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REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

At its 14 July meeting, the Municipal Works Australia (MWA) Board voted unanimously to appoint me to the position of Chair. Neil Whiteside was re-appointed to the position of Treasurer, and Darren Findlay was appointed to the role of Deputy Board Chair.

I am truly honoured to be appointed to the role of Chair as I have been a long-time member of the MWOA (now MWA), and I have served on the Board since 2018. In taking this role I would like to acknowledge the outstanding contribution of our previous Board Chair and MWA Life Member Lynn Undy, who decided to hand over the responsibilities to “someone new” after leading the MWA through an extensive period of change.

As the Chair of the association, I look forward to working with my fellow board members and our CEO Peter Ali in the continued implementation of the actions detailed in our Strategic Plan. Developed in 2018, the plan has provided a clear roadmap aimed at making the MWA the preeminent association for the support of people and companies involved in the municipal maintenance field.

Some of the more recent initiatives that we have implemented include simplifying our corporate membership packages and adjusting the pricing of the new offerings.

Income we will receive from these changes will be used to fund one of the association’s major initiatives – making General Membership **free** for people working operational roles in local government. We believe that this initiative will provide substantial benefit to our corporate members by increasing access to the thousands of municipal works practitioners who are yet to engage with MWA.

We have also finalised our new website. The new site has some significant enhancements, including a ‘members only’ local government directory which lists the location of each of the association’s members, allowing them to connect to colleagues wherever they are in the country. It’s just one of the new initiatives that our members will see through the remainder of this year and next.

Feel free to contact me via the MWA website should you have any thoughts about how we can continue to improve our services to our members. The association exists to serve its members, so the more we hear from you the better our service offering will be.

Above: Recently Elected MWA Board Chair Mauro Starc (left) with MWA CEO Peter Ali at the “bump-in” for this year’s National Municipal Works & Engineering Conference in Bendigo.

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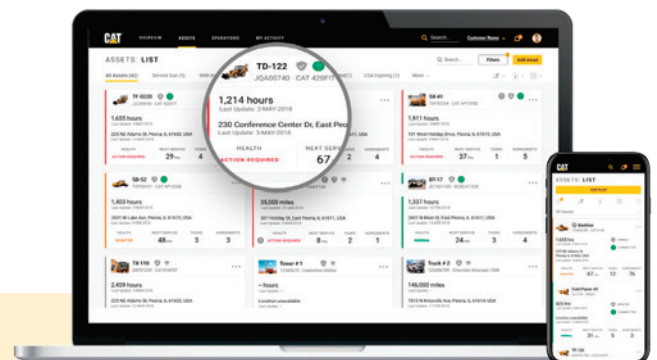
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AROUND AUSTRALIA



Victoria

**Darren Findlay, Melbourne Branch President and
MWA Board Member**

For those of you that didn't catch up with the news in last month's edition of The Networker, I have recently been appointed as the new president of MWA's Melbourne Branch, replacing Peter Young. Peter has decided to retire from his official board and office bearer responsibilities and I would like to acknowledge the tremendous contribution that he has made over a long period of time. Peter will continue to be an active member, so you will be able to catch up with him at one of the association's upcoming networking events.

One of Peter's legacies will be his work in overseeing the substantial changes that have been implemented by the Board over the last few years. These changes have led to the continued growth in membership numbers over the past 12 months. There is every indication that the association's membership numbers will continue to grow throughout the

2021/22 year because of the investment the association has made in its communication technology. You can read about one of the latest enhancements that the association has implemented in the New Website Features article on page 14 of this edition of Access.

Finally, I would also like to acknowledge the new membership pricing structure mentioned by our Board Chair in his update. *General Membership is now free for people working in all operational roles in local government* and I would like to encourage our existing members to spread the word to their colleagues to sign up online via <https://municipalworks.com.au/membership/> so they can start receiving the latest news and professional development and networking opportunities for municipal works staff.



Queensland

Brian Weeks, State President WOAQ and MWA Board Member

We send out our greetings to members of the municipal works industry throughout Australia from sunny Queensland.

For those of you that don't know, the Works Officers Association of Queensland (WOAQ) have now finalised arrangements to transition to the Municipal Works Australia administrative system. We have done this because we believe that we can offer our members a new range of face-to-face and online professional development and networking opportunities.

Our Queensland-based corporate members will receive a letter detailing MWA membership benefits.

It is great to see that our membership number continue to grow through the disruption caused by COVID. We have finalised arrangements for our annual Golf Day & Dinner scheduled for Saturday 27 November 2021 at the Royal Pines Resort, Gold Coast. You can find out about the event and book your place via <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/woaq-networking-dinner-golf-day-tickets-157574075301>



Tasmania

Peter Donato, Tasmania Branch President and MWA Board Member

Tasmania generally remains COVID free, so life here continues to transition back to what can best be described as a pre-COVID environment. COVID travel restrictions have, however, restricted our capacity to run some of our planned networking events. We hope that these complications will soon be resolved via the implementation of National Cabinet's plan to transition back to normal.

We are making plans for our first networking event under the MWA banner in conjunction with the proposed IPWEA Tasmanian Works & Engineering Conference, which has been scheduled for the 19-20 November 2021 in Launceston. MWA will be holding a Networking event on Thursday 18th November for both members of both associations. At this stage we are planning to host the event at the Country Club Launceston. The event will be free for MWA members and will include a golf game for those that are interested followed by a networking dinner. MWA members will receive an email invitation once the details of

the event have been finalised.

I am also pleased to announce that applications for the TAMS / IntoWork Conference Travel Award are now open. Tasmanian-based MWA members can now apply for the award. Successful applicants will receive free travel, accommodation, and registration to attend the National Municipal Works and Engineering Conference which will be held in Bendigo in March 2022. You can apply online via the MWA website Awards page anytime up to 31st January 2022.

For these reasons, it has never been more important to sign up for membership via the MWA website. Membership is complementary and will give access to The Networker, Access magazine and the ongoing series of webinars on a wide variety of interesting topics and more, so let your colleagues know about it, or put them in touch with me to discuss the benefits, or any other issues or ideas they may have.



Western Australia

Ken Markham, President LGWA WA Inc.

The Local Government Works Association of WA has been busy moving forward and expanding what we can offer our members. We recently changed our name from "Local Government Supervisors Association" to "Local Government Works Association" (LG Works), an important move to ensure the Association covers all aspects of working within local government and not just in supervisory roles. It is also aimed to be more inclusive and support those who are career building within the industry.

