

# engineers canberra

ENGINEERS  
AUSTRALIA  
Canberra Division

## From the President



The loss of life, injury and devastation in Christchurch once again brings home the fragility of our lives and our environment.

As with the floods across many parts of Australia earlier this year, the role of engineers in enabling communities and society to recover from such disasters and rebuild becomes ever more apparent. Our members are often at the forefront in situations such as this and it is indeed unfortunate that it takes such disasters for media commentary to include the word 'engineer'.

Engineers Australia's 2011 Year of Humanitarian Engineering is intended to showcase the positive contribution that humanitarian engineering makes to disadvantaged communities, and the role of engineering in improving the quality of life. Our goal is to promote the significance and importance of

humanitarian engineering to both the engineering profession and the wider community so that humanitarian engineering receives the necessary support in Australia and abroad and continues to make a difference.

Within Canberra Division, you will see the theme reflected in some of our technical program content which is already off to a great start this year. A recent presentation on electric vehicles drew over 90 attendees to Engineering House. It reflects the diversity of our engineering community and I encourage you to watch out for those emails advising each week's program. If you're not receiving them and have an email address, please advise our Division staff on [canberradivision@engineersaustralia.org.au](mailto:canberradivision@engineersaustralia.org.au). Don't forget our Canberra Division Events tab on the [www.engineersaustralia.org.au](http://www.engineersaustralia.org.au) website. As events are finalised, they are progressively included on the website. As always, this newsletter provides a snapshot two to three months ahead.

I know from talking with some of our members, that some are apprehensive in coming to our presentations – the fear of not knowing someone else in the room. You'd be surprised – it is a great opportunity to catch up with old friends, colleagues and to meet new ones. For our student and young members of our engineering team, don't underestimate the networking opportunities available in that half hour before the presentation begins.

With the imminent launch of our Engineering Excellence Awards for 2011, I urge you to consider whether the projects you're working on are eligible for entry and due recognition by the engineering community. Division winners progress to the national awards held and presented in Canberra later on in the year.

Council has recently approved a number of changes to the Honours and Awards presented by Engineers Australia. For the younger members of our engineering team, consider nominating (or re-nominating) yourself

*[continued page 2]*

## CALLING FOR ENTRIES

# 2011 CANBERRA Engineering Excellence AWARDS

### Call for Entries

The Canberra Engineering Excellence Awards are an opportunity for organisations of all sizes, across a wide range of sectors, to showcase their engineering achievements. The Awards recognise and showcase engineering excellence in Canberra, and receive wide recognition in industry, the engineering profession and the community.

### Who Should Enter

Any company, individual or joint venture that has an engineering related project, product, process, report or other work that they believe is an example of outstanding engineering practice and that meets the judging criteria is eligible.



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### KEY DATES

Registration to enter : due 13 May 2011

Entry submissions : due 15 July 2011

Awards Presentation Dinner : 28 September 2011

Further information and entry forms can be accessed online at: [www.engineersaustralia.org.au/canberra](http://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/canberra)  
or contact the Canberra Division office on 6270 6519.

[From the President: continued from page 1]

in our individual awards that are open now. The selection criteria has been revamped in response to the feedback received from the judges and entrants alike with engineering technical competence now emphasised.

In closing, I look forward to seeing and meeting you at our various events throughout the year.

*Jennifer Muray*  
President

*Date for the Diary*

## eXchange Luncheon

**27 May 2011**

Boathouse by the Lake  
Grevillea Park  
Menindee Drive, BARTON

\$30 per person

Further details will be posted on the  
Canberra Division website:

[www.engineersaustralia.org.au/  
canberra](http://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/canberra)

## CALL FOR ENTRIES

**2011** YOUNG PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER OF THE YEAR AWARD  
YOUNG ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGIST OF THE YEAR AWARD  
YOUNG ENGINEERING OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD

These awards apply to practicing engineers under the age of 35 years.

They seek to acknowledge and reward young professional engineers, young engineering technologists and young engineering officers who have:

1. Engineering competence
2. Demonstrated leadership skills (including leadership of teams)
3. Positive/notable outcomes from their performance
4. Creativity/innovation
5. Community service to industry, the profession and/or society

For further information, entry criteria and to lodge a nomination log onto: [www.engineersaustralia.org.au/divisions/canberra-division/awards/awards\\_home.cfm](http://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/divisions/canberra-division/awards/awards_home.cfm)

**Nominations close on 27 April 2011.**

Winners will be announced at the Canberra Division 'eXchange' Luncheon on 27 May 2011. The winner in each category will receive a glass plaque, a framed certificate and a cheque for \$500.

