

news from

# ENGINEERING WA

ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA WA DIVISION NEWSLETTER JUNE 2010

## Earthing proves a popular conference topic

The WA Electrical Panel's two-day Down to Earth Conference in April, attended by over 230 local and interstate delegates, proved what a popular topic electrical earthing is.

At the conference more than 20 papers were presented, covering topics such as analysis, design, installation and testing of earthing systems as well as regulatory issues.

A concurrent trade exhibition provided opportunities for suppliers, consultants and delegates to network and share information.

At the conference dinner, entertainment was provided by the Goodfellas with an enthralling presentation by the Australian National Sudoku Team captain Mick Colliss.

This was the latest in a series of successful conferences and seminars the Electrical Panel has run over the years, aimed at providing up-to-date professional development for those working in the electrical, IT and electronics areas.

Special thanks go to Fiona Thorniley, Tim Davies and the rest of the WA Division staff, without whose hard work the conference would never have got off the ground.

By Andrew Yuncken FIEAust CPEng



Top Left: Peter Willis MIEAust CPEng, Chairperson, Organising Committee, Electrical Engineering Panel WA Division, opens the Down to Earth Conference

Top Right: delegates attend one of the plenary sessions

Bottom Left: a panel discussion was held to conclude the Conference

Bottom Right: Mick Colliss, Australian Sudoku Team Captain presents at the Conference Dinner

# AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERING WEEK 2010

make it so.  ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA

## Engineering Week to put profession in spotlight

Australian Engineering Week will once again be celebrating the spectacular range and depth of engineering that is so important to community well-being and the economic success of Western Australia and the nation.

Officially commencing on Monday 2nd August with a Breakfast Launch and a special Lift Out in the West Australian Newspaper, the Week will provide a range of industry and community activities and we encourage you to participate.

For more information on all the events as well as engineering stories and profiles visit [www.makeitso.org.au](http://www.makeitso.org.au)

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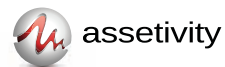
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## Over 100 attend Young Engineers Sundowner

The Young Engineers WA (YEWA) Division held their first event of the year in collaboration with the Young Professionals Network (YPN) on 23 April.

The event, which was held at Rigby's Bar and Bistro, successfully attracted over a hundred engineers and other professionals from Perth, as well as an attendee from Victoria.

The event was aimed at establishing a connection between the YEWA committee, its growing member base and the wider professional network.

Attendees were treated to a social atmosphere for networking, along with refreshments and an on the spot prize draw for a \$50 Myer gift voucher for all those that registered online and attended the event (congratulations to Mark Lee).



*Gemma Hirst GradIEAust, Andrew Bhatia GradIEAust and Vikram Kalaimani MIEAust CPEng at the YEWA and YPN Sundowner*

The sundowner signals the start of the 2010 calendar of events for YEWA. Some of the events planned for the year include a Quiz Night, Technical tutorials and Sports Day. For a complete list of events in 2010, check out the Events section under the Engineers Australia WA Division website.

*By Andrew Bhatia GradIEAust*

## Engteam.com.au the Engineers Australia recruitment service

Engineers Australia can now offer members and non members of the engineering profession a recruitment service. Engteam.com.au is a hybrid online recruiting system, catering for engineers, technologists, associates, graduates and students – the whole engineering profession!

The system will match you online with available vacancies posted by employers, and our consultants will provide information, answer your questions and assist in getting the very best solution for you.

Within 2 weeks of the official launch, engteam.com.au had over 6000 visitors to its website. In addition we have had registrations from 1500 job seekers and 50 new client registrations.

This strong response is very encouraging and trending in line with our expectations.

Why not have a look at our website, [www.engteam.com.au](http://www.engteam.com.au) ?

You can also phone us +61 (0)3 9008 8080 and Engineers Australia members can call on 1300 193 868.



*Brooklyn Group CEO Brian Russell (left) and Engineers Australia Chief Executive Peter Taylor at the launch of the new recruitment service*

# From the President

## Our Engineering Roots

Professor Tony Lucey FIEAust  
.....

