



ENGINEERS  
AUSTRALIA

Newsletter of the Newcastle  
Division of Engineers Australia

September 2011

# → 2011 year of humanitarian engineering

ENGINEERING NEWCASTLE

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## President's Column

As predicted, August was one of the Division's busiest months with Engineering Week activities happening across the Nation. Our Regional Groups hosted a number of Discover Engineering evenings while closer to home a Career Advisors Day was held as well as a Discover Engineering session. All events were well attended and, from feedback received, were enjoyed by all. The culmination of the week was the Sally Chapman Memorial Dinner. Guest speaker, Darren Lomann inspired the guests with his presentation on the activities and projects undertaken by his organization, Dreamfit Foundation. Dreamfit's aim is to design, engineer and build equipment to improve the lives of people with disabilities.

Over the coming month our Young Engineers will be hosting a number of events including their annual Formal Dinner which is sure to be a great success – purchase your tickets now to avoid disappointment!

The Division is extremely pleased to announce GHD will be partnering us as the Major Sponsor of the 2012 Engineering Excellence Awards – our most prestigious event on the calendar. We look forward to working with GHD and all our Excellence Awards sponsors

## Key role for GHD in Engineering Excellence Awards.

It is pleasing to announce that GHD has agreed to be Major Sponsor of the 2012 Engineering Excellence Awards. Wholly-owned by its people, GHD is one of the world's leading engineering, architecture and environmental consulting companies. It boasts a network of 6000 professionals who collaborate to deliver sustainable outcomes to communities and clients in the global markets of water, energy and resources, environment,

in the coming months.

Speaking of Excellence Awards, the Entry Form is about to be printed and circulated. Entries will close 31st October 2011 so time to think about projects that you'd like to enter.



The city of Armidale will soon be overrun by engineers with our Regional Convention being held there from 16th – 18th September. The topic "Sustaining Our Regions: The Engineering Challenge" will provide the platform for a wide range of presentations highlighting recent advances in engineering and related fields as well as the exploration of the issues facing engineers in sustaining our regions.

Don't forget to keep up to date with all the branch & group activities through 'What's On.'

**Paul Reynolds**, MIEAust,  
Division President 2011

property and buildings, and transportation.

Regional connections are central to GHD's operations. The Newcastle office was established in 1980 at the time when a power and mining boom in NSW had just started, Bayswater and Eraring Power Stations were being constructed, a major deepening of the Port of Newcastle was underway and the Tomago

Aluminium plant was being constructed. This was obviously a dynamic time for the Hunter which set the scene for decades to come, both for GHD and the Region. In 1992 the Singleton office opened and a presence in Coffs Harbour, Ballina and Port Macquarie followed. More recently offices have opened in Tuggerah and Gunnedah.

GHD currently employs over 250 people over the Central Coast, Hunter and Northern NSW. And in line with the growing needs of this wider region, GHD is continually broadening its skill base to deliver a wider range of complimentary services. Today, traditional engineering services are complimented with architects, community facilitators, planners,

environmental specialists, project managers and logistics support teams. GHD promotes Engineers Australia as the peak body for all engineering disciplines and encourages its professional staff to maintain a strong involvement in our activities. It looks forward to this greater involvement in the 2012 Engineering Excellence Awards.

Entries opening soon - **Newcastle Division Engineering Excellence Awards 2012**

Entry Brochures will be available **NOW**

Dates to note: Entry Forms to be submitted by **31st October 2011**

FULL submissions due **31st January 2012**

## Engineering Week Proudly sponsored by Aurecon, Ausgrid & GHD



Newcastle Division hosted a number of activities to celebrate Australian Engineering Week which ran Nationally from the 1st through until the 8th August. We are pleased to say that each activity was a resounding success!

A **'Discover Engineering'** information evening aimed at secondary school students, parents and teachers was held at Division Office on Tuesday 2nd August. Four young engineers gave presentations on their respective disciplines to approximately 80 guests. Representatives from the University and TAFE were on hand to answer questions from students and parents. The Division would like to thank Simon Rocco, Luke Houghton, David Sparkes and Lewis Garland for their excellent & informative presentations and Nick Bates for MC'ing the evening.



*l to r: David Sparkes, Nick Bates, Luke Houghton, Lewis Garland, Simon Rocco"*

A **'Career Advisers Day'** was held for teachers from Newcastle, Hunter & Central Coast schools. The Career Advisers, along with Maths & Science teachers attended a workshop and site tour. The workshop provided information on engineering as a preferred career path for students and presentations from local engineers who shared 'their story' about their engineering career. Representatives

from TAFE and University of Newcastle provided valuable information about their respective courses and stressed the importance of maths within the school curriculum. The session included enthusiastic participation from the crowd.

The group then traveled to Forgacs Shipyard at Tomago for a site tour which included insight into the Air Warfare Destroyers that are currently under construction. Our appreciation is extended to Forgacs for allowing us the opportunity to visit.

We'd like to sincerely thank our speakers on the day: David Sparkes (GHD), Simon Rocco (Aurecon), Luke Houghton (GHD) and a special thank you to Karlie Collis (Northrop) who MC'd the event.