We are currently in the process of building a new website for our members and prospective members. This website will have a fresher, easier format to navigate and be able to do a lot more than our older one as it is based on a more up to date platform that will take us into the future.

We have also been working with Brain Box to provide our members with access to short

courses that pertain to their industry. This will allow our members to undertake micro-credentials (mini courses) in short bursts of time, when it suits them, for a nominal cost. This helps keep them on the job and out of the classroom, while providing them with the skills required. Investing in staff development is the best way to retain people (your most valuable asset) and provide succession planning for your organisation.

We will also continue to offer our members links to other associations such as LG Professionals and our national association Municipal Works Australia who can provide them with other training and development programs.

Lastly, we are also happy to report that the LGWA Works and Parks conference and expo was held between 10-12 August, at the Joondalup Resort, Connolly. You can read more about the conference on page 18 in this edition of Access.



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Moreland Council supports apprentices into lifelong careers



As far as great workplaces go, being surrounded by trees, kookaburras, parkland and fresh air is right up there. The good news is that apprenticeships that offer all this are in high demand at Councils across Victoria.

Alex Lamanna, 18, is a third year Sports and Turf Management Apprentice at Moreland City Council in Melbourne, employed through workplace provider AGA. He knows he is on a good wicket, and not just because he is earning a wage while he completes his qualification.

Alex works alongside Council's experienced turf management specialists in a locality well known for its abundance of sporting facilities – which will help make him highly employable once he finishes.

"I love it because I'm very sporty, I play cricket and umpire footy," said Alex. "I pretty much got into this on the basis that I've always wondered about turf wickets, how they prepared them and how they got them ready. That drew me into the apprenticeship – and I've loved it ever since."

Assistant Coordinator Sportsfield Maintenance, Andrew McCullagh, supervises Alex and the other 12 members of the maintenance crew at Moreland Council. He said Council allocates significant resources towards the upkeep of its sports grounds.

"Behind the scenes, people don't realise the amount of work that Council puts into parks. Our people are really passionate about it – they look after them like it's their own back yard." – Andrew McCullagh, Moreland City Council

"We have 54 sports grounds in Moreland which are all mowed once a week. We have two premier cricket grounds and during cricket season they get mowed twice a week. We have two staff who are permanently on tractors mowing. We've got four sand-based soccer grounds that are mowed with a higher level mower that we purchased just to mow those."

For apprentices like Alex, there is a fair chunk of classroom time – around 40 days each year – where they learn the theory side of turf management such as grass types, irrigation techniques, growth additives, seasonal variations, and much more.

The bulk of the year though, is dedicated to the practical side of the trade, including use of a wide range of specialised tools and machinery.

"I want to get Alex using all our equipment," said Andrew. "We have our own front-end loader, we have tractors and we do all our own fertilising and weed spraying in-house. We've got the latest gear."

Safety is crucial and Council doesn't take any risks. "That's why our equipment is all up to date. We have our own in-house mechanics that look after all our gear, and if anything's not right they won't let it out of their workshop until it's either roadworthy or safe to use," said Andrew.

Alex started his apprenticeship as a 16-year-old. "School didn't interest me and I didn't want to go to uni. I just wanted to be on the footy field and was playing a lot of sport and umpiring on the side – so when I heard about this apprenticeship I thought, yeah, I've got to jump all over that. And look where I am now!"

Alex and Andrew both agreed that AGA plays an important role in supporting apprentices and Council. AGA provides everything Alex needs such as safety gear, boots, and books. Plus his Field Officer catches up with him at least every month. "Whatever I need I just give Gino a call and he looks after it for me. It's awesome," said Alex.

Andrew went on to say, "AGA does all the recruiting, they have the skills to find the right apprentices for us and they take care of payroll. If there are any issues, I know Gino (Alex's Field Officer) is really good with all our apprentices. Without any hesitation at all he'll come out and have a talk to them and see if they need anything to help them out".

On completing his apprenticeship, Alex's ambition is to work his way up to a turf management job at one of Melbourne's premier venues such as the MCG, Marvel Stadium, Junction Oval or AAMI Park.

"The likelihood of getting a job at the end of my training is excellent," said Alex. "There's a lot of work going round, there are lots of golf courses and sporting ovals in Melbourne, as well as heaps of Councils and contractors looking for people to work for them."

RIGHT: Alex Lamanna, 18, is completing a Sports & Turf Management Apprenticeship with Moreland City Council and says he is living the dream. Photo: Teri Cooper/IntoWork

About AGA

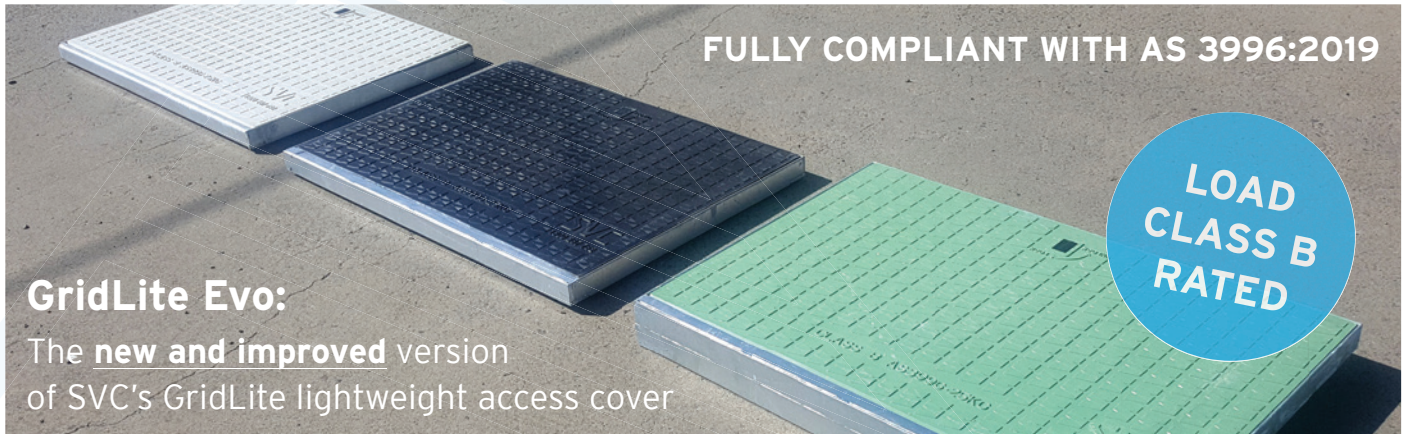
AGA is one of Australia's largest providers of employment and training services offering a wide range of workforce solutions, with a particular focus on apprentices and trainees. AGA is a trusted partner of government at the federal, state and local levels and has been operating for over 35 years.