For further information, please contact the Canberra Division Office on (02) 6270 6519.

### CELM Meeting

**Tuesday 12 April 2011**  
**5.30 pm for 5.45 pm**

Engineering House  
11 National Circuit, Barton

## International Engineers Evening

This evening meeting is to provide the opportunity for engineers who have come to Australia from overseas to hear and talk about their experiences and needs with each other and with other members of the Division.

Simba Kippaya, Jeganathan Janarthana and Subhash Dang will give short presentations of their experiences and then over refreshments participants can mix and talk about their experiences and needs.

The evening will conclude with a feedback session.

FOR FEMALE ENGINEERS

## The Corporate Game

How to Improve your Career Prospects in a Male-Dominated Organisation

**Wednesday 6 April 2011**

**5.30 for 6.00pm**

**Engineering House, 11 National Circuit, BARTON**

**Presenter: Dr Mark Toner**

Women face unexpected gender bias in many male-dominated organisations, and because of their low numbers, female engineers are more likely to experience this bias than women in most other professions. Mark Toner will discuss the problems female engineers may face in male-dominated organisations, and suggest a set of skills which women can develop.

**Further information and details will be sent mid March.**

## ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA CANBERRA DIVISION

# TECHNICAL PROGRAM

## CPD events for the Engineering Team

All presentations will be held at 'Engineering House', 11 National Circuit, Barton unless otherwise specified. Full details of each meeting can be found at [www.engineersaustralia.org.au/canberra](http://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/canberra) under Technical Program.

Date/time	Branch/Group	Topic	Speaker/notes
<b>MARCH 2011</b>			
<b>Tue 15</b> 11.00am start	Retired Group	<b>This is your life: Graham Conran</b>	Graham Conran
<b>Tues 15</b> 12.00 for 12.30pm	Mechanical Branch	Eminent Speaker Series: <b>Advanced Composites Technologies for Heavy Lift Launch Vehicles</b>	Mark Shuart – Senior Advisor for Composites and Structures, NASA Langley Research Centre, USA
<b>Thur 17</b> 12.00 for 12.30pm	Transport Branch	<b>The Impact of Transport Accessibility on Property Prices in the ACT</b>	Bob Nairn FIEAust CPEng
<b>Tues 22</b> 5.30 for 6.00pm	Civil/Structural	<b>Reduced Capacity of Paths of Egress – An Anthropometric Perspective</b>	Andrew P Montgomery FIEAust CPEng
<b>Wed 23</b> 5.30 for 6.00pm	Technologists and Associates	<b>Career Episode Writing Workshop</b>	Doug Tompsitt FIEAust CPEng – National Assessor Engineers Australia
<b>APRIL 2011</b>			
<b>Wed 6</b> 5.30 for 6.00pm	Women in Engineering	<b>The Corporate Game: How to Improve your Career Prospects in a Male Dominated Organisation</b>	Dr Mark Toner
<b>Tue 12</b> 5.30 for 6.00pm	CELM	<b>International Engineers Evening</b>	Simba Kippaya, Jega Janarthana and Subhash Dang
<b>Wed 20</b> 12.00 for 12.30pm	Mechanical Branch	Eminent Speaker Series: <b>Great Design Engineers = Great Achievers</b>	Dianne Boddy – 2010 AGM Michell Engineer of the Year
<b>Thur 21</b> 5.30 for 6.00pm	SSEE	<b>What is Sustainability?</b>	Richard Dennis – The Australia Institute
<b>MAY 2011</b>			
<b>Tues 3</b> 5.30 for 6.00pm	SSEE	<b>Sustainability in Canberra's Urban Planning</b>	
<b>Wed 4</b> 5.30 for 6.00pm	Civil/Structural	Eminent Speaker Series: <b>Engineers Involvement in Disaster Risk Reduction</b>	Paul Grundy – 2010 John Connell Medal Winner

**Members Please Note:** The Canberra Division is updating its processes for registration for technical events in line with most of the other Divisions. When an email notification of a Technical Presentation is sent out you will now notice that to **RSVP** it will say **REGISTER ONLINE**.

