council (pictured left).

Peter was sweating out an external OH&S Audit when we visited him at his Clarence City operations depot. The good news is that his team passed with flying colours! They have now achieved ISO 45001 OHS Certification, recognition of the maximum safety for both their staff and community.

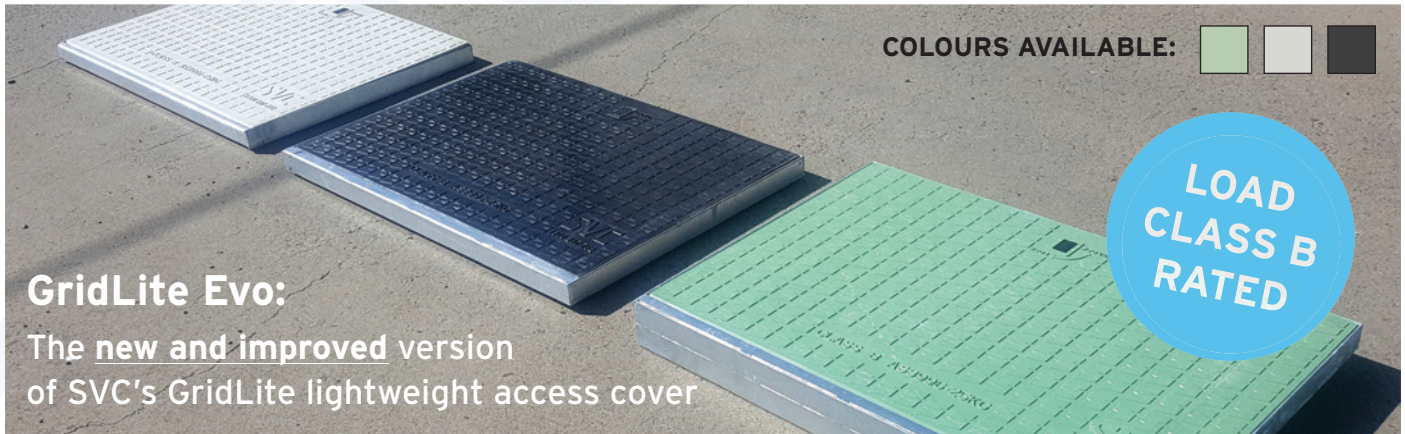
The trip also included visits to the City of Launceston and City of Burnie works depots. We had a good chat with Stan Staveley, Burnie's operations supervisor of civil construction (pictured below).

Stan has committed to spreading the word about the free benefits Municipal Works Australia provides our members, and about the easy process for signing up as a member via our website [www.municipalworks.com.au](http://www.municipalworks.com.au)



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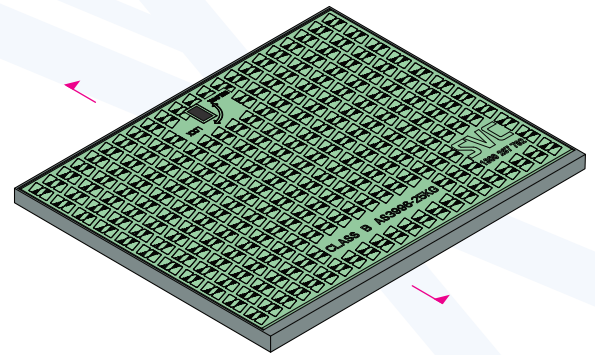
Slip resistance classification of P4 in compliance with *Australian Standard 4586:2013 - Wet Pendulum Test*

### SUITABLE FOR JP OR SE PITS

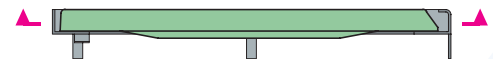
Quality steel frames available to suit junction/grated side entry pits, standard side entry and heavy duty side entry

### SECURE BOLT-DOWN FACILITY

In-built locking feature compatible with standard industry keys, removing the need for additional accessories



Cross-section - JP frame



Cross-section - SE frame

# BALLARAT BRANCH MEETING

It was great to get back on track with our networking program with the annual Ballarat Branch Christmas function, held at Mars Stadium, Wendouree on Friday 13th November. Special thanks to Ruby, Alan and Steve for organizing a wonderful event. It was especially great to present Steve Hockham, one of our great sponsors and a true gentleman, with his life membership. We would also like to thank the events sponsors: RSP Environmental Services, Ballarat Tree Fella, R&S Grating, Porter Plant, the Drain Man, ASG Industrial and William Adams CAT.