AGA is part of IntoWork Australia, a not-for-profit group of organisations that promote workforce participation for communities through employment, training and skills development opportunities.



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28.EVO99JP	GRIDLITE EVO 900x900 JP SET
28.EVO96SE	GRIDLITE EVO 900x600 SE SET
28.EVO99SE	GRIDLITE EVO 900x900 SE SET

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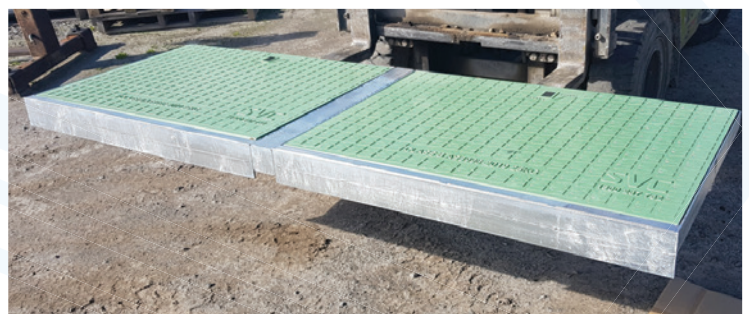
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NEW KOMATSU WHEEL LOADER HELPS TOWN OF PORT HEDLAND SAVE WASTE DISPOSAL COSTS



A bold move by a Western Australian Local Government has resulted in a threefold increase in the collection of waste metal from its landfill facility and contributed to the increased life span of the site.

The Town of Port Hedland (Town) devised a specification for a purpose-built wheel loader to work exclusively on its 45,000 tonne per year landfill site to make the entire waste disposal process more cost efficient and productive.

Results to date point to a new protocol which could be adopted by similar operations across Australia.

The Town determined a dedicated wheel loader would be fitted with puncture proof solid rubber tyres and would be equipped with a semi-enclosed grapple bucket to better dig and secure loose material like metal.

The results in the first six months of operation

have been spectacular – the sale of recovered waste steel has increased to more \$5,000 per month from a base of \$1-2,000.

According to engineers, the ability of the lighter and more agile wheel loader to climb deep onto the landfill to assist in recovery and compacting has increased the life expectancy of the 22-year-old facility.

The Town had been using two machines, a wheel loader and an excavator to undertake general duties as well as working on landfill duties.

However, when both came up for renewal, having already surpassed council's machine replacement policy of 8-10,000 operational hours, the decision was taken to secure two-wheel loaders – one for use on landfill and the other on general duties.

All four machines – the original equipment and

their replacement, were sourced from heavy machinery specialist Komatsu which six years ago invested \$10million in a decentralised service facility in Port Hedland to provide direct response in the burgeoning mining and export port.

Mineral exports through Port Hedland from the resource rich Pilbara region approach \$30billion a year and account for 1.9 percent of Australia's Gross Domestic Product.

"Local support was a critical component of the tender process," said Carl Askew, the Town's CEO

"Although the Town has in-house mechanical personnel, we value the machine induction by the manufacturer and it will take advantage of the 2,000-hour factory service program offered in the purchase," Mr Askew said.

The Town has placed one of Komatsu's new WA270-8 on general duties working on assignments as diverse as drainage maintenance and the area's restricted access programs.

The other was effectively purpose built and customized in a joint venture between council's maintenance and landfill departments and the manufacturer.

"We had already had some experience with the use of solid rubber tyres fitted to remove the risk of punctures in waste disposal operation," Dean Jones, Komatsu's Business Development manager with responsibility for the far north of Western Australia said.

"Each tyre weighs 750kgs - three times that of a standard fit pneumatic tyre, but experience has enabled Komatsu to warrant their use in defined operations."

Komatsu also approved the use of a semi-enclosed hydraulic bucket grapple with a hardened cutting edge to enable operators to better sort and pick resaleable materials from the waste, particularly steel recovery.

Operator comfort, in the airconditioned cabin, was a primary concern in an area where all day external temperatures can remain above 40 degrees Celsius.

Operators have positively reported on the combination of a comfortable airconditioned cabin and a single lever hydraulic control for the purpose-fitted bucket.

They are able to work far deeper into the landfill, with greater success, than with heavier, more powerful machines, although a machine with greater power is still necessary for overall site maintenance.

According to Rebecca Walter, Port Hedland's landfill manager, the customised machine, while successful, remains a work in progress - in the spirit of continual improvement.

Further strengthening improvements would be made to the grapple bucket's teeth as operators ambitiously sought to pick larger and heavier resaleable refuse.

Operator feedback indicated the solid tyres did reduce comfort in rough conditions, and a solution was being sought.

According to Dean Jones, Komatsu is monitoring progress closely to further refine the specification which could well become a blueprint for landfill operation across the country.

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MWA WELCOMES NEW CORPORATE MEMBER



This month MWA welcomed Graffiti Removal Systems as a corporate member of the MWA.

Greg Ireland, CEO of Graffiti Removal Systems, knows all too well how important the proper training, products and equipment are for Councils and other public organisations to maintain a successful graffiti removal program.

As a graffiti removal contractor for 20 years in Victoria, providing services to government, councils and national FM companies, Greg and his professional trainer associate, Carlos Lavados, know graffiti removal like few others in Australia.

Graffiti Removal Chemicals is committed to providing specific training for Council Team Members and contractors to ensure they are skilled to tackle any graffiti removal from any surface with confidence using our EzyClean range of graffiti removal products. You can contact Greg via the MWA's corporate member listing on the MWA's website <https://municipalworks.com.au/membership/corporate-member-directory/#!directory/map/tag=greg>



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BORN IN SUDAN, PETER MIGRATED TO AUSTRALIA AT A YOUNG AGE AND HAS CALLED AUSTRALIA HIS HOME EVER SINCE.

