

The South African
Institution of Civil Engineering
Western Cape Branch



NEWSLETTER No 3/2015

September/October
2015

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to our third Newsletter of the year!

2015 is coming towards an end so please take note of our upcoming AGM on 12 November 2015 (see upcoming events). Nominations for office bearers are open so please make use of the form at the end of the Newsletter to nominate persons for the positions. Most members of the current committee are willing to stand again, which helps tremendously with continuity of the branch, but we always need fresh ideas, involvement and representation of our members.

BRANCH BUZZZZING

Making Waves - SAICE Western Cape is proud to announce we have been instrumental in the establishment of a new SAICE division called the **Marine Division**. Our local Keith Mackie and his steering committee have negotiated this separation from the Railways and Harbours division so as to enable a more focussed attention to be given to their discipline. We wish them well in their endeavours.

As part of our ongoing involvement with the **Cape Town Science Centre**, our Student Chapters are preparing proposals for a Civil Engineering based display. This initiative is being driven by our Young Members Branch Initiative with the help of our Treasurer, Emmanuel Akampurira. We hope to have an ongoing presence at the Science Centre and look forward to seeing the fruits of their efforts.

At the recent **SAFCEC Cocktail Evening** it was encouraging to hear the SAFCEC CEO, Webster Mfubebe, in his eloquent style, call for mutually beneficial relationships to be sought between the Public Sector Consultants Contractors and others. With Contractors averaging 0.6%

profits this year and Consultants having mostly negative outlooks, there appears to be great opportunities for doing things differently, considering South Africa's development and infrastructural needs. SAICE Western Cape's efforts, earlier this year, exploring the issues of Procurement of Consultants, was enthusiastically attended by all stakeholders invited and it is an issue we want to give attention to again, leading up to the Civilisation Congress next year.

THE CHERN LECTURE - 21 JULY 2015

This was a UCT hosted event presented by visiting Professor Jenn Chuann Chern of Taiwan. A receptive crowd of over 30 people attended Professor Chern's highly inspirational presentation on the recovery efforts in Taiwan, after Typhoon Morokat brought widespread destruction in 2009 (3m of rainfall in a 48 hour period). Professor Chern headed up the recovery efforts under the authority of the new President, the former having resigned soon after the disaster. The recovery efforts spanned a 5 year period, with a cost of over 80 billion dollars, with clearly defined goals. Principles underpinning the program emphasised respect for stakeholders and key strategies included in-depth involvement with local communities and liaison with key



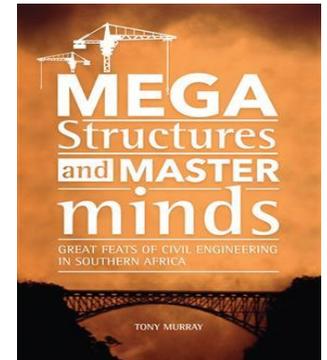
community members, in this case, often the local Catholic Priest. Innovative techniques, such as Light Radar, were used to survey the topography by air for areas of landslip instability and new villages, bridges and infrastructure rebuilt in alternative positions to mitigate further risks. The mobilisation and co-operation with NGO organisations was also seen to be a critical contributor to the success of the operations, as they could quickly and effectively mobilise to assess needs and work with local communities. As a well-qualified Engineer, Professor Chern was able to lead the recovery team in a hands-on fashion, visiting affected areas and able to

make appropriate decisions, in most cases, without the need for higher authority to approve.

SCHOOLS' BRIDGE BUILDING COMPETITION at Canal Walk on 1 August with some 32 teams taking part. Again, a smooth-running event organised by Andrew Clothier, Brian and Tony. Our thanks to them, to other committee members, the assisting students, our sponsors, especially AECOM, who also sponsor the national competition, to the Alcolin Team and Jointech, without all of whom the competition would be impossible. Thanks also to judges Sheila and Neil from Worley Parsons and Bobby from Jeffares & Green – well done, a great job! Winners were Brackenfell High 2. In case you missed it from the National Newsletter, Philip Kleynhans, Dewald Mouton and Niël Oosthuizen went on to capture the AECOM-SAICE National Title on 28 August at Sandton Convention Centre, in a runaway victory.

