FROM THE EDITOR

BRANCH BUZZZZZZING

What you may have missed since Newsletter No.4 of 2012:

40 people at the AGM on 21 November heard the customary reports from Chairman, Treasurer and student chapters. Questions dealt with meeting venues and spending of funds. Tony Murray pointed out that the cost of the Athenaeum for a whole year was roughly equivalent to what would be needed for a single event at some other venues and that the Branch should not walk away from it. Other venues might be looked at on an ad hoc basis. He also said the Branch should spend accumulated funds on projects which support the objectives of SAICE.

Your Branch Committee at the AGM were aware of major losses through the resignation of Abdulla. Abdulla will be a tough act to follow but he has offered to assist Emmanuel Akampurira his successor.

After the conclusion of the AGM agenda, Siviwe Mabija spoke on “The parables of an Engineer: I think, therefore I am?” This was about ethics for the young Engineer. He was concerned that clients are able to dictate to (mainly) Consulting Engineers and that the latter are not always able to plan or design projects in the manner their professional consciences would have them do. He suggested a back to basics approach (he said Descartes advocated this) to restore professional integrity and, in consequence, the image of the Professional Engineer.

23 January, the first meeting of 2013: Geoff du Toit was introduced by Tony Murray, who noted that Geoff's grandfather was head of the Provincial Works Department. He said that Geoff had delivered a brilliant presentation during his professional interview. Geoff spoke on the Muilwater Water Treatment Works on Paarl Mountain. "Civil Engineering" of December 2012 reported on the project, a finalist in the technical excellence category of SAICE’s National Awards Competition. Environmental concerns delayed the start for many years. A surprise to Geoff was that the bedrock is overlain by several metres of transported degraded granite. Problems were experienced with an inexperienced contractor (more so with sub-, sub-, sub-contractors and their relaxed attitude to safety issues), but good transfer was achieved. The end product blends in well with its environment, and the team were proud to receive an illuminated address from the environmental lobbyists who opposed them at the start. Oh, and find an alternative word for sludge when referring to the by-products of a filter backwash!

31 people made it to the site visit to Cape Town's historic tunnels on 25 January 2013. Keith Mackie has offered to report on this later.

OTHER NEWS

Past Branch Chairman Prof Neil Armitage has taken over as Head of Department of Civil Engineering at UCT.

UCT Alumni News notes that former committee member, Naadiya Moosajee, co-founder of “Women in Engineering, South Africa (SAWomEng), is as active as ever: she has been flying the South African flag high in global discussions around “Women in Engineering and Innovation” as well as the “Economic opportunities for youth.” She is an elected board member of the International Youth Foundation (IYF), based in Baltimore, US, which works in 79 countries on youth leadership, skills development and access to opportunities for youth.

PROJECTS SUPPORTING THE OBJECTIVES OF SAICE

(Arising from the suggestion at the AGM that the Branch identify projects deserving of financial support from our accumulated funds): We still have a contribution of R70000 for the Science Centre (identified at an earlier AGM) in mind, and SAICE National would always welcome contributions to the SPEBS bursary programme, but your proposals for further projects will be welcome.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Site visit to Portside Tower (follow-up after lecture of 19 September 2012): date to be settled.
Branch meeting 20 (not 21st as stated last year!) February 2013
Presidential address 27 (not 28th) February 2013
Branch meetings 20 March, 17 April 2013
Bridge Building: 2013, date to be decided
Water Competition: 2013, date to be decided
Site visit to dry docks: 2013, date to be settled.

Presentations and adjudication of projects submitted for regional awards 15 May 2013
Branch meetings: 19 June, 17 July, 21 August, 18 September 2013
Annual Dinner, date to be decided
AGM 20 November 2013

BRANCH MEETING 20 FEBRUARY 2013

Topic: Determination of additional resources to manage pollution in stormwater and river systems in the City of Cape Town.

Presenter: Nicole Nel

Date: Wednesday 20 February 2013

Time: 17h00 for 17h30

Venue: Athenaeum, Newlands

Ms Nel presented a paper to this effect at IMESA in 2011 and it won best written and presented paper.

The South African Institution of Civil Engineering Western Cape Branch

NEWSLETTER No 1/2013 January 2013
Involving a specific community

(a) Projects of Outstanding Technical Excellence

2013. Projects that were substantially complete in 2012 are submitted to SAICE national but the Branch would like a final presentation is not yet available.

- Competition rules available from Steve Fanner. (may also appear on the Branch website www.saicewc.co.za)
- Please submit your written entries to Steve (Box 1085, Durbanville, 7551, or 13 Azalea Street, Durbanville, 7550)
- on or before the closing date of 26 April 2013.

DO YOU GET YOUR NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL AND BY SURFACE MAIL?? Please let Cheryl know so we can cancel the latter in your case (cheryl.wright@uot.ac.za).

WE ARE LISTENING...

If you have any comments regarding Branch activities, please let us know via email (fanner@telkomsa.net) or post on our website http://www.saicewc.co.za which is regularly updated with news and events, so keep a look out.

ARE YOU CONNECTED.....?

We regularly send out email messages to members via E-flash. If you would like to be on the E-flash address list, send an email to marianne.vanderschuren@uct.ac.za with the heading SAICE E-flash (you need not put anything in the text if you don’t want to), or fill out the Contact Page on the Branch Website http://www.saicewc.co.za.

Remember to tell us about changes in email / other addresses. All official records are kept at National Office, so any changes in your personal details should also be sent to the National Office: SAICE National Office, Private Bag X200, Halfway House, 1685. Tel. 011 805 5947/48/53; Fax. 011 805 5971. Email: civilinfo@saice.org.za.

The National Website: http://www.saice.org.za (recently revamped) now has a newsletter which is worth a visit.

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