Municipal Works Australia is putting the final touches on its program for next March's 28th National Municipal Works and Engineering Conference, which will be held at the Prince of Wales Showgrounds in Bendigo. The theme for the event is Embracing Change and Transformation, reflecting issues that are a constant factor in the life of municipal workers and the organisations that service the municipal works industry.

The members of the conference organizing committee have been hard at work securing a diverse array of speakers that highlight the facets of breakthrough innovation and creativity, leading change, and reengagement. The committee is therefore pleased to announce that we have secured the services of Australian Olympic Athletics 1500-metre superstar Peter Bol who will provide the opening keynote address.

Born in Sudan, Peter migrated to Australia at a young age and has called Australia his home ever since.

In 2004, at the age of 10, Peter touched down in Toowoomba with his family – and it felt like

he had made it already! Life was going to be very different compared to what he was used to, but Peter could also tell that there would be exciting opportunities and challenges ahead of him.

Peter comes from a big family of 7, and so when they had to learn a new language, they took it as an exciting challenge – and with his siblings, they very quickly turned it into a competition! Peter never looked back from there. From a young age Peter developed a real passion for sport – he followed the Premier League in Europe and the World Cup almost religiously, but also the NBA and especially Aussie rules and rugby.

Sport was always in his blood. After four years in Toowoomba and the end of primary school, Peter's family decided to move to Perth where he was awarded a basketball scholarship at St Norbert College. It was only when he was 17 and with the guidance of a teacher that Peter registered with a track club outside of school.

We look forward to hearing Peter's inspiring story at the conference.

LED SAFETY TACTILES IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY



Victoria's third largest regional city is the latest to improve safety with the installation of Vivacity LED Safety Tactiles by the Blackspot road safety company, OmniGrip Direct. With funding from the Australian and Victorian Governments, Victoria's Department of Transport replaced standard Tactile Ground Surface Indicators with LED Safety Tactiles at the end of Bendigo's mall, and in a separate project, across one of Victoria's busiest freight routes, the Princes Highway in Traralgon.

The LED Safety Tactiles bring the visual warning traditionally provided by a red or green 'man' symbol from the far side of the road to where the pedestrian is actually standing. The Department's website describes the LED tactile technology as "easier to see and will prevent pedestrians from walking into incoming traffic, assist distracted pedestrians or people with low vision."

Following the original Swanston Street installation in Melbourne in 2017, market research for Vivacity and OmniGrip Direct found that 68% of people felt safer at

intersections with LED Safety Tactiles and 59% of people found them easier to see than standard pedestrian lanterns.

Gary Commane has led the development of LED Safety Tactiles, initially to meet the requirements of Victoria's Transport Accident Commission and Department of Transport when they funded the first installation of LED Safety Tactiles outside Melbourne Town Hall, "Our LED Safety Tactiles make traffic signals safer for people of all abilities, as well as people who are distracted by their phones or surroundings."

Victorian Minister for Roads and Road Safety Ben Carroll said "Whether it's mandating seatbelts or legislating random breath tests, Victoria has always been at the forefront of road safety with a track record in leading the introduction of lifesaving road safety initiatives," Minister Carroll said.

"We're investing in better and safer infrastructure which includes looking at new and innovative ways to create



a safer road environment for motorists and for overrepresented groups including pedestrians.”

City of Greater Bendigo Manager of Engineering, Ian McLauchlan said, “The new LED Safety Tactiles have been installed right in the heart of Bendigo’s shopping precinct, at the end of the mall and on one of the city’s busiest bus corridors. They make it much more obvious about when people should or shouldn’t cross the road, discouraging risk-taking behaviour.”

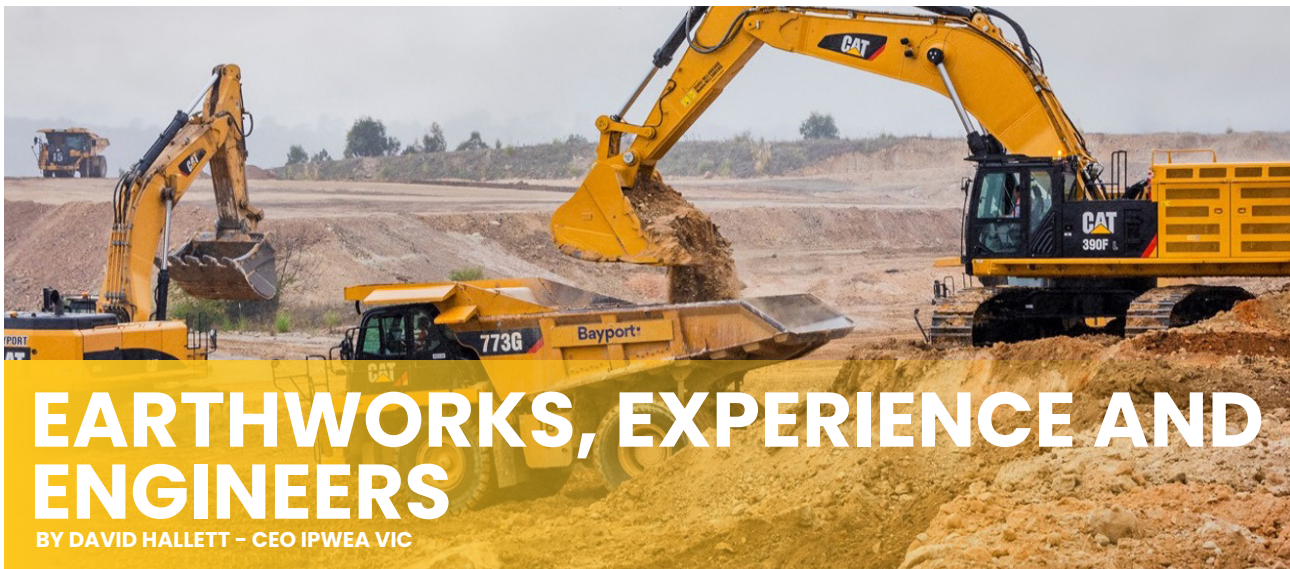
Following the high-profile installation in Bendigo, Vision Australia’s Adam English said, “This is a great improvement for those living with low vision and we welcome the introduction of these into the regions. For people with low vision and who are short sighted, they would really benefit from the indicators.” (Bendigo Advertiser, 16 August 2021)

The low voltage LED Safety Tactiles connect to the traffic lights, so that they change red or green at the same time as the standard pedestrian lantern. They can be part of the installation of new traffic lights, as happened at a site in New Zealand, or retrofitted to existing traffic lights like the three sites in Victoria.