**Engineering practice is increasingly complex, utilising advanced modelling tools in design and analysis. While the outcomes of projects can be truly awe-inspiring, Engineering may become a victim of its own success in that awe often precludes understanding or even attempts at it by the public. This can open up a gap between Engineering and the Community that our practice serves. Moreover, the modern tools used by engineers, and upon which they are reliant, are now so sophisticated that they can become 'black boxes'. Accordingly, an emerging challenge for our profession is to preserve and promote what is often referred to as an 'engineering feel' and the essential physical grasp that are the roots of engineering.**

Early this year a young graduate engineer working in the North of Western Australia contacted me to share a feeling that he felt unprepared for working in the 'real engineering world'. What he had noticed was that while he had the necessary academic accomplishments, he lacked a basic physical grasp of, in this case, Mechanical Engineering. Because he was now working in engineering teams that brought together the designers through to the on-site implementers, this gap made him feel incomplete as an engineer with real credibility.

At first pass, one could ascribe the plight of this young engineer to a poorly designed curriculum in his engineering degree. However, students continue to undertake laboratory work throughout their studies to reinforce the theoretical work imparted in their lectures and tutorials. Furthermore, students and young engineers use far more engineering technology as part of their daily lives than that of any previous generation. In fact, this can also be said

of the general public. Society is truly immersed in an engineered world. And yet the gap between engineering and user-understanding seems to be widening. The source of this apparent contradiction is that as we inexorably become more technology immersed, the complexity of that technology and the rate at which it advances can leave us behind in terms of understanding and masks the basic engineering science upon which it is based.

For the engagement of Engineering with the community this gap can be problematical, leading to potential disconnections between the providers of technology and its users. Engineers could become the high priests of mysterious arts that produce wondrous technology. This is but a superficially attractive role for our profession because for Engineering to yield its greatest benefits, designers must work hand-in-hand with users. Furthermore, it is essential that the public remains informed of Engineering, its foundations and its processes so that it can appreciate and support the part that Engineering plays in the well-being of Society. Accordingly, it is incumbent upon Engineering to inform and educate our communities, using expositions that are based upon, and appeal to, a physical grasp of the concepts of Engineering Science; or to use simple language, 'explain how things work'. In order to be good educators, it is just as important that engineers continue to think and understand in the simplest terms while at the same time mastering and deploying the latest and most sophisticated engineering tools of contemporary and future practice.

For young engineers, studying, growing up, and then working in a highly complex technological world, the challenge to develop an intuitive 'engineering feel', which embraces critical judgement and a sound engineering grasp, is growing.

The use of software packages and simulation tools has become de rigueur. The increased use of the virtual – that which is manifest in the computer screen – needs to be balanced by real-world engineering in order to develop critical faculties and a sense of the physical reality in which engineering functions. An unwavering acceptance of the results of a simulation is dangerous because such results are dependent upon the assumptions, and limitations, upon which the computational model is based. Even with such knowledge, critical judgement based upon physical experience is required in order to critique and interpret results meaningfully. Thus, as Engineering moves to the expediency and seeming comprehensiveness of complex simulation tools, it remains essential that we continue to value the connection to the physical world of engineering and the experiences that develop this essential grasp.

What, then, was my answer to the synecdochic plea of the young engineer? In this case, I drew from the experiences of my younger days and which I continue to practise today. I suggested that he strip, repair and rebuild an old engine and in doing so feel an applied torque, smell the effects of an incorrect air-fuel mixture, feel the heat generated, hear the effects of mistiming the engine, see the importance of lubrication... and the list of sensory experiences continues. This would, of course, reinforce his understanding of the principles of an internal combustion engine, but, more importantly, it would build for him a real and intimate connection to at least one part of the physical world of engineering.



## Nominations called for 2010 WA Engineer of the Year

Recognise and reward an outstanding engineer in the Year of Engineering Leadership

The nomination process has never been simpler, just submit some basic details about the nominee online before we contact them to supply the supporting documentation. Nominations are sought for both Engineer of the Year and Young Engineer of the Year across the three occupational categories of Professional, Technologist and Officer.