NANDO CASTAURO

## MEMBER PROFILE

ROAD SERVICES UNIT MANAGER  
CITY OF BRIMBANK



I have been working in Local Government Operations for 24 years and have been a member of the association most of this time.

I began working at Maribyrnong City Council in 1996 during Jeff Kennett's CCT era and left 11 years later as Coordinator Roads & Waste Services. (It was good to hear him at the conference.)

I commenced with Brimbank in 2007 as the Operations Performance Manager and left after three years to secure the role of Manager Engineering Operations at Manningham City Council. Eight years later I returned to Brimbank City Council in my current role as the Roads & Cleansing Unit Manager.

The MWA conferences and branch meetings have always been a great opportunity to network with other works officers and relevant industry suppliers. I have had the privilege of attending many over the years at various locations.

The presenters and entertainers have been of a high calibre. The topics are broad and relevant to our industry of operations and maintenance. These events provide the opportunity to keep abreast of technology, technical developments, and workplace improvements along with some memorable guest speakers and entertainers.

GARY JOHNSTON

## MEMBER PROFILE

DIRECTOR, GEM CHEMICALS  
CORPORATE



Gemm Chemical & Coating Solutions has been a long-time corporate supporter of MWOA/MWA and company director Gary Johnson has always been a welcome presence at most of our major events in Victoria.

The business was started in July 2014 and Gary has 13 years' experience in selling and sourcing chemicals and equipment for local government, as well as clients in heavy industry, hospitality and mining.

Gemm's products include degreasers, sanitisers, and solutions for common council problems such as graffiti, weed control and insecticides.

Although based in Melbourne, Gary said Gemm services clients all over Victoria and beyond, with the ability to freight goods anywhere in Australia.

"I really enjoy meeting people and coming up with solutions," he said. "Our motto is 'if we don't have, we'll source it'."

Outside of work, Gary and his wife Mimma have two adult children (Matthew and Mikayla) and a dog Lily.

He is a passionate supporter of the Richmond AFL team, declaring that the Tigers are the best footy team in the land.

# MWA TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT AWARDS PROGRAM



A special shout out to Jane McKenry, Graduate Engineer at Southern Grampians Shire (pictured here with John Pierce) and the other successful recipients of Municipal Works Australia's training and development Awards Program.

The program, which is supported by grant funding provided by both the Municipal Engineering Foundation of Victoria and R&S Grating provides funding to officers from rural and regional councils to allow them to attend the associations National Municipal Works and Engineering Conference.

Jane is in her second year of a Bachelor of Civil Engineering at Monash University. She has been lucky enough to secure a Civil Engineering scholarship/traineeship with the Southern Grampians Shire. The traineeship provides 10

weeks of practical on-site work experience each year during the University holidays. Upon completion of her formal training Jane will then progress to 3 years employment with council.

Jane was nominated for consideration for the award by her supervisor, and long-time MWA member, John Pierce. Jane has been working with John in more recent times learning about the finer points of road maintenance and construction and the general operations of the Sothern Grampian Shire's works department.



The other grant recipients included Hailey Spoke, Fleet Coordinator at Colac Otway Shire and Brad Hender, Acting Gravel Roads Coordinator at South Gippsland Shire.

Hailey has worked at Colac Otway Shire Council for 5 years. Her commitment to training and development has seen her progress through the ranks to her current Fleet Coordinator role, where she is responsible for the management of the councils' fleet assets and the operation of the council's mechanical workshop.

Hailey has been a regular attendee at the annual conference. She looks forward to hearing from the panel of high-quality speakers

and learning about the new innovations that are being provided by the companies that service the municipal works industry. Hailey told us that “she finds the conference a great way to network with likeminded people”.

We would like to thank all those officers who took the time to apply for consideration. Municipal Works Australia will be offering a range of professional development opportunities over the course of 2021, including a range of bursary grants for the associations 2022 National Conference. Keep up to date by viewing the “Awards” page on the Association’s website <https://municipalworks.com.au/membership/awards/>

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# MWOA LIFE MEMBER – SHANE HICKEY



Shane Hickey has been an MWOA and now an MWA member for 32 years, joining the association in 1988 following encouragement from now retired life member Graham Gregson (affectionately known as Grego or GG). He became a life member in 2007.

