FROM THE EDITOR

BRANCH BUZZZZING

What you may have missed since Newsletter No.1 of 2013:

Nicole Nel's presentation to 30 privileged persons on 20 February dealt with an analysis of the quality of water in various waterways under the control of the City of Cape Town, and what may be done to improve water quality where it is below standard. See your SAICE Journal of April 2013. Some surprises: a fairly polluted Kuils River north of Kuilsriver suburb, very polluted south of that, but downstream of Khayelitsha, a vast improvement, which Ms Nel ascribes to self-cleansing in an uncanalised, natural environment. The greatest pollution is found in Zeekeevlei and Milnerton Lagoon. Remedies must focus not only on infrastructure but on community-involvement. Perturbed at cost estimates, she pointed out that the investment would pay handsome dividends. Prof. Armitage said Zeekeevlei was so polluted that a large area had to be cut from the Yacht Club's activities (Norfolk Broads and "boating about in muck"). Abdulla Parker said in reply to a question from Wilfrid Gohring, that a start had been made (in Hout Bay) to diverting low stormwater flows to treatment works.

President Peter Kleyhans gave his address at the Athenaeum (full address, "Reflections and Future" on the national website). Dwindling resources and growing populations do not sit well together. It is not clear what is to be done about the population growth rate. As far as reducing demand is concerned: "The clamour for new works to satisfy the existing and burgeoning population has enabled us to fulfil our aspirations. On the other hand, this is being achieved at the expense of future generations.... A case can be made ....that the demand for immovable assets should be reduced. The consequence of such an approach is that, at the outset of any civil engineering project, the question should be asked as to whether or not the immovable asset is really necessary. Only if the answer is truly positive should a project proceed in the most environmentally effective manner." A brave Engineer who tells the client he doesn't really need what he wants!

On 20 March Johan Keuler of Aurecon gave a small audience a really fascinating talk on the project that won last year's community-based category national award, a "pilot" programme of 7522 units in the City of Cape Town's Community Residential Unit Refurbishment Programme, spanning the years 2008 to 2015. Aurecon, appointed as implementing agents, put out tenders and pay contractors (back to back client/ consulting engineer / contractor risk-sharing agreements). Problems included rival gangs (not to be mixed or shaken), logistics complicated by the units under repair being scattered, up to 19 people from a two-bedroom unit (taking turns to sleep) having to be temporarily accommodated, not to mention backyard shacks.... and no inflation built into the 7 year contract. A problem for the client is the cost of renovation at R177 000 per unit, whilst new stock at R120 000 each (excluding land cost and bulk services) seemed more attractive. Keith Mackie asked if it wouldn't have been cheaper to demolish and build anew.

or say something wrong, get lots of responses; otherwise there is a deathly silence from their members! JSD being CROSS might be to do with Confidential Reporting on Structural Safety, not about the silent majority. See http://www.structural-safety.org/

Information packs are available from IstructE (or ICE) telling one what to do with job-shadowers (No! Not that).

Water Division runs a hydraulics course that includes information on energy recovery from municipal pipelines.

Current President Elect is Stanford Mkamacane (follows Peter Kleynhans). Malcolm Pautz was elected as the next President Elect.

Vice Presidents: Tom McKune, Chris Herold, Sundran Naicker, Errol Kerst.

Executive Board members each represent a branch or division on the Board. Marianne Vanderschuren looks after Water Division. The Board's Community Residential Unit Refurbishment Programme kicked off in the north of Kuilsriver suburb, very polluted south of that, but downstream of Khayelitsha, a vast improvement, which Ms Nel ascribes to self-cleansing in an uncanalised, natural environment. The greatest pollution is found in Zeekeevlei and Milnerton Lagoon. Remedies must focus not only on infrastructure but on community-involvement. Perturbed at cost estimates, she pointed out that the investment would pay handsome dividends. Prof. Armitage said Zeekeevlei was so polluted that a large area had to be cut from the Yacht Club's activities (Norfolk Broads and "boating about in muck"). Abdulla Parker said in reply to a question from Wilfrid Gohring, that a start had been made (in Hout Bay) to diverting low stormwater flows to treatment works.

President Peter Kleyhans gave his address at the Athenaeum (full address, "Reflections and Future" on the national website). Dwindling resources and growing populations do not sit well together. It is not clear what is to be done about the population growth rate. As far as reducing demand is concerned: "The clamour for new works to satisfy the existing and burgeoning population has enabled us to fulfil our aspirations. On the other hand, this is being achieved at the expense of future generations.... A case can be made ....that the demand for immovable assets should be reduced. The consequence of such an approach is that, at the outset of any civil engineering project, the question should be asked as to whether or not the immovable asset is really necessary. Only if the answer is truly positive should a project proceed in the most environmentally effective manner." A brave Engineer who tells the client he doesn't really need what he wants!

On 20 March Johan Keuler of Aurecon gave a small audience a really fascinating talk on the project that won last year's community-based category national award, a "pilot" programme of 7522 units in the City of Cape Town's Community Residential Unit Refurbishment Programme, spanning the years 2008 to 2015. Aurecon, appointed as implementing agents, put out tenders and pay contractors (back to back client/ consulting engineer / contractor risk-sharing agreements). Problems included rival gangs (not to be mixed or shaken), logistics complicated by the units under repair being scattered, up to 19 people from a two-bedroom unit (taking turns to sleep) having to be temporarily accommodated, not to mention backyard shacks.... and no inflation built into the 7 year contract. A problem for the client is the cost of renovation at R177 000 per unit, whilst new stock at R120 000 each (excluding land cost and bulk services) seemed more attractive. Keith Mackie asked if it wouldn't have been cheaper to demolish and build anew.

or say something wrong, get lots of responses; otherwise there is a deathly silence from their members! JSD being CROSS might be to do with Confidential Reporting on Structural Safety, not about the silent majority. See http://www.structural-safety.org/

Information packs are available from IstructE (or ICE) telling one what to do with job-shadowers (No! Not that).

Water Division runs a hydraulics course that includes information on energy recovery from municipal pipelines.

Current President Elect is Stanford Mkamacane (follows Peter Kleynhans). Malcolm Pautz was elected as the next President Elect.

Vice Presidents: Tom McKune, Chris Herold, Sundran Naicker, Errol Kerst.

Executive Board members each represent a branch or division on the Board. Marianne Vanderschuren looks after Water Division. The national newsletter will have told you about the new COO, Steven Kaplan.

All the emphasis placed on BSc degrees ....some Technologists and Technicians feel uncomfortable in SAICE. Dawie Botha thought we ought to speak of “Engineering Professionals” in SAICE.

Dawie, Tom and others are working on a Guidebook on Capacity Building, part of a Compendium – interesting. See http://www.wfeo.net/capacitybuilding/2013/01/22/cecb-committee/.

SNIPPETS FROM COUNCIL (16 APRIL)

- Interviews for registration: ECSA has decided to do away with the essay topics from mid year. SAICE was the only institution that wanted essays... Makes one think. By end October there'll have been 150 reviews over two years.
- The Water Division wants SPEBS bursaries to be available to post-graduate students too. Under discussion.
- Several branches have now appointed administrative assistants, and we are encouraged to do so as well. National Office has the assistants on their books and pays a portion of the salary (aiming at better financial reporting).
- Pietiermaritzburg's lecture on the geology of the region was followed by a site visit winding its way up to the Drakensberg.
- The Branch does half as well as Durban through the income-share model on CPD courses, because Durban organises the courses itself.
- Elsewhere, on-line presentations followed by question-answering sessions are in vogue in the CPD-race. Water Division is looking at an e-learning course.
- Joint Structures: make a mistake with an email address or something wrong, get lots of responses; otherwise there is a deathly silence from their members! JSD being CROSS might be to do with Confidential Reporting on Structural Safety, not about the silent majority. See http://www.structural-safety.org/
- Information packs are available from IstructE (or ICE) telling one what to do with job-shadowers (No! Not that).
- Water Division runs a hydraulics course that includes information on energy recovery from municipal pipelines.
- Current President Elect is Stanford Mkamacane (follows Peter Kleynhans). Malcolm Pautz was elected as the next President Elect.
- Vice Presidents: Tom McKune, Chris Herold, Sundran Naicker, Errol Kerst.
- Executive Board members each represent a branch or division on the Board. Marianne Vanderschuren looks after Water Division. The national newsletter will have told you about the new COO, Steven Kaplan.
- All the emphasis placed on BSc degrees ....some Technologists and Technicians feel uncomfortable in SAICE. Dawie Botha thought we ought to speak of “Engineering Professionals” in SAICE.
- Dawie, Tom and others are working on a Guidebook on Capacity Building, part of a Compendium – interesting. See http://www.wfeo.net/capacitybuilding/2013/01/22/cecb-committee/.
NATIONAL PROJECT AWARDS

Proposed changes to the awards were not greeted enthusiastically. Nice idea, but... Other branches, it seems, do not allow themselves to recommend to national anything but their regional winner, so how would 9+ categories (the number of divisions, upon which the new awards are to be based, plus one for operation & maintenance) find entrants in each? It was clear that national office hope all deserving entries will reach them somehow, with an indication as to which divisional category or categories in which they should be judged. NO are unrepentant on accepting entries that never went past the branches! In the meantime, we carry on with our regional awards (if there are entries). International Category Awards entries should go to the regions and not direct to national. Any takers at this late stage? Smart Awards have fallen away.