More information www.omnigripdirect.com.au or Gary Commene, 0408 583 710.

<https://regionalroads.vic.gov.au/about-us/road-safety-program-innovative-package>



EARTHWORKS, EXPERIENCE AND ENGINEERS

BY DAVID HALLETT - CEO IPWEA VIC

Victoria's [Professional Engineers Registration Act 2019](#) (Act) came into effect on 1 July 2021 and mandates minimum qualification, experience and continuing professional development requirements for anyone providing a 'professional engineering service' unless they are working under supervision or in accordance with a prescriptive standard.

The Act makes Victoria the first Australian jurisdiction to regulate engineers since Queensland in 1929 however other states are expected to follow Victoria's lead during the coming years.

[Guidelines](#) prepared by Consumer Affairs Victoria provide the following explanation of a 'professional engineering service':

"A professional engineering service is defined in section 3(1) of the Act as "an engineering service that requires, or is based on, the application of engineering principles and data

- to a design relating to engineering, or
- to a construction, production, operation or maintenance activity relating to engineering

other than an engineering service that is provided only in accordance with a prescriptive standard. As an engineering service that is provided only in accordance with a prescriptive standard is not a professional engineering service, a person who provides such a service is exempt from the requirement to be registered as a professional engineer.

It is an offence under section 67 of the Act for a person to provide 'professional engineering services' in or for Victoria in any of the five areas of engineering listed in the Act unless they are:

- registered as a practising professional engineer in that area of engineering, or
- providing the professional engineering services under the 'direct supervision' of a professional engineer who is registered to practise in that area of engineering.

The five areas of engineering listed in section 4 of the Act are structural, civil, mechanical, electrical and fire safety engineering."

This Act is a game-changer for Councils and the engineers, technical officers, supervisors and works officers responsible for civil infrastructure.

Unregistered individuals cannot undertake work that falls under the definition of a 'professional engineering service' without risk of penalty, nor should their employer require them to do so. Unless you're a Registered Professional Engineer, working under the supervision of one or following a [prescriptive standard](#) you should request advice from a RPE or even better; become one.

It's probably best not to make that call now, no matter how much experience you have.



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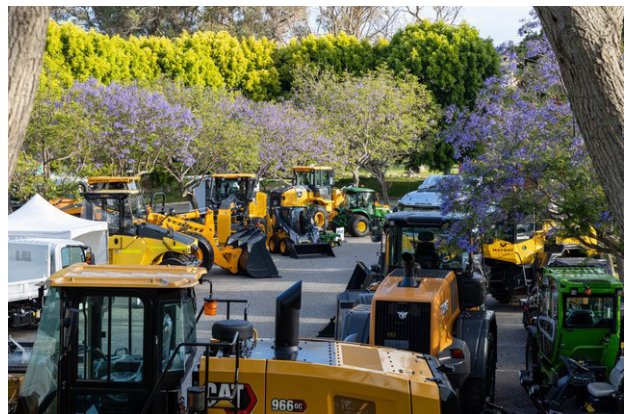
LGWA WORKS AND PARKS CONFERENCE AND EXPO



The LGWA Works and Parks conference and expo was held between 10-12 August, at the Joondalup Resort, Connolly. It was another great success with sell out exhibition stands (55 inside and 35 outside). The golf day preceding the conference is always a fun way for delegates and exhibitors to interact informally, along with the presentation dinner. This year Michael Broadbridge and his wife Sally Carbon were our guest speakers, both with sporting backgrounds, Michael being the coach at three AFL clubs and Sally a gold Olympic and World Cup medallist.

The conference program featured several motivational and inspiring speakers, in addition to practical and interactive sessions and workshops exploring current local government issues, trends and best practices. The highlight of the event is always the informal evenings allowing friendly interaction. This year it was a Great Gatsby inspired casino speakeasy evening. Most dressed to impress in flapper dresses and gangster suits, bet with play money and won great prizes.

There was a good turnout of delegates as WA doesn't currently have any Covid restrictions, but it did mean that one of our keynote speakers Mat Gill (former General Manager, Beaconsfield Mine) was unable to attend, so we will try to get him across next year.



Our email and web addresses have changed—please update your records



www.lgwa.com.au

Jude Newberry

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Local Government Works Association
of Western Australia Inc

Mobile: 0414 996 431

Email: office@lgwa.com.au

Postal: LG Works, PO Box 6643 East Perth WA 6892

LG Works

Who we are and what we can offer your works crew

LG Works is a non-profit, non-political association set up in 1999 to provide member services and a network for Works Supervisors. Well, we've come a long way since then. LG Works is now part of a national body providing professional and personal development for all those who work within the industry.

Our members are from local authorities within the State, with varied backgrounds, ensuring a high standard of care for all our Australian major assets and thus ensuring a healthy future for our transportation and public infrastructure. They oversee and are involved with the construction development and maintenance of roads, drainage, parks and gardens, sporting facilities, machinery, buildings, water management, waste and recycling.



Who can join?

Anyone working within the industry

LG Works offers members:

- An annual Works and Parks Conference and Expo (now in its 24th year)
- Training via LG Works Brain Builder Academy
- Scholarships, Study Awards, Mentoring and Service awards
- Financial support for those seeking legal advice on Industrial Relations issues
- Support network of like-minded individuals.

How do you retain good staff?

You support and invest in them.



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COUNCILS REPORT MINIMAL DAMAGE DESPITE STRENGTH OF VICTORIAN EARTHQUAKE

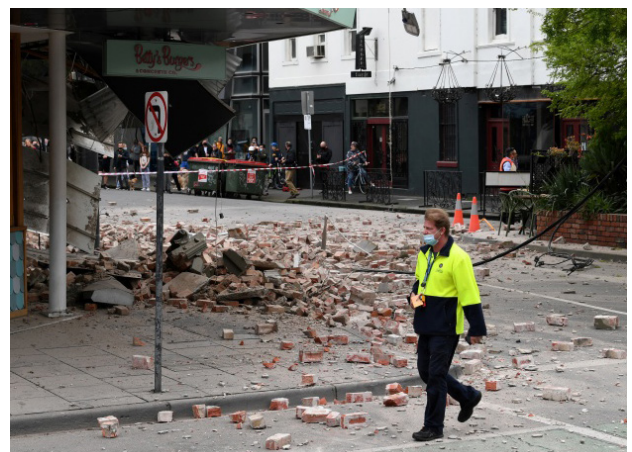
As if 2021 could not get any stranger, especially in locked down Melbourne, a magnitude 5.9 earthquake hit the city about 9.15am on 22 September.