THE HISTORY AND HERITAGE LECTURE 2015

Tony Murray presented to the branch on the Cape to Cairo Railway to an enthusiastic crowd. This is scheduled to be an annual branch lecture slot where we can learn valuable lessons from previous generations. Tony outlined the history of railways from the technological beginnings in the UK through to their implementation in South Africa and upwards into Africa. Tony is able to relate the colourful historical characters, such as Rhodes and Paulson, and their antics, as well as the technical developments of the railways relevant to our industry. More can be read in his recently published book "Mega Structures and Master Minds", available through Tafelberg Publishers.



SAICE WESTERN CAPE COCKTAIL EVENING on 27 August. As the National Awards Banquet took place in Cape Town on 8th October, we decided to hold a more informal Cocktail Evening at the River Club, instead of the Annual Dinner. The event was from 17h00 onwards so members could come straight from work and not have too

late an evening. Brief presentations were given, including those by Branch Chair, Doug, Women in Engineering, our Young Members Branch Initiative and recently appointed



SAICE Vice President, HHO CEO, Andre Frieslaar. Our regional awards winners were also presented with their plaque and we got to view a video of their Boomslang Project as an example of Western Cape Engineering prowess.

Thereafter, members were able to mingle and enjoy the snacks and refreshments. Comments to date have been highly positive and it is a format we hope to continue with in the future. Thanks to our Marianne Vanderschuren for being a great MC and thanks to all our other organisers.

THE YOUNG MEMBERS BRANCH INITIATIVE hosted their first branch meeting at UCT on 16 September. The speaker for the evening was **Albert Geldenhuys**, who heads up Aurecon in South Africa. It was great to see the young members come out in force and bodes well for future involvement in the Branch and Civil Engineering. Albert spoke on his career and life lessons learned from his schooling, right through to his present position. The mostly young (and some not so young) attendees got to hear how he negotiated (and managed to thrive) through a changing world and industry during his career and the decisions and hard work that enabled him to achieve what he has been able to. A great example to follow with **passion and hard work** being central themes that he was able to inspire us with. The YMBI put on a great spread of refreshments which were heartily enjoyed before and after. Well done to all involved and hopefully future events, such as this one, will continue to bring the age groups together.

NATIONAL AWARDS DINNER

Date: Thursday, 8th October 2015

Time: 18h00

Venue: Camps Bay Hotel

Following on from a great show last year in Durban, the SAICE National Awards were held in Cape Town this year. This was jointly hosted by SAICE and SAFCEC.

SNAPE MEMORIAL LECTURE - 21 OCTOBER 2015

Topic: Snape Lecture

Presenter: Prof Mark Alexander

Date: Wednesday, 21 October

Time: 17h00 for 17h30

Venue: Athenaeum, Newlands

Prof Alexander has titled his address as "Musings of an Absent Minded Professor"

This is a fantastic opportunity to hear from a world renowned expert in his field who has had a highly successful career in Academia and Research. The Snape Memorial Lecture is always the most prestigious lecture of our year and something not to be missed.

SAICE WESTERN CAPE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Guest Speaker : To be Confirmed

Date: 12 November 2015

Time: 17h00 for 17h30

Venue: Athenaeum, Newlands

CPD

Please see our web site <http://www.saicewc.co.za> for the CPD accreditation numbers for our Branch meetings.

SOME UPCOMING EVENTS FOR EARLY NEXT YEAR

- SAICE Western Cape Toastmasters Club
- Site Visit to Steenbras Dam Pumped Storage Scheme
- The Asset Management Game: Plans are afoot to introduce another Schools Competition to promote this key mind set, necessary for our industry, at a local level.

HOW YOUR NEWSLETTER GETS TO YOU

Please let Cheryl know so we can cancel surface mailing to you if you are able to receive your newsletter by email: cheryl.wright@uct.ac.za.

WE ARE LISTENING...

If you have any comments regarding Branch activities, please let us know via email (doug.smetherham@mottmac.com) 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.

NOMINATIONS FOR SAICE WESTERN CAPE BRANCH COMMITTEE

All members are invited to nominate members to the Branch Committee for 2016. All grades of membership are eligible for election. The committee comprises of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and twelve additional committee members to fill various portfolios needed to keep the branch active. Please use one form per nominee (this form may be duplicated) and return, via fax, email or post, to:

The Administrative Assistant: Veronica Coetzee
2 Elizabeth Avenue, Pinelands 7450

Email: committee@saicewc.co.za

To arrive by no later than 5 November 2016

Nominee Details:

Name:

Signature:

Address:

Tel:

Cell:

Fax:

E-mail:

Nominator

Name:

Signature:

Seconded

Name:

Signature:

