FROM THE EDITOR

BRANCH BUZZZZING

What you may have missed since Newsletter No.3 of 2013:

21 August 2013: a double header. Haniefa Gaibe worked for Pendulum when they were appointed by Cape Winelands Municipality to see whether Minibus-Taxis operating in their area could be used as tourist transport in off-peak periods. As part of exercise they had to discover what current utilisation was, and spent some time on the buses, issuing numbers to boarding passengers and taking them back as they alighted. They collected good data and mapped it on GIS. They found that a previous study had shown more vehicles but less passengers – on average, 40% less passengers had been counted in the previous study because they had counted only at the beginning and end of each route.

After Haniefa, Edmund Booth, who hails from the UK and was a visiting lecturer at UCT, talked on current trends in earthquake resistant design, and on some good and bad news in the 2011 Christchurch disaster. The familiar “spring-mounting” worked well for a hospital in Christchurch and Japanese hospitals have been built that way since Kobe in 1995. Stressing beams and columns together with unbonded, post-tensioned pre-stressing, as recommended by New Zealand’s Nigel Priestley helps enormously and the other use of prestress is to anchor a building to the foundation in such a way that it can “rock” when the horizontal quake acceleration arrives: this latter was used successfully in Christchurch’s Southern Cross Hospital:

Intelligent buildings, with variable-resistance computer-controlled dampers (linked to accelerometers at rooftop level) acting on bracing, may currently be a little way-out; although such dampers performed as expected in a Japanese building. Older buildings remain a problem. The 5-storey Pyne Gould Corporation Building in Christchurch, dating from 1970, was checked in 1995 and pronounced safe, but the shear core proved inadequate in 2011:

Keep a lookout for Edmund’s “Earthquake Design Practice for Buildings: Third Edition”.

You will have seen in the national newsletters that the national champion bridge-builders were from Johannesburg, second place to Pietermaritzburg, and third Harrismith. Western Cape? Better luck next year.

In the national Water Competition on 16 August, our Western Cape winner, DF Malan, could not quite repeat their 20 penalty point performance, coming joint third with 90 penalty points. Congratulations to Jacobus Wüst, Reinhardt Husselmann and Jacobus Louw on their performance.

18 September: Jacqui Gooch spoke about the development of the Provincial Infrastructure Plan, which is regarded as a major influence on the Provincial Spatial Development Framework. The plan horizon is 2040 (cf the National Development Plan programme which takes us up to 2030) and it includes all entities involved in infrastructure, not just provincial departments, and it includes the private sector:

Co-operation between all the sectors is key to the success of the optimisation of expenditure on infrastructure. At this stage the planning framework is being tested in the West
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Gordon K Prestedge is the Executive Chairman of PRDW (Prestedge Relief Dresner Wijnberg). He has wide experience in port and coastal engineering and has talked to us about a few interesting aspects thereof.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 20 NOVEMBER

Date: Wednesday 20 November 2012

Time: 17h00 for 17h30

Venue: Athenaeum, Newlands

See Pg. 1 for the form for nomination of members of the Branch Committee. (Of committee members: Quinten Corner has left for the Middle East. We wish him well in his further career. We will miss him.) After the AGM, Dennis Walters will talk about the work of Joseph Newey.

PROPOSED MUSEUM AT MOLTENO RESERVOIR. Peter Flower, Director of Water & Sanitation of the City of Cape Town, has not forgotten about us and we will hear more about this next year.

STUDENT CHAPTERS

Your Committee would hereby like to thank all Student Chapter Committee Members for their efforts, as also the enthusiastic academic staff who help in no small measure.

– Stellenbosch Chapter under the chairmanship of Jody Klaasen, again held a successful bridge-building competition for US students on 2 and 5 August, this time with 20 teams entering. Peri Formwork again sponsored the project.

– UCT Chapter is chaired by Michael Loseby. They again hosted a successful Civil Engineering Cocktail Evening. Alice reports: “Students were treated to inspiring talks from SAICE CEO, Manglin Pillay, and guest speaker, Dr James Cullis from Aurecon. After short introductions by the SAICE CEO, Manglin Pillay, and guest speaker, Dr James Cullis from Aurecon. After short introductions by the various consulting and contracting companies in attendance, students were encouraged to network with them and discover for themselves what exciting career opportunities are available.”

– CPUT Chapter led by an incredibly enthusiastic Andani Nesane, came out with all guns blazing this year. They had a successful recruitment drive and participated in the YMP Roadshow which was held at CPUT.

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

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