

Dear TAs colleagues,

As we progress with our work and home activities amidst the COVID restrictions, we celebrate the Olympics in Tokyo and the awarding of the 2032 Olympics to Brisbane. This will particularly create opportunities to rethink the transportation options between the town centres hosting the Games.

Transport Australia society (TAs) members are in the process of renewing their memberships and we are seeing continued growth in membership and a large increase in university students joining TAs. We want a special call out to our many TAs LinkedIn Group members who are not paid members, to kindly convert.

We have reviewed the TAs National Executive Committee (NEC) Executive Plan with a reallocation of roles and responsibilities for the NEC with the implementation of the plan. Key areas of the plan include: governance, membership, policy, engagement, professional standards, communications, events and national conference. The NEC is represented by Branch chairs and some nominated Branch representatives. Our interim chairs from Tasmania and Northern Territory continue to engage with NEC and collaborate with the other branches. The NEC and all the branches are communicating via Teams courtesy of Engineers Australia. During August TAs will be undertaking a Pulse Survey of all its branch and national committee members to survey about:

- TAs Executive Plan
- TAs management, leadership and communication
- What TAs should continue, stop and start doing?

Our TAs branches are continuing to connect with and provide a voice through branch and national level CPD events, and advocacy by participating in discussion paper working groups. TAs is commencing the preparation of two discussion papers:

- Rail Transport Infrastructure
- Urban Transport System

The preparation of discussion papers on the maritime (port) and aviation (airport) infrastructure, involved colleagues from these transport sectors. We wish to expand these and encourage colleagues interested to get in touch with TAs.

The Student Membership Working Group (SMWG) continue to do good work, reaching out to their counterparts in Young Engineers Australia and universities teaching courses related to the transportation sector. There have been some useful conversations and follow up actions including industry lectures and advice to university students. SMWG is also in the process of adding a page for students on the TAs website.

TAs is interacting with Engineers Australia to advance the:

- 2022 TAs Transport National Conference
- Area of Practice (AoP) Model Revision
- Learned Society Review

We welcome the University of Sydney (School of Business) as a TAs corporate member and we are also in discussions across Australia with potential corporate members from academia, government and private sectors. Plans are underway to engage with our corporate members and partners for the remainder of 2021.

TAs key recent and current engagements include:

- Engineers Australia submission to parliamentary inquiry – Joint Select Committee on Road Safety
- Victoria TAs Discussion on Ethical Framework for Transport Engineering Practice
- Engineers Australia External Voice Project

Stay safe and keep a look out for all health advice regarding COVID.

Enjoy reading the August newsletter.

Kind Regards,



**Shalendra Ram**

Chair, TAs National Executive

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## Student member update

*By Madison Elliott, Chair SMWG and Oliver Yang, Deputy Chair SMWG*

Over the last quarter, the SMWG has continued to excel in actioning its Vision Plan and made inroads for increasing the student membership uptake. From May to July, the SMWG contacted approximately 220 university lecturers and academics from across Australia to introduce the Transport Australia society and provide information that could be passed on to their students. We received numerous responses and enquiries which is promising for establishing these relationships with university

contacts. Notably, the Victoria branch have had conversations with Monash University and Transport Engineering Monash to further align with TAs and strengthen the relationship with this corporate member. The QLD branch also presented at a guest lecture at Queensland University of Technology and Central Queensland University.

The TAs branch committees in ACT, QLD, NSW and WA have also had great introductory discussions with their respective YEA committees with regards to synergy and collaboration opportunities to connect with more students and increase outreach within universities.

Planning is currently underway for the next quarter activities for the beginning of semester two. The SMWG will continue engaging with universities, with a strong focus on providing guest lecturers and presentations to students. Another key deliverable for the upcoming quarter is to lock in our Student Hub webpage on the TAs website to provide a 'one-stop-shop' of resources for students looking at a career in transport.

Current we have 129 student memberships, an increase of 87 per cent from last quarter, and an overall increase of 175 per cent in the year to date.

## Meet the SMWG

We will be introducing one of our TAs SMWG representatives and student representatives in our newsletters going forward. I am excited for everyone to meet the volunteers that are supporting the Vision Plan.

### *Dr. Nicholas Holyoak (SMWG representative, South Australia)*



Dr Nick Holyoak is a researcher and lecturer with the College of Science and Engineering at Flinders University in Adelaide. In this role he enjoys teaching undergraduate and postgraduate civil engineers, specifically in the fields of transport planning and road design, as well as conducting research on a range of transport-related topics.

Nick has been involved in academia for more than 15 years and has also worked for various consultancies here in Australia and in the UK. He has a keen interest in the development of multimodal demand forecasting tools, environmental impact models and survey processes, as well as behavioural analysis and the assessment of transport system policies and infrastructure.

*Magnum Bakunawa (student representative & TAs committee member, Western Australia)*



Magnum Bakunawa is an aspiring engineer with a degree in psychology. He is currently in his penultimate year of study at Edith Cowan University, WA, undertaking a Bachelor of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Alongside Magnum's studies, he works at the university library as a Peer Assistance Guide, as well as with Engineers Australia as a Member Engagement Assistant. Magnum is finding ways to do volunteer work and give back as much as possible.

Magnum was first introduced to civil engineering when he worked for a construction firm where he was a Purchasing and Procurement Manager for four years. He saw the transport industry had so much room for improvement with regards to environmentally friendly and sustainable practices, which piqued his interest in becoming involved in future change. Though still slow, Magnum believes that a more environmentally friendly shift has begun in the transport industry and is excited to be an advocate for change as a future civil engineer.

## Advocacy

**Transport Australia Society: promoting stronger linkages between industry and academia**



University graduates form a substantial group of future professionals. Quality training is essential for sustainable growth, economic viability and to prepare the nation for its future challenges.

In the transport discipline, most young professionals start their career as bachelor graduates. As transport-specialised bachelor's degrees are uncommon, most young transport professionals are civil engineers. This underpins the role of limited transport-focused subjects in professional training of young transport practitioners.

Transport Australia Society has established its leadership in providing students improved industry exposure. The significant increase in student membership is strong evidence on the effective role of TAs in professional development for students.

In TAs, professional development is facilitated through multiple avenues including connecting students to professional transport leaders to equip students with the latest practices to overcome transport challenges.

One successful example of this strategy is the guest lecture session for civil engineering students on 26 May 2021, jointly organised by UNSW Canberra and TAs ACT Branch.

The guest lecturer of the session was Mr Alan Thompson, who has a distinguished career as an engineer and leader. Alan was CEO of various government agencies in Australia and New Zealand for 22 years. More recently he has been a strategic advisor to international engineering consultant SMEC, with a focus on transport infrastructure.

The guest lecture session was very informative and interactive. The session was arranged in two distinct parts. At the beginning, Alan presented a transport case study for the City of Auckland. Auckland is the largest city in New Zealand and has suffered from decades of acute road congestion, largely because of inadequate public transport services. In 2004 Alan became inaugural CEO of the new Auckland Regional Transport Authority (ARTA). Alan outlined the strategies and tactics of his team to assist people to move around Auckland by dramatically improving public transport services, with a focus on rail. In the second part, Alan shared his personal insights into the career paths of young engineers, from graduation through to diverse successful roles in later life.

The session was wrapped up by a brief discussion on TAs benefits for young professionals. At the time, Alan was the Deputy Chair of TAs ACT Branch.

This session was arranged and moderated by Dr Milad Ghasri, the course convenor and lecturer. Milad is a member of TAs ACT Branch, and the ACT representative in the Student Membership Working Group.

## **Rail Infrastructure Paper Working Group:**

Chaired by Chris Baker, the Rail Infrastructure Paper working group met for the first time towards the end of May. The working group has representatives from TAs committees in all states and territories, and importance has been placed on ensuring that all issues and areas of development within the rail industry are considered as a basis for the paper.

The intended audience for the paper will be policy makers and agency executives, and the paper will be developed to be a platform for advocacy following the paper's completion. The working group is currently gathering together the individual inputs from each state, and the next steps will be to agree the themes and content for the paper to be developed in the coming months.

## **Urban Transport System Discussion Paper:**

TAs has commenced the development of a discussion paper on Urban Transport Systems. A working group has been established with representation from all states and territories. The objective is to assess and recommend ways of improving the effectiveness of the overall transport system, at an affordable cost.

In the past, the main focus of transport infrastructure has been to reduce congestion, by increasing capacity for general traffic at congested areas of the network. This approach has led to induced traffic in proximity of the works, which, when it spreads to adjacent areas, increases overall network congestion. The discussion paper will examine alternative strategies designed to reduce traffic at busy parts of the network including:

- Spread the load over different modal networks.
- Manage travel demand—look for ways to reduce traffic at busy parts of the road network.
- Give priority to vehicles that carry the most people and high value freight.
- Improve land use and transport integration by providing a better balance of jobs in centres and corridors well served by public transport.

Emmerson Richardson,  
Chair of the Working Group.

# Branch updates

## Australian Capital Territory

*By Jerome Catbagan, ACT Chair*

The ACT branch welcomed three new committee members –Hitomi Nakanishi, Nethmei Senarath and George Karanfilovski. Hitomi has also filled in the Deputy Chair position that was left vacant with the departure of Alan Thompson.

As of June 2021, paid membership has doubled compared to the same month last year. There is also an active push for additional student membership, led by the branch's SMWG representative, Milad Ghasri.

The ACT Chief Engineer, Adrian Piani, joined the committee's monthly meeting in June and had an engaging discussion on the Engineering Workforce Plan, the role of transport professionals to support decision making and future planning, and TAs' views on Canberra's future transport system.

The committee is currently working to progress the following potential webinar events:

- Cycling in the ACT
- Faster rail between Sydney and Canberra

## New South Wales

*By David Lowe, NSW Chair*

Alex Jugueta has been appointed as the new events coordinator. The committee is actively arranging a number of events, the first of which is titled [Innovative Solutions for Rail Noise Attenuation](#) to be presented on 26 August .

Unfortunately, the Women in Engineering Winter Gala had to be cancelled due to the current COVID-19 outbreak. Consequently, we lost the opportunity to promote TAs.

## Northern Territory

*By James Jentz, NT Chair*

The Northern Territory TAs chapter is continuing to co-ordinate activities with the NT EngPrac committee to increase visibility within the local industry.

In June the chapter co-ordinated a workshop with the Northern Territory Civil Contractors Federation to open discussions into opportunities to improve deliverables.

## Queensland

*By David Hayward, QLD Chair*

The Queensland Branch farewelled committee member Michael Roth in July following his move to New Zealand and appointment as Lead Transport Advisor in Auckland Council. Michael has made exceptional contributions to TAs during his tenure, particularly with respect to climate change, micro-mobility and electric vehicles. There has been a further reshuffle in committee roles recently with Treasurer Adriana Gowthaman commencing maternity leave (congratulations!) meaning Jared Webster will be acting in this role during this period, while Teck Kean Chin will join the National Conference organising committee.

In June our branch held a roundtable meeting with Dennis Walsh, TMR's Chief Engineer for Engineering and Technology, where he provided great insights on the latest plans, opportunities and challenges the Department is focusing on for the next five years. This included technology trials of 'Hold the Red' and video analytics for near misses, and developing future technology plans and highlighting the importance of keeping industry up to date with technical publication subscriptions. The committee is making plans to establish CPD events that complement these initiatives over the next 6-12 months.

Our branch also made contributions as part of a joint Engineers Australia Queensland submission to the State Infrastructure Strategy and Road Infrastructure Plan community consultation in May which drew upon some key recommendations from a range of TAs Discussion Papers produced in recent years.

Unfortunately our planned event in June 'Competing for Kerbside in Brisbane CBD' had to be postponed. We thank Hannah Richardson for efforts in organising that event which many of us were looking forward to with the recent pop-up bike lanes in the CBD during COVID-19. We are currently working on a revamped version of the event for late-2021.

Finally, our committee is excited that Brisbane was awarded the 2032 Olympic Games and we look forward to the panacea of transport infrastructure to be planned and developed over the next decade for South East Queensland.

## **South Australia**

*By Lindsay Oxlad, SA Chair*

The Branch is looking at ways to strengthen engagement with the NT TAs Chapter and relationships with the rail sector through the Railway Technical Society of Australia and Chris Baker's involvement with the Rail Transport Discussion Paper.