Many of the careers advisors applauded the day saying it was one of the best and most informative days they have attended.

## Engineering Week – Sally Chapman Memorial Dinner

Friday 5th August was the Engineering Week Dinner incorporating the Sally Chapman Memorial Dinner. Approximately 110 guests attended the evening to pay tribute to Sally and her achievements throughout her long

standing role as Division Director. We were honoured to have Sally's family attend the evening.

Darren Lomann, CEO and Founder of Dreamfit Foundation, was the guest

speaker and inspired all there with his dreams and his work on engineering projects to assist and better the lives of those with disabilities.

The announcements of Young

Professional Engineer and Professional Engineer of the Year were made at the Dinner and it was great that Beau Taylor was on hand to collect his award of Young Professional Engineer of the Year, while Professional Engineer of the Year, Murray Thompson gave his acceptance speech via video, due to a previous engagement. Congratulations to both Beau and Murray.



*l to r: Paul Reynolds, Newcastle Division President; Darren Lomann, CEO, Dreamfit Foundation; Merv Lindsay, National President*



*l to r: Paul Reynolds, Newcastle Division President; Beau Taylor, Young Professional Engineer of the Year; Merv Lindsay, National President*

The Sally Chapman Memorial Dinner is to be included bi-annually on the Division's calendar of events.

## Alstonville Discover Engineering

### Discover Engineering 2011

On Thursday, 4 August, GeoLINK once again presented, on behalf of Engineers Australia, an annual careers seminar 'Discover Engineering' to showcase to secondary-school students, and others interested in an exciting career in engineering, what the profession can offer.

With GeoLINK's Charlie Hewitt acting as MC, eight presenters spoke to the audience about a wide range of real-life engineering experiences, their studies at TAFE or university, and their current positions. Participants also had the opportunity to ask questions of the engineers about their study and work experiences, as well as about the profession in general.

Representatives from both TAFE and five universities provided information about their engineering courses and career paths, while industry



representatives talked about cadetships, traineeships, and apprenticeships that are available.

Thanks to Engineers Australia, and sponsors **Aurecon**, **Ausgrid** and **GHD** for providing this opportunity to local secondary students to hear about a career in engineering and the various paths available to achieve their goals.

A special thanks goes to our presenters for offering their time, and travelling long distances to take part.

The 2012 event will be held on the first Thursday in August (to be confirmed). For more information about the 2012 event, please contact Catherine Cheyne at GeoLINK, Lennox Head office, on 02 6687 7666 or email [ccheyne@geolink.net.au](mailto:ccheyne@geolink.net.au).

## CELM update

### Local

CELM is looking to close out our extremely successful primary functions for the year of Humanitarian Engineering with the last of our CEO speakers in the CEO speaker series scheduled for the 27th of October 2011. You will need to book early to secure a seat as all events to date

have been extremely well attended. The presentation by Mr Barry Gear, past President, World Federation of Engineering Organisation will again be in high demand.

I would like to thank our Sponsors AECOM and the committee for their tireless work in planning and

organising this year's CELM activities. The forward program is being considered into next year and a survey will be issued before the end of the year to gather feedback on areas that CELM can improve and to seek ideas that you may have. I encourage all members to give feedback to best represent your requirements. The

committee is happy to consider any additional assistance or nominations to become a committee member for next year.

### **Young Engineer's [YE]**

For our Engineers Australia, Young Engineers [YE's] wishing to take the opportunity of gaining some extremely valuable insight into the CEOs of our CELM series, we are seeking a YE interested in performing the introductory role of our CEO's. Young Engineers wishing to be considered should contact CELM or the Newcastle Division office.

### **National**

The National activities of CELM, have continued through the year with the joint board scheduled to meet on the 13th of September in Canberra to ensure that National objectives are met and lessons learnt are shared between the various National CELM committees. Looking into next year, the National Leadership & Management conference will be held in Adelaide and will be very worthwhile attending. This conference typically takes two years of dedicated organisation and planning and is expected to be a huge success. It may be a good time to start to plan that Adelaide family holiday.

Christopher Scanlon  
CELM – Chair Newcastle Division.



Sapphire to Woolgoolga Pacific Highway Upgrade, New South Wales, Leighton Contractors

**building opportunity**

# LEIGHTON

The Leighton Group is one of the world's largest project development and contracting organisations. We are also the world's largest contract miner. Our goal is to deliver long term profitable growth and create value for our shareholders, our people and the community.

 **Leighton Holdings** for more information please go to [www.leighton.com.au](http://www.leighton.com.au)

## **Regional Convention - Armidale 16th - 18th September 2011**

**Gold Sponsor: Leighton Holdings**

**Venue:** University of New England, Duvall College Conference Centre

**Keynote speakers** at the convention include:

**David Hood** - Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Built Environment and Engineering, QUT, National Deputy President Engineers Australia

**Chris Davis** - Commissioner of the National Water Commission

**Jillian Kilby** - 2010 Young Professional Engineer of the Year (National winner)

**Martin Thoms** - School of Behavioural, Cognitive and Social Sciences, UNE

Guest Speaker at the Gala Dinner - **Dianne Boddy**

**To register visit Newcastle Division Events or contact the Division Office for a brochure.**

# Newcastle Science & Engineering Challenge – 2011

The following is a brief report on the Newcastle Science & Engineering Challenge – held 25 to 29 July '11, at the Newcastle Basketball Stadium, Broadmeadow.