For more information visit [www.engineersaustralia.org.au/wa/honoursandawards](http://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/wa/honoursandawards)



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## ENGQUEST 2010 – Help us spread the word [www.engquest.org.au](http://www.engquest.org.au)

EngQuest is Engineers Australia's free primary school outreach program designed to get students excited about engineering, whilst also linking to school's curriculum in maths, science and technology.

The 2010 EngQuest site contains new and exciting features, including a new flash animation student-entry point, games and quizzes, 3D photo galleries and the site is 100% compatible with interactive white boards used in classrooms. EngQuest, for the first time, is expanding to include middle schools – years 7 and 8.

Help us promote the program by introducing it into your local primary school or perhaps your child's school? The EngQuest team are able to assist Engineers Australia's members in conducting school visits allowing engineers to interact with the students, helping them design and construct innovative engineering models. To find out more on how you can

promote the program in your local school, email the EngQuest team at [engquest@engineersaustralia.org.au](mailto:engquest@engineersaustralia.org.au)

Members of Engineers Australia are able to volunteer to visit schools, help assess online submissions or answer questions on the 'Ask an Engineer' forum. Volunteers are asked to visit the EngQuest site to register.

In the long run, EngQuest aims to provide students with an insight into the dynamic profession of engineering, which will hopefully one day lead to them choosing a career in engineering – helping to lessen the serious skills shortage within Australia.

EngQuest ends October 27 2010

Enquiries contact the National Coordinator:  
Sara Ross  
P: (02) 62706596  
Email [engquest@engineersaustralia.org.au](mailto:engquest@engineersaustralia.org.au)

## John Monash Medal for Engineering Heritage

Engineers Australia has established the John Monash Medal as an award to recognise outstanding contributions made by individuals towards increasing the awareness and conservation of Australia's engineering heritage.

The Medal is awarded by Engineering Heritage Australia (a Special Interest Group of Engineers Australia).

Any person or organisation is invited to nominate an individual they feel has made, over a considerable period of time, an outstanding contribution to engineering heritage in Australia through one or more of the following:

- the raising of awareness of engineering heritage within the profession;
- the promotion of engineering heritage within the community;
- the recording and documentation of engineering heritage;
- the conservation of engineering heritage;
- such other contribution to engineering heritage as Engineering Heritage Australia may consider worthy of recognition.

This award is open to members and non-members of Engineers Australia.

Nominations are to be in original hard copy signed by the person (or a representative of the group) making the nomination. Photocopies of non-original material should be legible and suitable for scanning. A "How to Nominate" guide is available from the Administrator of EHA and on the Engineers Australia website.

Four copies of the nomination and supporting material should be mailed to the Administrator, Engineering Heritage Australia, 11 National Circuit, Barton, ACT 2600, (Tel 02 6270 6525).

Four copies of the electronic version of the nomination is also required. This version should preferably be a Microsoft Word or PDF file on a CD and mailed as above, or sent by email to the Administrator [HSlat@engineersaustralia.org.au](mailto:HSlat@engineersaustralia.org.au)

Nominations and the supporting documentation should reach the Administrator by Thursday 31 August 2010.

## 2009 Colin Crisp Award

Late last year Engineering Heritage Australia announced that the Colin Crisp 2009 Award for recording and documenting engineering heritage had been jointly awarded to the Water Corporation of WA and the National Trust of Australia (WA) for their entry **River of Steel, a History of the Goldfields Water Supply up to 2003**, authored by engineering historian, Dr Richard Hartley.

The Colin Crisp award was established in honour of the late Colin Crisp, a NSW structural engineer well known for his work in the conservation of heritage structures.



On 28 April the Water Corporation Chief Executive Officer, Sue Murphy, was presented with the Corporation's award by Engineering Heritage Panel Chair, Don Young (left) and Division President, Professor Tony Lucey (right), at a function hosted by the Engineering Heritage Panel in Engineers Australia's board room

## Engineering Heritage Panel welcomes new members

The Engineering Heritage Panel (EHP) is seeking new members. The panel is affiliated with Engineering Heritage Australia (EHA) and participates in EHA's Historic Engineering Recognition Program whereby past projects having important engineering heritage significance are identified and recognised.