Lindsay Oxlad and Nataliya (TAs Chair Tasmania) provided a response to Engineers Australia on the Area of Practice discussion paper which was generally supportive of the direction proposed by the Working Group but highlighted the need to maintain consistency with definitions contained in Professional Engineer Registration legislation now in force in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria (noting that interstate recognition of reciprocal equivalent occupations changed on 1 July 2021 with the passing of the Mutual Recognition Amendment Bill).

Scott Elaurant will be attending and presenting at the Engineers Australia Climate Change and Innovation conference in October.

The Branch is in the process of arranging for Paul Gelston (Chief Engineer, DIT) to host a round table of Corporate Members in SA to strengthen engagement with Engineers Australia's Corporate members.

Nick Holyoak and Graham Akers are arranging an event as a collaboration between SAGE/Tonsley and Flinders University once COVID restrictions on numbers ease later in the year. The desire by Engineers Australia to have members of ITEE participate may prove difficult because of the COVID restrictions on number for such events (i.e. cap of 50 people).

The Branch is continuing to explore opportunities for closer collaboration with the SA Branch of AITPM with a view of holding joint events.

## **Tasmania**

*By Nataliya Katsman, TAS Chair*

The Tasmanian TAs chapter follows the overall trend of growing membership numbers. We are also one of the few lucky places in Australia where face-to-face meetings and events are still possible (as of August 2021). So TAs members in the Greater Hobart area can meet their colleagues in person at our monthly meetings at Engineers Australia headquarters.

With Dr Lisa Stafford, an academic from Queensland who recently moved to Southern Tasmania joining our working group, we started planning a workshop. This event, currently scheduled for October as an off-line (subject to current restrictions) hands-on experience, is aimed at investigating the accessibility and integration of different modes of public transport in Hobart.

## **Victoria**

*By Peter Wills, VIC Chair*

August saw our Precincts and Their Role in a Global City event providing insights, discussion and career tips from Sarah Auld (Department of Transport) and Jacqui Banks (Arcadis). The event (now available on EA OnDemand) covered precinct examples from Melbourne, Sydney and international locations such as Paris and Rotterdam.

The complexity of planning precincts and the timeframe over which planning occurs were acknowledged as key factors. In July our society connected with Monash University as both TAs and Monash continue to explore opportunities for students and TAs members. Our next event is titled "Delivering on Plan Melbourne, how Suburban Rail Loop (SRL) will shape our City", where we will have exclusive access to senior SRL project leaders.

Our June committee meeting saw a discussion with Denis Johnston as we discussed the dilemmas facing individual engineers when working on projects. Finally, a huge thanks to our student membership working group who have been reaching out to universities and students resulting in a jump in our student membership. Thanks Madison Elliot, Oliver Yang and team.

# Western Australia

*By Flori Mihai, WA Chair*

An event on WA's updated bicycle network planning and infrastructure design framework is planned with the Department of Transport as a face-to-face presentation and webinar on 2 September 2021 at Engineers Australia and supported by RAC.

TAs will prepare a submission to address the recently released Strategy for WA by Infrastructure WA. Also, TAs WA continues its advocacy on some local matters including road safety issues and traffic management of road works.

Tanya is leading the work, in partnership with Engineers Australia, to organise a panel discussion event for the student audience on the role and contribution of engineers and tips for career development. Emmerson and Flori will be part of the discussion panel.

TAs WA will be seeking to fill the role of secretary as soon as possible following Paul's resignation from the role due to increased work load.

## Corporate members and partners

### New corporate member

We are pleased to welcome a new corporate member, [Institute of Transport and Logistics Studies](#). Institute of Transport and Logistics Studies (ITLS) are a renowned international centre for the latest thinking on the crucially linked areas of transport, infrastructure, logistics and supply chain management. Established in 1991, ITLS's goal is to contribute to the design, management and optimisation of infrastructure, transport, logistics and supply chain initiatives around the globe.

ITLS focus on providing impartial, evidence-based research on these key facets of Australia's economic competitiveness, environmental prosperity and social wellbeing, with a view to informing the management and policy directions of industry and government.