Shane worked in local government from 1981 until 1997 at five different municipalities in the metropolitan and regional areas of Victoria, starting as a survey assistant at the Shire of Hastings and finishing as physical services manager at Bayside City Council. In February 1997 Shane set up Australian Project Solutions P/L – a specialist company delivering coastal, marine and environmental construction and project management services to state and local government departments until semi-retirement beckoned in 2019.

A success Shane has enjoyed has been to serve on the National Works and Engineering

Conference Committee from 1994 until the present (26 years) and also as conference convener. This conference has been integral to bringing delegates and sponsors together from all over Victoria and interstate to see presentations on the latest technologies, plant and equipment, new work practices and compliance issues.

The conference has also been a great platform for members' professional development via the various awards and exchange programs or by presenting papers on specific topics or shared experiences. The conference has also provided the opportunity for delegates to network and enjoy some fellowship in a relaxed environment away from the workplace. Shane would like to thank Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia Victoria members (particularly Matthew Hill and David Hallett) for their collaboration and network connections

that have helped contribute to the sustained success of the conference over the years and often in challenging times.

Following one national conference on the Mornington Peninsula in the late nineties, Shane was given the unofficial title of Interstate Delegates Liaison Officer for future conferences. He was to chaperone all interstate delegates to various refreshment and entertainment venues after hours and ensure that everyone enjoyed their networking and fellowship. On one occasion, on returning to their shared motel accommodation in a very jovial state, a colleague who had gone to bed earlier demanded that they "turn the ?#\$% light off". Shane politely advised that his colleague was seeing daylight cracking through the front door.

On a more serious note, Shane believes that MWOA's successes have been the networking and fellowship of members, including the country branches, and the loyal support of our sponsors. During his years working in local government Shane says he was fortunate to be involved with the Gippsland Branch and the former North Central Branch, with the experience and perspectives gained being invaluable.

Shane feels very honoured to have received:

- The Noel Bailey Award 1991 – a working exchange with City of Woollahra in Sydney
- The Dave Clark Award (2002) for outstanding services to local government
- The MWOA Life Membership in 2007

He has also served on the MWOA's Melbourne Executive Committee from 1995 to 2019 and was MWOA Secretary for 1996/1997 and MWOA Board Chairman from 2006 until 2016. He has seen the MWOA change and grow over the past 32 years and is sure it will continue to change and evolve to keep pace with our industry. Shane is very grateful to Grego for the introduction in 1988 and feels privileged to have served and been part of the MWOA.

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# PRIORITISING SAFETY THROUGH HIGH-TECH INNOVATION



As new and innovative technologies continually evolve in the water sector, safety consistently remains a top priority for councils, water authorities and service providers alike. When the partial collapse of a critical quad-barrel culvert posed imminent danger to the surrounding community, an appetite for innovation proved to be the vital key to success.

## **Culverts: supporting the community's critical infrastructure**

Road and rail culverts play a crucial role in providing drainage, enabling traffic to travel over waterways, preventing erosion and providing safe and natural passage for fish and other aquatic wildlife. Often located in environmentally sensitive areas or beneath high-volume traffic flows, their integrity is vital to the health of the road and rail networks above, as well as the wellbeing of the surrounding environment and community.

When these structures fail, the results can be catastrophic. The City of Onkaparinga Council learnt this firsthand, when a quad-barrel

culvert located under a high-traffic section of road partially collapsed.

The four corrugated iron culvert tunnels had deteriorated to such an extent that they posed a risk to the structural integrity of the road above and some 6000 commuter vehicles that used the road daily.

Understanding that time was of the essence, Onkaparinga Council engaged specialist in water infrastructure, Interflow, to address this emergency situation.

## **Prioritising crew safety whilst balancing customer goals**

With two culverts collapsed, and the integrity

of the remaining two in question, the Council decided to proactively reline all four culverts, bolstering their structural integrity to protect the community's critical infrastructure going forward.

Considering the level of deterioration and the questionable stability of the road above, any man entry to the structures was strictly prohibited until the new structural lining was safely in place.

Interflow's Project Manager on the contract, Peter Button, describes the challenges associated with this non-man entry approach.

"Traditionally, a project of this nature would



require either some form of entry into the unlined pipe or excavation and re-lay," he said.

"Any approach that required man-entry was immediately ruled out as the risk of road collapse was far too high. However, the community and environmental impacts of excavation methods were also high."

Determined to challenge the traditional methods of culvert rehabilitation, Peter's team undertook the lining works, and all necessary



cleaning and preparations, without excavation and without stepping foot inside the tunnels.

"We wanted to find a solution that could prioritise our commitment to safety whilst delivering favourable project outcomes to our customer and the community," he explained.

### **Challenging the traditional use of Rotaloc technology**

Delivering a tailored response to their customer's unique situation, Interflow's team identified Rotaloc, a spiral-wound PVC liner, as the best solution to balance the safety and community requirements of the project.

The Rotaloc machine is usually directly controlled from inside the pipeline. In order to properly prioritise crew safety, this aspect of the machine's operation would require modification. Interflow's Product Development crew developed an innovative solution and altered the machinery's hydraulics to enable remote operation.

Interflow's Development Manager for South Australia, Boris Graljuk, explains how he got the crew up to speed on the machinery's enhanced application and capabilities.



"I developed the new system to function in a similar manor to the conventional man-entry system that our team was already familiar with," he said.

"We then ran through an intensive two-day training course in the workshop before the crew commenced work on site," Boris continued.

### **Innovation paves the way for a safer future**

With Boris' training fresh in mind and a hunger to challenge the status quo, Interflow's crew commenced lining the quad-barrel structure via the enhanced 'remote Rotaloc' technique.

Once the robust new liners were in place, the void between the new pipe and the host pipe was backfilled with grout, creating a secure, renewed asset that will service commuters and the local community for years to come.

By challenging the conventional use of Rotaloc technology, Interflow's South Australian crew was able to eliminate the risk to their personal safety throughout the duration of the project.

The Company's Project Manager, Peter Button emphasised that safety and efficiency are key to developing high-tech innovations for customers.

"Projects like these are redefining what we once thought to be the limitations of pipeline rehabilitation," Peter said.

"It is a prime example of how the innovative use of technology can be used to enhance our commitment to the safety of not only our people, but the safety of the broader community."





Pavement Recyclers is a dedicated team specialising in an innovative new way of recycling pavements unique to the rest of the SPA business and to any other method in Australia.

‘Foamed Asphalt’ is our new pavement recycling process. The Foamed Asphalt process combines the insitu pavement treatment of foamed bitumen injection into the pavement material (asphalt or granular) with the single-pass, paver-laid method similarly used for asphalt in a forward moving train. Alongside many improved features on current conventions, the single-pass, paver-laid aspect is a unique key advancement in the insitu recycling process in Australia.

Pavement recycling of this kind is only possible using specialised pavement recycling machinery. To deliver this Pavement recyclers have imported a purpose built Wirtgen W380 CR. There are limited numbers of W380 CR machines available worldwide, and it has required a significant investment to acquire and import the first in Australia.

In addition to innovation in machinery and construction processes, Pavement Recyclers is also dedicated to innovation and increasing the use of more sustainable methods of pavement maintenance in the industry. On top of our direct works, we offer to work together with our partners and Clients to promote the benefits of recycling using Foamed Asphalt compared with the ‘business as usual’ alternatives, including value for money,

superior performance, and environmental benefits from lower emissions and reduced waste to landfill. Specifically, we undertake quantitative case studies to compare and recognise these sustainability benefits.

We are at a point where we have a decent list of completed projects, and they also happen to be varying in traits. This includes:

- Clients across the eastern states including Central Coast (NSW), Gold Coast (QLD), Queanbeyan (ACT), Manningham (VIC), Sutherland in Royal National Park (NSW)
- A mix of rural and urban works
- Widening of pavements and recycling of existing pavements

Please see some links below and attached further information.

**Pavement Recyclers Video:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VIP4IXYotVY>

**Manningham :**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=miKNFBIHhM>

**Bundeena :**

<https://greenreview.com.au/construction/council-paves-the-way-with-new-recycled-roads-trial/>

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