The EHP is also responsible for the recording of the oral histories of retired senior engineers who contributed significantly to the profession in Western Australia.

The panel meets on the first Wednesday of every second month, commencing in February.

If you are interested in joining the panel please contact the Chairman, Don Young at [donyoung@iinet.net.au](mailto:donyoung@iinet.net.au)

## Who says that Margaret River cannot produce a top quality Shiraz?

Watershed Premium Wines are delighted to advise that their 2007 Senses Shiraz was one of only five Australian wines to collect a Gold Medal at the Wine & Spirits Asia Wine Challenge 2010 and was the only West Australian wine to be awarded a Gold Medal.

This follows on the success of this wine at the 2009 Royal Hobart International Wine Show where it was awarded a Gold Medal and the 2009 Qantas WA Wine Show where it won a Silver Medal and was rated in the top 50 wines. At a recommended retail price of \$24.95 this wine represents outstanding value for money.

Did you know that Watershed Premium Wines, as Hospitality Partner of Engineers Australia, is offering members a 25% reduction off Cellar door prices with free delivery (for case quantities only) anywhere in Australia? For information on how to take up this offer please contact Tim Davies at the WA Division Office on 9321 3340.

## Engineering in Queensland?

If you are providing a professional engineering service in Queensland, you need to read this article.

The Professional Engineers Act 2002 (QLD), and superseded legislation, has been in place since 1930. You must know how the Queensland law applies to you, even if you live and work in another State or overseas.

The stated object of the Act is to protect the public by ensuring professional engineering services are provided by registered professional engineers (RPEQ) in a professional and competent way. The Act is also in place to maintain public confidence in the standard of service provided by RPEQ and to uphold those standards of practice. The Act achieves its objective through a Statutory Board, which registers RPEQ and enforces compliance with the Act.

If you provide an engineering service that requires, or is based on, the application of engineering principles and data to a design, or to a construction or production activity, relating to engineering this Act may apply to you if you work in Queensland or if your client is based in Queensland. The Act

covers engineering design and construction supervision activities as well as engineering input to manufacturing and production installations such as oil refineries and chemical plant.

The Act binds all persons, including the Queensland Government. It also may apply to Defence engineers who work in Queensland or who do engineering designs elsewhere that lead to construction or installations in Queensland. Similarly, academics and CSIRO engineering staff probably need to be registered if they are offering consultancy services.

It is an offence under the Act to provide an engineering service if you are not registered by the Board of Professional Engineers Queensland. If you provide an engineering service while you are not registered, the Board can prosecute you. The Board will prosecute you, not your employer! Applying for registration after you have committed an offence is too late and will not avoid prosecution ...

*View this article in full online:*  
[www.engineersaustralia.org.au/nerb/regulatory-schemes/assessment-for-rpeq.cfm](http://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/nerb/regulatory-schemes/assessment-for-rpeq.cfm)

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## City to Cape – 2100 sea-level rise

Coping with the likely impacts of sea-level rise on Australia's Southwest Coast – from Perth to Cape Naturaliste – by 2100.

**Purpose:** To raise the level of understanding of this important theme through presentations by experts and through informed debate and analyses.

**Date:** Thursday, 22nd July 2010

**Venue:** Curtin University of Technology, Perth (Elizabeth Jolley lecture theatre)

**Topics will include:** Geology of our living coastline | Science of sea-level rise, best estimates, drivers and implications | Engineering principles with regards to protection, adaptation and costs | Planning perspectives, issues and uncertainties | Social realities, loss of beaches, impact of sea walls, coastal retreat, community attitudes | Legal perspectives  
Focused on WA, yet many issues addressed are applicable elsewhere. Speakers and panel members are leaders in their fields

**Who should attend:** Engineers, state and town planners, government and local government decision makers, developers, lawyers, politicians, technological scientists, social scientists, environmental scientists, students, school teachers, and the public.