When you click **REGISTER ONLINE** you will be taken to a registration form – fill in the required boxes and submit. You will receive a notification email that you have registered for that event. For those of you who do not have email you are still able to phone the office on 6270 6519 to register.

### *Date for the Diary*

## 2011 LEADERSHIP PRESENTATION – 21 June 2011



The annual Leadership Presentation is the opportunity to hear the views on leadership from a recognised leader in a particular field of endeavour. The 2011 Leadership presentation will be given by the **Honourable Malcolm Turnbull MP**, an outstanding leader in a number of fields.

Malcolm Turnbull was Leader of the Opposition from 16 September 2008 to 1 December 2009. Elected to Federal Parliament as the Member for Wentworth in 2004, Malcolm was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister with responsibility for national water policy, and in

2007 appointed to Cabinet as the Minister for Environment and Water Resources. Mr Turnbull graduated from Sydney University with degrees in Arts and Law and later won a Rhodes scholarship and completed a further law degree at Oxford.

Malcolm worked as a journalist before he began practising law in 1980. Mr Turnbull left law for business in 1987 where he was responsible for the establishment and success of many Australian businesses. Malcolm has been a determined supporter of Australian technology and enjoyed a career as an investment banker. In September Malcolm was appointed Shadow Minister for Communications and Broadband.

The 2011 Leadership Presentation will take place over lunch at Parliament House on **Tuesday 21 June 2011**. Booking arrangements will be published in the next newsletter and available on the Division's web site nearer the time.

## ATTENTION RETIRED ENGINEERS

If you would like to be included on the mailing list for the Retired Engineers Monthly Events, please contact Colleen Mays on (02) 6270 6519 or [cmays@engineersaustralia.org.au](mailto:cmays@engineersaustralia.org.au)

## ATTENTION TECHNOLOGISTS & ASSOCIATES

If you have any suggestions or ideas for CPD activities for Technologists and Associates or have an issue you wish to discuss please contact Andrew McLarty at [amclarty@csc.com](mailto:amclarty@csc.com)

## Volkswagen Group Australia

Engineers Australia is pleased to partner with Volkswagen Group Australia and offers the following benefits to members:

- Up to 10% discount off the RRP of a new Volkswagen or Skoda vehicle
- Dealer delivery fee of \$1495.00.

Please consult with your local dealer for further terms and conditions.

**Lennox Volkswagen**  
150 Melrose Drive  
Phillip ACT 2606  
P: (02) 6282 2022  
F: (02) 6285 2688

**Gerald Slaven Volkswagen**  
10 Josephson Street  
Belconnen ACT 2617  
P: (02) 6222 2480  
F: (02) 6253 1298

Engineers Australia members must have been a member of Engineers Australia for a minimum of 3 months to be eligible for the offer.



For further information on Volkswagen vehicles [www.volkswagen.com.au](http://www.volkswagen.com.au)



For further information on Skoda vehicles [www.skoda.com.au](http://www.skoda.com.au)

## Retired/Retiring Engineers

**Australia needs your talent and technical expertise.** A recent US survey reported that approximately 80% of retiring Baby Boomers plan to work in retirement. This will provide a potential talent repository replete with every technical specialty, and type of workplace expertise, experience and knowledge needed in most sectors.

Some of the barriers to effectively utilising this largely untapped senior talent pool are the existing organisational (and often bureaucratic) recruitment policies and processes in both private and public sector organisations. These policies generally do not accommodate individuals who want to work very flexibly. Forward-thinking leaders need to recognise this cadre of talented professionals and need to develop personnel policies that allow accelerated recruitment, flexible contracts and fast entry and exits. There is also a need for managers to develop new management styles to deal with the depth of expertise and experience of this group, which may well exceed their own.

Based on survey information, retirees in this growing talent pool are already well trained, very experienced, inured to difficult project demands,

like to work, are reliable, need little management and deliver results. Combined with sensible recruitment and succession planning, using capable retirees will ensure adequate staffing for scheduled projects, provide more senior talent to use as mentors, and will also moderate staff costs quite considerably.

Employees are an organisation's single greatest asset with the power to grow or debilitate the organisation. Utilising the retiring generation will contribute to a continuing, competent and constantly renewing workforce.

If you are newly retired and interested in work, please contact [rob@engteam.com.au](mailto:rob@engteam.com.au) or Jutta Clark on 0409 220 884.