Recently ITLS celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> year anniversary and reflected on an incredibly successful three decades looking forward to the coming years in which ITLS will continue to be an exemplar of thought leadership in transport, infrastructure, logistics and supply chain management.

Corporate members contribute to ongoing TAs papers and industry submissions to make sure views of the industry are represented with government at both the state and commonwealth levels.

Head to the [Corporate Member](#) website page link to access the list of corporate members and a short bio of each. TAs welcomes the ongoing support of our corporate members, all of whom are listed below:

- AECOM Australia Pty Ltd

- Aurecon Australasia Pty Ltd
- Data Audit Systems Pty Ltd
- Deloitte
- Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR)
- EG
- Griffith University Cities Research Institute
- GTA Consultants
- Indus Engineering Pty Ltd
- Institute of Transport and Logistics Studies
- Lambert & Rehbein (SEQ) Pty Ltd
- Matrix Traffic & Transport Data Pty Ltd
- NATSIC
- NineSquared
- PSA Consulting (Australia)
- Research & Analytics Pty Ltd
- Rhelm Pty Ltd
- Strailastic Pty Ltd
- Transmax Pty Ltd
- Veitch Lister Consulting

## Meet our new committee members

**Nataliya Katsman BEcon (Hons) B Business (Hons) MBA  
(IT Management)**



Nataliya works in the Tasmanian Department of State Growth. She is passionate about data, new technologies and knowledge management and carried these passions through her career in finance in Europe, bringing them to Tasmanian State Roads. Nataliya's economics background, corporate experience, IT-focused MBA degree, along with her studies in innovation and research in organisational culture, help her transform standard business practices, explore new ideas and design future-proof and human-friendly solutions. She is now using these skills in the transport context,

analysing and modelling data for road assets valuation, as well as for Infrastructure Policy on National Heavy Vehicle Pricing reforms.

## James Jentz BEng (Civil) Grad Dip Mun Eng EngExec



James is the AECOM Darwin Office Manager responsible for the day-to-day operations of the office and projects in the office. He has extensive experience in project management, planning, detailed design and documentation of a wide range of projects including roadworks, subdivisional works, sewerage schemes, water supply schemes, drainage studies, commercial developments and local government operations and management with a focus on the provision of professional services to remote communities throughout mainland Queensland, the Torres Strait

Islands and the Northern Territory.

## Recorded events

Keep an eye out for upcoming events via upcoming [TAs national webinar program](#) and the [Engineers Australia events page](#). You can watch the webinars listed below that are linked to EA OnDemand. These events are free for TAs members, if you are asked for payment when downloading, please contact us at [transport@engineersaustralia.org.au](mailto:transport@engineersaustralia.org.au) so we can sort that out for you.

### [Movement and Place Policy Framework: Current Australian Practice](#)

- [Transport and COVID-19 – What has changed? What does it mean?](#)
- [Transport after COVID – Where to from here?](#)
- [Autonomous Road Transport – A Systems Approach](#)
- [Sustainable Cities through E-Mobility](#)
- [Smart Energy Management for Sustainable Transport](#)
- [Is Faster Always Better in City Transport?](#)
- [Bridges, Transport and Social Aspects – have we met all the objectives](#)

- [Household Travel Surveys in the era of Big Data](#)
- [Integrating Multi Modal end to end Journey Transportation and their interaction](#)
- [Australian National Road Safety Strategy Development](#)
- [Making a shift to battery electric vehicles before 2050](#)

## Discussion papers

In seeking to improve national well-being, productivity and sustainability by influencing key transport decisions TAs has produced the following discussion papers. These are influenced by Transport which we believe should be core touchstones for the activities TAs Committees undertake both to represent and deliver for our members.

- [Aviation Infrastructure Discussion Paper](#) - March 2021
- [Climate Change and Transport Discussion Paper](#) - October 2020
- [Maritime Transport Discussion Paper](#) - June 2020
- [Autonomous Vehicles Discussion Paper](#) - July 2019
- [Mobility as a Service Discussion Paper](#) - July 2019
- [Transport Engineering Education Position Paper](#) - May 2019
- [Transport Australia Society Road Pricing Discussion Paper](#) - May 2019
- [Active Transport Discussion Paper \(PDF\)](#) - April 2019