**For further information:** Visit [www.engineersaustralia.org.au/wa/sea-level-rise-seminar](http://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/wa/sea-level-rise-seminar) or contact Ms Kelly Pilgrim-Byrne, Executive Officer, Australian Sustainable Development Institute Phone (08) 9266 1792 or email Email: [k.pilgrim-byrne@curtin.edu.au](mailto:k.pilgrim-byrne@curtin.edu.au)

Hosted by The Academy of Technological Sciences & Engineering (ATSE), Engineers Australia and the Australian Sustainable Development Institute at Curtin University of Technology



## National President to visit Western Australia

Engineers Australia National President Doug Hargreaves FIEAust CPEng EngExec will be visiting WA in late June and several events across the regions are planned:

### Women in Engineering and Young Engineers Meet the President Cocktail Party

6.00 pm – 8.00 pm, Tuesday 22 June 2010  
The New Esplanade Hotel, Perth  
\$44 EA Members | \$55 Non-members  
RSVP By COB Wednesday, 16 June with payment in advance to [fthorniley@engineersaustralia.org.au](mailto:fthorniley@engineersaustralia.org.au) or Fax (08) 9481 4332

### Dampier

5.00 pm Wednesday 23 June 2010  
Topic : Tribology  
For more information please visit the WA Division website

### Port Hedland

5.00 pm Thursday 24 June 2010  
Topic : Tribology  
For more information please visit the WA Division website

## work, play and stay

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Located just a ten minute walk from the main settlement and situated amongst a nine-hole golf course the newly renovated Rottnest Island Country Club and Conference Centre is the perfect location for your next conference, meeting or team building exercise.

Contact our Events team on (08) 9432 9351 for venue and booking information or visit [www.rottnestisland.com](http://www.rottnestisland.com) for more information.



## International Conference on Advances in Geotechnical Engineering 2011

7-9 November 2011, Burswood Entertainment Complex, Perth, Western Australia

### Call for Abstracts Now Open

Authors are invited to submit abstracts of a maximum of 300 words. Authors of accepted abstracts will be invited to submit full papers for peer review. One author of each accepted paper will be expected to present the paper at the conference. Abstracts can be submitted online via the Conference website [www.icage2011.com.au](http://www.icage2011.com.au)

ABSTRACTS DUE: 30 SEPTEMBER 2010

The International Conference on Advances in Geotechnical Engineering (ICAGE 2011) is an inaugural international conference that aims to bring together academics and practitioners from across the world with a common interest in the field of Geotechnical Engineering. The conference will provide a platform to discuss the recent advancements and address the future challenges within the profession of Geotechnical Engineering.

It will be an excellent opportunity for exchange of information and ideas pertaining to the profession. Both academics and engineers are cordially invited to attend the conference to share and exchange their knowledge.

Hosted By:  
Department of Civil Engineering, Curtin University of Technology

For additional information:  
EECW Pty Ltd  
T: +61 08 9389 1488  
E: [emma@eecw.com.au](mailto:emma@eecw.com.au)



# AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERING WEEK 2010

*make it so.*   
ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA

**2 – 6 AUGUST 2010**

In this event-filled week, engineering opens its doors to the public, informing and inviting the whole community to share in the excitement, momentum and direction of engineering; it also spotlights the career and business opportunities that it holds. To find out how you can get involved, visit the website.

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

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	22-23	Perth	Contract Management for Superintendents
OCTOBER	12	Darwin	Preparing Scopes of Work and Specifications
	13-14	Darwin	Contract Administration - Works
	15	Darwin	Advanced Contract Management
	19	Perth	Contract Management Fundamentals
	20-21	Perth	Advanced Contract Administration
	22	Perth	Decision Making and Writing for Superintendents