### UPDATE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

Full details of each Technical Presentation are sent out by email approximately one week before the presentation. If you are not receiving these emails perhaps your email address is not on our database or we may have the incorrect address. Please email [canberradivision@engineersaustralia.org.au](mailto:canberradivision@engineersaustralia.org.au) or phone (02) 6270 6519 to update your details.

## Funny corner!

### Surgeons know best about Engineers

Five surgeons were taking a coffee break and discussing their work.

The first said, "I think accountants are the easiest to operate on. You open them up and everything inside is numbered."

The second said, "I think librarians are the easiest to operate on. You open them up and everything inside is in alphabetical order."

The third said, "I like to operate on electricians. You open them up and everything inside is color-coded."

The fourth one said, "I like to operate on lawyers. They're heartless, spineless, gutless, and their heads and their butts are interchangeable."

Fifth surgeon said, "I like Engineers ... they always understand when you have a few parts left over at the end!"

## → 2011 year of humanitarian engineering

It's up to us to engineer a better world.

[makeitso.org.au/humanitarian](http://makeitso.org.au/humanitarian)

Engineers Australia is proud to announce that 2011 is the Year of Humanitarian Engineering – a year in which we will recognise the role of engineering in improving quality of life and disaster recovery in Australia and abroad.

2.6 BILLION PEOPLE



LACK ACCESS TO BASIC SANITATION

1 IN 4 PEOPLE



LACK ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY

1 IN 6 PEOPLE



LACK ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER

All statistics sourced from [www.globalissues.org](http://www.globalissues.org)



ENGINEERS MAKE IT SO.

Engineers Australia, a not-for-profit organisation that exists for the advancement of engineering and the professional development of our members, is proud to be hosting the Year of Humanitarian Engineering.

## EngQuest powered by imagination

EngQuest is a FREE, hands-on problem solving program for primary and middle years students. Last year more than 43,000 students participated in EngQuest!

EngQuest 2011:

- offers a great choice in student projects, including a new 'Rebuild a community' project
- features a new flash entry animation and fun IWB interactives, games and quizzes for students
- includes curriculum-linked support material in PDF and SMART Notebook formats
- engineer volunteers available to provide support via the online forum and where possible, through special school visits.

Join the educational fun in maths, science and technology. Each student receives a participation prize and colourful merit certificate.

Visit the website today [www.engquest.org.au](http://www.engquest.org.au)



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**16TH ENGINEERING HERITAGE AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE  
WREST POINT CONFERENCE CENTRE  
13-16 NOVEMBER 2011, HOBART, TASMANIA**

**FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT**

Hosted by Engineers Australia, this conference is the next in the series of biennial Australia and New Zealand engineering heritage conferences, the last being in Dunedin in New Zealand in November 2009, when a preview of the Hobart conference was presented.

The Conference Organising Committee is now inviting preliminary expressions of interest to participate, as registrants, as keynote speakers, as authors of papers or poster presentations, or to join the pre-conference tour. Further information including the conference programme, pre-conference tour itinerary, call for papers and registration details will be provided in the coming months.

The aim of the conference is to highlight the importance of our engineering heritage and to encourage actions which will help to conserve it for coming generations to understand, enjoy and appreciate. Papers which help others to achieve these objectives will be particularly welcome. However papers are not restricted to the conference theme of *Conserving our heritage – Make a difference!*

Hobart is Australia's second oldest city. It has a magnificent harbour and Mt Wellington as spectacular backdrop. Numerous historic houses and commercial and industrial premises tell fascinating heritage stories from Colonial times to the present day. The conference venue is on the River Derwent and 10 minutes by bus from the CBD.

**The conference dates are Sunday 13 November 2011 to Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

- Attendees will be welcomed at a social gathering on the Sunday evening
- The three days of sessions will include a Tuesday afternoon breakout for a local tour
- The 4 day pre-conference tour will take place from Thursday to Sunday, visiting the North and West of the State.

Refer to the conference website [www.cdesign.com.au/ehac2011](http://www.cdesign.com.au/ehac2011) for additional information, speaker updates and registration information.

**Conference Secretariat**  
Conference Design P/L  
Tel: 03 6231 2999  
Email: [info@cdesign.com.au](mailto:info@cdesign.com.au)

**Important Dates**  
Call for Abstracts – 30 November 2010  
Receipt of Abstracts - 28 February 2011  
Early Bird Registration closes - 31 August 2011