Despite being one of the strongest earthquakes reported in Victoria's history, there was relatively minimal damage to buildings and infrastructure, although many councils received reports of cracks in brickwork and pavements.

One of most impacted buildings was Betty's Burgers in the busy shopping strip of Chapel St, Windsor, in the City of Stonnington, which featured in news reports around the country.

Luckily no-one was injured but the council's building team played a key role in assessing buildings and other damage to ensure the safety of occupants, pedestrians and vehicles.

It was a similar story in Victoria's high country which was identified as the epicentre of the earthquake. Mansfield Shire Council reported that there was no significant damage despite locals saying it felt like 'a big truck coming through the building'.



SUPPRESSING GRAFFITI VANDALISM – CONQUERING THE IMPOSSIBLE PROBLEM?



Anyone tasked with removing graffiti knows just how hard it is to keep it under effective control. Graffiti vandals seem to spring out of the woodwork, are hard to stop through law enforcement alone, and the more tags that exist, the more the problem just seems to grow (like weeds!).

Moreover, removing tags is often a haphazard exercise in compromise. Most products on the market can only offer partial removals, or work only on a limited range of substrates, and many leave unacceptable damage or shadows in their wake.

Sometimes it can be tempting to ask if it wouldn't be easier to ignore the problem, and let taggers have their way, rather than face the overwhelming issue of ongoing graffiti suppression and keeping our neighbourhoods clean and free of these all-too-obvious public defacements.

However, one company believes that "the graffiti problem" can truly be solved – it's just a matter of being properly educated and equipped.

Proper Training is Key – Plus It's Free

Greg Ireland, CEO of Graffiti Removal Systems Pty Ltd, knows all too well how important the proper training, products and equipment are

for councils and other public organisations to maintain a successful graffiti removal program.

As a graffiti removal contractor himself for 20 years in Victoria, providing services to government, councils, and national FM companies, Greg and his professional trainer associate Carlos Lavados know graffiti removals like few others in Australia. Now focused primarily on training and product distribution, Greg offers free training and ongoing support to all municipal councils, officers and contractors throughout the country that use his EzyClean range of graffiti removers.

"As a professional contractor for 20 years, I tried everything on the market," said Greg. "I ended up being so dissatisfied with the results that I engaged an industrial chemist to create my own range of products."

Greg's Australian-made EzyClean Graffiti Removal range has proven to produce an impressive 98% removal rate, with their specialised products especially intended for Australia's frequently hot, dry weather conditions.

"With the proper training and our EzyClean products, you can remove graffiti totally from

virtually any substrate,” says Greg. “For example, we can show council officers how to do perfect removals from masonry, brick, concrete, asphalt, and similar surfaces, as well as more delicate surfaces such as road and street signs. Even painted surfaces get very good results with our more sensitive removers.”

“We’re also the only former contractors in the Australian industry who are now manufacturing our own graffiti removal products. We’ve been out in the field and done the hard yards, so we know how important it is to get something that truly works.”

For those who use his EzyClean graffiti removal products, Greg even offers his free training conveniently “on-site” – for instance, meeting with representatives at a council works depot, or – preferably – at a municipal location with a graffiti problem so he can provide a practical demonstration of the correct process and train participants under real-world conditions.

Past participants also speak highly of Greg and his methods. Miles Saunders, Graffiti Management Officer of the City of Melton, said, “After attending the graffiti removal course conducted by Greg Ireland, he clearly showed the procedures required with practical hands-on demonstrations that were great. Brilliant learning experience, and I recommend to anyone who is serious about professional graffiti removal to engage Greg’s services.”

Greg’s next free graffiti removal training sessions using the EzyClean graffiti removal range will be held from Monday 11/10/21 to Monday 18/10/21 in the Melbourne Metro area. All industry professionals and representatives are invited to participate. Register by contacting Greg directly on 1300 59 77 80.

More information on Greg’s EzyClean graffiti removal products and his free graffiti removal

training course can be found online at:

<https://www.graffitiremovalchemicals.com.au/graffitiremovaltrainingcourse>

About Greg Ireland:

Greg Ireland, CEO and Principal Educator of Graffiti Removal Systems Pty Ltd, has 20 years’ experience in graffiti removal through a highly successful contracting company providing removal services to government, councils & national FM companies since 2002.



THE MUNICIPAL WORKS OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION – A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: DEREK ROBERTSON, MAX BENTON, LINDSEY MILLIONGTON, GARY TURNER, ALAN LOVE, NEVILLE LUDERAM, UNKNOWN, HAROLD THOMPSON, JESUS PEREZ.

The Municipal Works Operations Association (MWOA) has survived many challenges over the years, the major one being from 1993 to 1995 when local government in Victoria was subject to a major reform which reduced Victoria's then 210 municipal councils to 78, now 79. These council amalgamations reduced staff significantly (including MWOA members). The introduction of compulsory competitive tendering (CCT) in 1994 meant a further loss of MWOA members.

CCT required councils to competitively advertise set percentages of their operating budgets to the open market (20% in 1994/1995, 30% in 1995/1996 and 50% from 1996/1997 onwards). Most of the works and services exposed to the open market were those traditionally carried out by the respective councils' outdoor workforces. The CCT process

required councils to form business units for their works or services and compete against the open market for the work they had traditionally carried out in-house. Competitors included private enterprise (both nationally and internationally) and in some cases, other councils.

To form an in-house business unit and be competitive, the existing staff numbers were usually reduced with some made redundant (e.g., a road maintenance team of, say, 20 may become 12 to 15). If the business unit was successful in their tender for a service contract, then employment was only guaranteed for that period.

When the in-house business unit was not successful for a relevant service contract, some were fortunate enough to be redeployed with the successful service provider but most were

left without a job. Quite often these members were between 45 and 65 and the prospect of looking for another suitable job or retraining for a new one was very daunting. Apart from the policy's effect on personal and family life, losing MWOA members and local government workers meant the sacrifice of the substantial detailed knowledge they had (relating to their respective municipalities), gone forever.