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# Dates for your Diary

ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA  
WA DIVISION NEWSLETTER

Date/Time	Host	Event & Venue	For more information
Thu 24 Jun – Sat 26 Jun	Coastal, Ocean and Port Engineering Panel	Coastal Engineering Short Course 2010 University Club of WA, Hackett Drive, Crawley, WA	Visit: <a href="http://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/wa">www.engineersaustralia.org.au/wa</a>
Wed 30 Jun 8:15 AM	Society for Underwater Technology	Achieving Reliable Subsea Systems Parmelia Hilton Hotel, Perth	Please contact Joyce Bremner on <a href="mailto:j.bremner@sut.org">j.bremner@sut.org</a> Tel +61 8 9446 9903
Wed 30 Jun 5:30 PM	Engineers Australia WA Division	Chartered Status Workshop Auditorium, Engineers Australia WA Division	Register online: <a href="http://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/wa">www.engineersaustralia.org.au/wa</a>
Tue 6 Jul 6:00 PM	WA Oil and Gas Facilities Group	Just when you thought it was safe to go back into the water! Speaker: WJ (Ivan) Skibinski, General Manager, Australian Marine Oil Spill Centre Auditorium, Engineers Australia WA Division	Visit: <a href="http://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/wa">www.engineersaustralia.org.au/wa</a>
Tue 13 Jul 6:00 PM	Australian Geomechanics Society	AGS Young Geotechnical Professionals' Evening Seminar and the 9th Dr Baden Clegg Award Auditorium, Engineers Australia WA Division	Visit: <a href="http://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/wa">www.engineersaustralia.org.au/wa</a>
Thu 15 Jul 5:30 PM	Engineers Australia WA Division	Chartered Status Workshop Auditorium, Engineers Australia WA Division	Register online: <a href="http://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/wa">www.engineersaustralia.org.au/wa</a>
Tue 20 Jul 6:00 PM	Structures Panel	The QA, QC and 'QB' of Structural Welding Quality in the Mining Industry – Which type will you choose? Speakers: Peter de San Miguel and Doug Hawkes from Structural Integrity Engineering Pty Ltd	Visit: <a href="http://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/wa">www.engineersaustralia.org.au/wa</a>
Thu 22 Jul	ATSE/Engineers Australia/ Curtin University of Technology	City to Cape – 2100 Sea-Level Rise Seminar All-day seminar on coping with the likely impacts of sea-level rise on Australia's Southwest Coast – from Perth to Cape Naturaliste – by 2100. Curtin University of Technology, Perth (Elizabeth Jolley lecture theatre)	Contact: Ms Kelly Pilgrim-Byrne Phone (08) 9266 1792 or email <a href="mailto:k.pilgrim-byrne@curtin.edu.au">k.pilgrim-byrne@curtin.edu.au</a>
2 – 8 Aug	Engineers Australia	Australian Engineering Week including the Breakfast Launch, CELM Luncheon and Cocktail Party	Visit: <a href="http://www.engineersaustralia.org.au">www.engineersaustralia.org.au</a>
Tue 03 Aug 6:00 PM	WA Oil and Gas Facilities Group	Wax inhibitor selection for the Browse basin Speaker: Dr Braden Dunsmore, Technical Manager, Baker Hughes Auditorium, Engineers Australia WA Division	Visit: <a href="http://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/wa">www.engineersaustralia.org.au/wa</a>
8 - 12 Aug	Engineers Australia and the Asian Civil Engineering Coordinating Council – ACECC	The 5th Civil Engineering Conference in the Asian Region and Australasian Structural Engineering Conference 2010 Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre	For more information: <a href="http://www.cecar5.com">http://www.cecar5.com</a>
Fri 10 Sep 06:00	Engineers Australia WA Division	2010 WA Engineering Excellence Awards Cocktail Party	Visit: <a href="http://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/wa">www.engineersaustralia.org.au/wa</a>
18 Sep	Engineers Australia WA Division	2010 WA Engineering Excellence Awards Dinner Perth Convention Exhibition Centre	Visit: <a href="http://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/wa">www.engineersaustralia.org.au/wa</a>
Mon 20 Sep – Fri 24 Sep	Society for Underwater Technology	Subsea Awareness Course Parmelia Hilton Hotel, Perth	Please contact Joyce Bremner on <a href="mailto:j.bremner@sut.org">j.bremner@sut.org</a> Tel +61 8 9446 9903
12 – 16 Dec	Engineers Australia's National Committee on Applied Mechanic & the Australian Institute for Non-Destructive Testing (AINDT)	The 6th Australasian Congress on Applied Mechanics Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre	Visit the congress website at: <a href="http://www.acam6.org">www.acam6.org</a> or email <a href="mailto:acam6@acam6.org">acam6@acam6.org</a>

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