This event was presented by the University of Newcastle, in cooperation with the Rotary Clubs of the greater Newcastle area, and supported by Engineers Australia, several Newcastle based Industry sponsors, Newcastle City Council, and Maitland City Council.

Ausgrid was the major sponsor, with naming rights for this Challenge.

This initiative is supported by the Australian Government through the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research.

43 Secondary schools (year 9/10 students) from the Hunter region



participated in this event throughout the week. The winning school on each day of competition, qualified to participate in the "Super Challenge" Final series.

The 5 Hunter region schools to qualify:

- Day 1 All Saints College, St Joseph's - Lochinvar
- Day 2 All Saints College, St Peter's - Maitland
- Day 3 Kotara High School
- Day 4 St Mary's High School – Gateshead
- Day 5 Lake Macquarie High School

The Northern NSW Regional Super Challenge Final Series were held 23 to 25 August '11, at the Newcastle Basketball Stadium, Broadmeadow. Results to be advised.

This program continues to grow in stature, and attracts huge sponsorship backing by local organizations that recognize the potential of encouraging young students to consider taking on science and mathematics subjects in their future studies.

Engineers Australia, participated in the program, along with local Rotarians and University personnel, to ensure that each day's activities proceeded to schedule.

I remain committed to take part in such a wonderful program.

**Earl Heckman**

**Young Engineers Australia Newcastle Division** proudly presents  
**The 2011 Annual Formal Dinner**  
*'Arabian Nights'*

Join us on *Saturday 22nd October*  
 At *'The Pavilion' Newcastle Jockey Club*

• *Pre-Dinner Drinks from 6.30pm*  
*Three course meal and drinks*  
 Members \$70  
 Non-Members \$90  
 Students \$50

Be entertained by *Camels, Belly Dancers and Grand Theft Audio*

*RSVP's close Friday 30th September 2011.*  
 Please visit [www.engineersaustralia.org.au](http://www.engineersaustralia.org.au) for registration form  
 or contact *Louise Duncan* at *Division Office* on *49264440*  
 for further details

**Principal Sponsor:** **NORTHROP** CONSULTING ENGINEERS

**Executive Sponsors:** **BAE SYSTEMS**, **GHD**, **Robert Bird Group**, **AMPCONTROL**, **PARSONS BRINCKERHOFF**, **SKM**

# Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Engineers Australia Newcastle Division offers CPD in a number of streams, enabling members to undertake a variety of CPD providing them with the opportunity to gather skills and knowledge to assist in all aspects of their career. The streams we have identified are as outlined below.

Date	Time	Event	Venue
<b>Electrical</b>			
12th October	5.30pm	HVDC Techniques for SWER & Capacitor Energy Storage Presenter: Mr Craig Harrison	122 Parry St Newcastle West
<b>CELM</b>			
27th October	5.30pm	2011 CELM CEO Speaker Series Breakfast# 4 Presenter: Mr Barry Gear	Newcastle Club, 40 Newcomen St Newcastle
<b>Newcastle Division</b>			
16th- 18th September 2011		Regional Convention 2011 'Sustaining Our Regions: The Engineering Challenge'	Armidale, NSW
<b>YEN</b>			
22nd October	6.30pm	YEN Formal Dinner – 'Arabian Nights'	'The Pavilion,' Newcastle Jockey Club

## Newcastle Division Video and DVD Library - Earn CPD points

Don't forget, there are a number of presentations available in DVD or Video format that can be borrowed from Division Office 4926 4440. Each presentation counts toward your CPD points. The full listing of titles has been updated on our website, to view please visit:  
[www.engineersaustralia.org.au/newcastle](http://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/newcastle)

## Engineers Australia Webcasts - ONLINE CPD

There are approximately 550 presentations available online covering a wide range of topics across all disciplines. Viewing these counts toward your CPD accruals - and you can do it from the comfort of your desk!

Online presentations are available for viewing at:

<http://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/search/events/mediavision>

Some event dates and times are subject to change. Please check our website [www.engineersaustralia.org.au/newcastle](http://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/newcastle) for up-to-date information.

All registration to events is now done online via [www.engineersaustralia.org.au/newcastle](http://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/newcastle)

For further information relating to any of the above events please contact the Newcastle Division office at [newcastle@engineersaustralia.org.au](mailto:newcastle@engineersaustralia.org.au)

## Registration for the 16th Engineering Heritage Australia Conference

Registration for the 16th Engineering Heritage Australia Conference in Hobart in November 2011 is now open. Full details are on the website [www.cdesign.com.au/ehac2011](http://www.cdesign.com.au/ehac2011) where the Registration Brochure, Registration Form and on-line registration are all available.