The fallout of the CCT process was that many council staff (many being MWOA members) were made redundant. This impact was most evident at the 1997 National Conference where there were only about 70 participants. Healthy levels returned by around 2000 and the National Works and Engineering Conference now attracts approximately 400 people each year.

In the late 1990s one of the key challenges facing the MWOA moving into the new millennium was to keep pace with industry change and to grow the organisation into a financially viable and sustainable entity. Up until December 2002, a

volunteer committee had run all the MWOA's administration, functions and conferences.

It was decided to employ a full-time person to meet these challenges, lead the association into the future and ensure a broad range of services for its members. After a steering committee was formed, in December 2002 the MWOA appointed its first full-time employee, Stephen Robertson (senior) as Executive Director / CEO.

The Board, the CEO and the combined committee teams worked extremely hard over the next 16 years with a strong focus on professional development, financial sustainability and sponsor engagement. The Association now operates under the Municipal Works Australia (MWA) brand after the adoption of a new governance structure in 2020. This has positioned MWA as a leader in local government operations and industry, as it is today.



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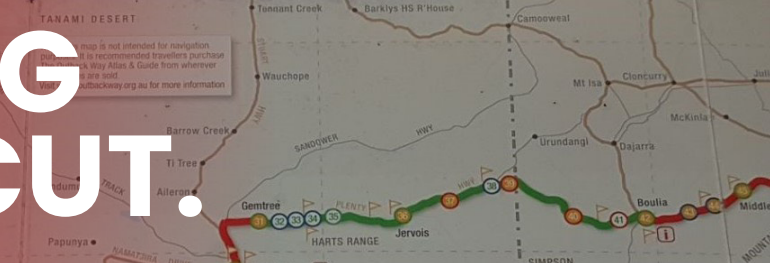
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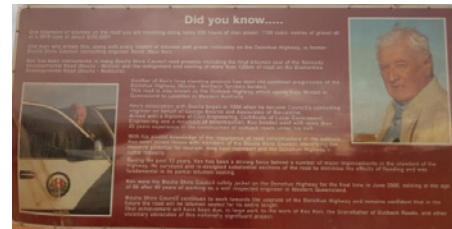
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THE LONG SHORT CUT.



MWA Life Member Graham Gregson sent this through to us – an amazing story that sums up the contributions of municipal works in action. Graham was travelling along the Long Short Cut on his travels across Australia from Townsville to Perth. He came across the story (reproduced below) about the Boulia Shire Council Engineer Kevin (Kev) Kerr who was instrumental in the delivery of the road project which saw the final bitumen sealing of the Boulia to Winton section of the “shortcut” and the realignment and sealing of more than 120 kilometres of the Boulia to Bedourie section.



One kilometre of bitumen on the road you are travelling along takes 250 hours of man power, 1700 cubic metres of gravel all at a 2016 cost of about \$250,000.

One man who knows this, along with every stretch of bitumen and gravel intimately on the Donohue Highway, is former Boulia Shire Council consulting engineer Kevin (Kev) Kerr.

Kev has been instrumental in many Boulia Shire Council road projects including the final bitumen seal of the Kennedy Development Road (Boulia – Winton) and the realignment and sealing of more than 120km of road on the Diamantina Development Road (Boulia – Bedourie).

Another of Kev’s long standing projects has been the continual progression of the Donohue (Boulia – Northern Territory border). This road is also known as the Outback Highway which spans from Winton in Queensland to Laverton in Western Australia.

Kev’s association with Boulia began in 1994 when he became Council’s consulting engineer on behalf of George Bourne and Associates of Barcaldine. Armed with a Diploma of Civil Engineering, Certificate of Local Government Engineering and a mountain of determination, Kev headed west with more than 25 years’ experience in the construction of outback roads under his belt.

With his pivotal knowledge of the importance of road infrastructure in the outback, Kev soon joined forces with members of Boulia Shire Council, identifying the massive potential for tourism, long haul transport and the Donohue Highway’s cattle industry.

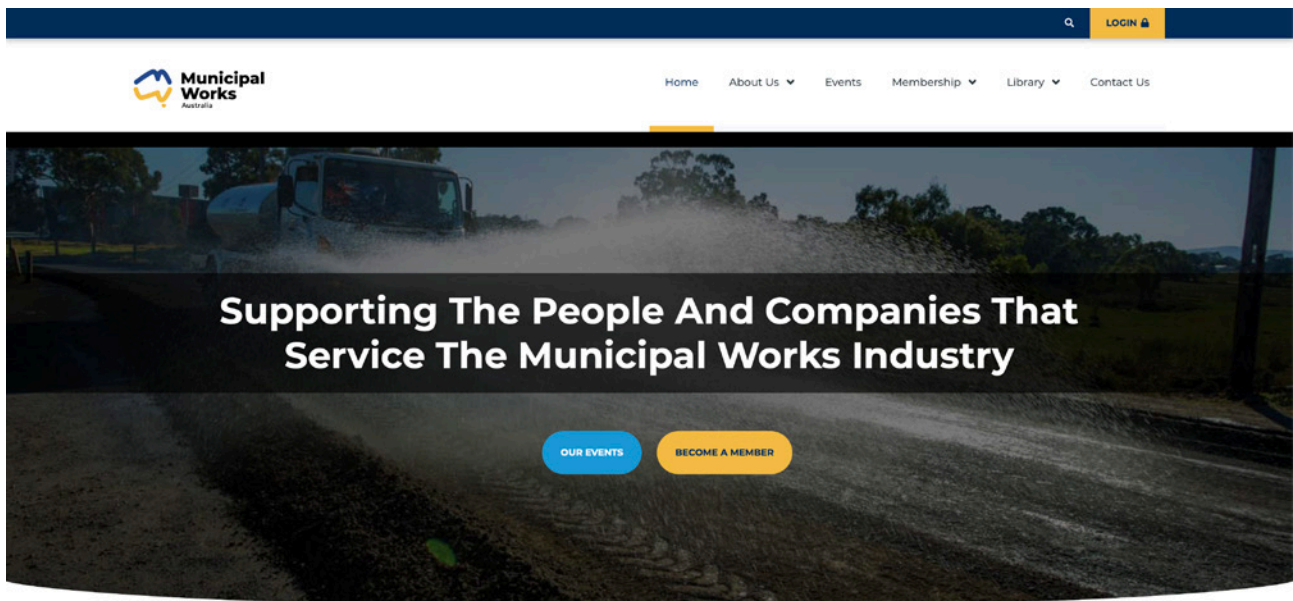
During the past 13 years, Kev has been a driving force behind a number of major improvements in the standard of the highway. He surveyed and re-designed substantial sections of the road to minimise the effects of flooding and was fundamental in its partial bitumen sealing.

Kev wore his Boulia Shire Council safety jacket on the Donohue Highway for the final time in June 2006, retiring at the age of 66 after 40 years of working as a well respected engineer in Western Queensland.

Boulia Shire Council continues to work towards the upgrade of the Donohue Highway and remains confident that in the future the road will be bitumen sealed for its entire length.

That achievement will have been due, in large part, to the work of Kev Kerr, the Grandfather of Outback Roads, and other visionary advocates of this nationally significant project

NEW MWA WEBSITE FEATURES LOCAL GOVERNMENT DIRECTORY



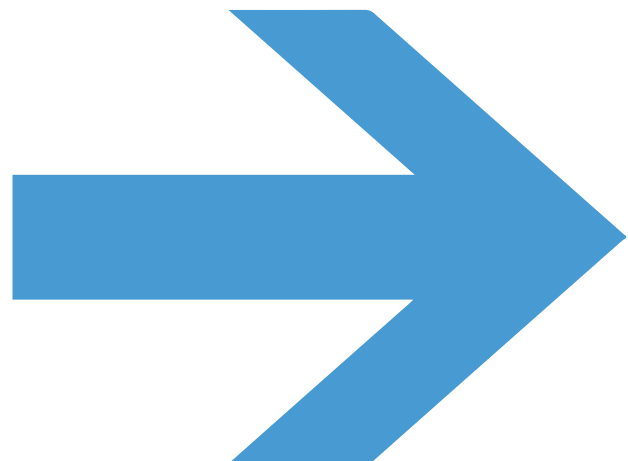
MWA is pleased to announce that we have just released the latest version of our website. The site has some significant enhancements, including a member only Local Government Directory which lists the location of each of the association's members throughout the country. The directory replaces the hard copy Syllabus membership directory we produced on an annual basis. The new web-based directory will allow our members to connect wherever they are in the country.

As a local government member, you now have access to the members only section of the site. You'll need to re-set your password to gain access. You can do this using the reset option on the site; enter the email address you use for your membership and hit the password reset option. You will then receive a password via email.

Once you have gained access you can then update your account details. You can also include other information such as your LinkedIn page account URL. You can then decide what details you want listed on the Local Government Members Directory.

The Members Directly allows you to connect with your fellow municipal works employees throughout the country. Use the map function to identify members located in your neighboring councils. Use the search function to find out who is working in a similar role to you or to find out the names and contact details of members in other councils.

Log on and have a look and let us know what you think. Contact Mandy via admin@municipalworks.com.au if you have any questions or issues logging onto the system.



LOG ON VIA [HTTPS://MUNICIPALWORKS.COM.AU/MEMBERSHIP/MEMBER-HOME/#!/DIRECTORY/MAP](https://municipalworks.com.au/membership/member-home/#!/directory/map)
RESET YOUR PASSWORD USING THE EMAIL ADDRESS ASSOCIATED WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP

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The following content is accessible for members only, please sign in.

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USE THE MAP AND / OR SEARCH FUNCTIONS TO SEE YOUR FELLOW LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEMBERS. YOU CAN CONTACT THEM VIA THE EMAIL LINK LISTED ON THEIR BUSINESS CARD IF YOU WANT TO TOUCH BASE WITH THEM

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Local Government Member Listing

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Map

10 results:

- Willetton City Council Brad Dowdy
- Willetton City Council Denis Digot

BENDIGO **Abel Farrell** **Shire of Broome**



Municipal Works Australia

LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEMBERSHIP

MWA is a not-for-profit member-based association established to support individuals and organisations working in the field of municipal works. Founded in 1936 as the Victorian Municipal Superintendents of Works and Overseers Association, MWA aims to foster excellence in the provision of municipal works and services through providing professional development, peer support and networking events. The works fields traditionally associated with MWA include road and civil infrastructure maintenance and construction, parks and open space, waste management, fleet management, engineering services, and the people and professions that support operational staff.

MEMBERSHIP OF MWA IS FREE FOR ANYONE THAT WORKS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN AUSTRALIA.



THERE ARE TWO LEVELS OF MEMBERSHIP

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP (FREE)

- Eligibility to participate as voting members on MWA's governance positions
- Access to the MWA's newsletters and other communications
- Networking opportunity through participation in branch meeting, networking activities, events, and programs
- Subscription to MWA's Access magazine
- Access to participate in MWA's Webinar and other training and development programs

OPERATIONS FORUM MEMBERSHIP (\$225 PER YEAR)

MWA's Operations Forum membership is for local government employees that want to develop their professional skills and professional network. MWA Operations Forum members will receive the benefits provided to our general members as well as:

- Invitation to the Operations Forum networking events, where you can hear presentations from industry experts on issues relevant to municipal works professionals
- Invitation to MWA's National Municipal Works and Engineering Conference networking event
- Opportunity to earn and track your Professional Development Credits (PDCs)
- A range of other value-added benefits including access to assistance with operational and other advice associated with your role as a municipal works professional

AS A MEMBER OF MWA YOU CAN:

- Share common goals, challenges, and solutions with other municipal works professionals throughout Australia
- Participate in a range of free networking events, meetings, and social activities
- Gain exposure to thousands of municipal works professionals, opening opportunities for your future
- Tap into the experience of other members and access a range of practical resources
- Access education and training programs covering a range of topics relevant to your career in local government, including access to the MWA's Professional Development Credit Certificates (PDCs) program

YOU ALSO GET:

- Free subscription to MWA's electronic community network, allowing you to contact and connect with your fellow municipal works professionals across the country
- Free access to MWA's Networker monthly e-newsletter
- Free subscription to the MWA's ACCESS Magazine
- Free access to online resources and educational programs
- Free registrations for the MWA's live Webinars programs
- Opportunity to earn and track your Professional Development Credit Certificates (PDCs)

HOW TO JOIN



SIGN UP ONLINE:

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