CAREER FOCUS

As of the end of April, SAICE will be collaborating with the organisation "Career Focus", which will seek job opportunities for students who need the practical experience as part of their courses.

PRESIDENT’S TERM OF OFFICE

The current constitution is unlikely to be acceptable to SARS as a founding document in terms of the new Companies Act. SAICE’s problem: too much money raised from non-fees sources (46% of total income) for it to qualify as a non-profit organisation. Alternatives: pay tax or scale from non-fees sources (46% of total income) for it to qualify.

PROJECTS SUPPORTING THE OBJECTIVES OF SAICE (AGM suggestion): We await your proposals.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Site visit to Portside Tower: date to be settled.
Branch meeting 15 May 2013 (no regional awards entry)
Branch meetings: 19 June, 17 July 2013
Bridge Building: 20 July 2013
YMP Roadshow, 26 July (to be confirmed)
Water Competition: 27 July 2013
Branch meetings: 21 August, 18 September, 16 October
Site visit to dry docks: 2013, date to be settled.
Annual Dinner, date to be confirmed
Snape Memorial Lecture: 13 November (Gordon Prestedge)
AGM 20 November 2013

VENUES FOR BRANCH LECTURES

Keep an eye out for changes. The hardy annual: would we get better attendance at branch lectures if we held them at another venue? Presenters may be given a choice of hosting lectures on their home ground.

BRANCH MEETING 15 MAY 2013
Topic: Semi-historical item on road building
Presenter: Steve Fanner
Date: Wednesday 15 May 2013
Time: 17h00 for 17h30
Venue: Athenaeum, Newlands

No entries in the Regional Awards Competition, after all those years Western Cape projects beat all comers, so there is a gap filler

BRANCH MEETING 19 JUNE 2013
Topic: The Mgeni Viaduct
Presenter: George Kustner
Date: Wednesday 19 June 2013
Time: 17h00 for 17h30
Venue: Athenaeum, Newlands

Is this the 410m of downhill bridge launching on a 9% grade? Come and see how it was done.

BRANCH MEETING 17 JULY 2013
Topic: History and Hydrology of the McMurdo Dry Valleys, Antarctica
Presenter: James Cullis
Date: Wednesday 17 July 2013
Time: 17h00 for 17h30
Venue: Athenaeum, Newlands

“The McMurdo Dry Valleys are a row of 15 snow-free valleys in Antarctica located... west of McMurdo Sound. The region is one of the world's most extreme deserts” says Wikipedia. So Hydrology?

SCHOOLS BRIDGE BUILDING COMPETITION 20 JULY
Canal Walk. Come along and support Andrew, Ishaq and their team – working out what the various structures can endure is an exacting task, even for the structural experts. Loading: usually sometime after 16h00.

WATER COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLS 27 JULY
At the Liberty Promenade Mall in Mitchells Plain. Please note in your diary. Even if you didn’t get involved in encouraging schools to take part, your help on the day can lighten the load for Quinten and Alice (and Prof Van Zyl?).

SAICE WESTERN CAPE BRANCH 2013 MEETINGS: CPD PTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LECTURE / TOPIC</th>
<th>PRESENTER</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>Pts</th>
<th>CPD NO.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01-23</td>
<td>Mouwwater Water Treatment Works on Paarl Mountain</td>
<td>Geoff du Toit</td>
<td>1 Hr</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>SAICEwat13/01306/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02-23</td>
<td>Determination of additional resources to manage pollution: Cape Town City Stormwater and rivers</td>
<td>Nicole Nel</td>
<td>1 Hr</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>SAICEwat13/01324/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02-27</td>
<td>Presidential address</td>
<td>Peter Kieyhans</td>
<td>1 Hr</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03-20</td>
<td>City of Cape Town’s Community Residential Unit Refurbishment Programme</td>
<td>Johan Keuler</td>
<td>1 Hr</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04-17</td>
<td>Towards a Scientifically Informed Policy on Hydraulic Fracturing in the Karoo</td>
<td>Dr. Dan Turner</td>
<td>1 Hr</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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@uct.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.

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, is worth a visit,

EDITOR: Steve Fanner