



ENGINEERS
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Young Engineers
Victoria

Young Engineers Australia Victoria (YEA-V) Annual Report 2009-2010



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new minds.
new ideas.



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YEA-V 2009-10 Committee members



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1 Introduction

1.1 2009-10 Overview

A competitive set of elections took place during the AGM, resulting in a high caliber group of individuals holding the capacity to improve on the significant achievements delivered throughout the 2008-2009 period. The focus groups of the committee consisted of education and membership, information, sustainability, events general and national/special events. During the year there was a need to form an additional sub-committee which focused on Chartered Status initiatives. The sub-committees delivered and supported a range of activities as described below.

1.2 2009-10 Deliverables and reporting

The reporting structure remained the same as the previous year. Chair and Vice Chair positions were elected before the AGM, and sub-committees were arranged and members allocated positions after the first meeting. Each subcommittee held a planning workshop before planning activities and constantly referred to this document during the year to keep track of progress. YEA-V maintained a national focus, taking strategic links from YEANC and remained regulated by Engineers Australia's Victoria division staff.

1.3 2009-10 Events

As in each year, YEA-V plan, host, run and report on events each month. These events are to fit together with the strategic plan and fall in the following criteria: generation exchange, technical, social networking, regional and professional development.

Each of the events were well attended and received by YEA-V members with a number being sold out in advance. The events run by YEA-V in 2009-10 are below.

Date	Event	Approximate Attendance
14/07/09	Joint Structural Branch/YEA-V seminar: Impacts of Climate Change on Infrastructure	60
15/07/09	Joint RTSA/YEA-V seminar: Railway Bridge Construction	80
11/08/09	Presentation skills workshop	60
04/09/09	Generation Exchange Dinner	120
13/10/09	Joint Structural Branch/YEA-V seminar: Challenges of Military Engineering	80
24/10/09	Regional Race Day	60
21/11/09	Waubra Wind Farm Tour	30
25/11/09	Movember Microbrewery Tour	70
09/02/10	Joint Structural Branch/YEA-V seminar: Working in a developing Country – Padma Bridge Bangladesh	100
11/02/10	Chartered Status Ceremony	20
25/02/10	Chartered Status Forum	100
11/03/10	Internal networking evening	20
13/03/10	Visy Site Tour	40
21/03/10	Lawn Bowls	40
27/04/10	Speed Networking Workshop	40
25/05/10	YEA-V/YWP Entrepreneurship Workshop	50
08/06/10	AGM	40
26-27/06/10	YEA-V/EWB Pathways to development workshop	20



1.4 2009-10 Other Events and Activities

In addition to the above events, YEA-V were also involved in a number of other events/ activities as listed below:

- Conferences/ workshops (YEA/CELM Leadership conference, EWB conference)
- Breakfasts/ Lunches/ Dinners
- Schools presentations
- University visits (O-Week; YEA-V Presentations)
- Industry presentations to employees
- Educational events (Eng Quest; Career Expo)
- Awards nights (Vic Excellence awards)
- Other Young professionals events
- Meetings (Board of Engineering; VDC)
- Regional Events
- Engineering week events



2 Subcommittee reports

As described in section 1.2 above, the YEA-V committee is divided into five subcommittees, with each subcommittee drafting goals and a list of deliverables for the year. Below is a summary from each subcommittee of the years activities.

2.1 General subcommittee

The general subcommittee comprises the YEA-V Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, National Rep, Past Chair, Board of Engineering Rep, Regional Rep and an assigned EA Division staff member. The goals of the sub-committee are to provide basis documentation on the YEA-V committee strategies and activities. These deliverables are summarised in the general sub-committee deliverable list. They include such items as: Goals, structure and strategies, background information on YEA-V, meeting minutes and agendas, committee contact list, budget and expenditure, promotional material, reimbursement forms and sponsorship documents.

The general committee successfully completed the budgeting, the accurate and timely keeping of meeting agendas and minutes, sourcing of promotional items and ensuring the committee were keeping in line with the YEA National Committee strategic plans and division guidelines.

General committee members drove several initiatives this year including instilling a greater focus on Chartered Status both for the committee itself and all members delivering a Chartered Status Ceremony, Forum and study groups. A regional strategy was implemented, through the appointing of a regional representative, and providing funding and management support to enable the regional representative to deliver events and support to regional members.

The General subcommittee has facilitated the committee's response to Engineers Australia policy, running focus groups on the strategic plan and Code of Ethics as well as participating in roundtable discussions on Chartered Status with professional development partners. A policy coordinator role was trialed throughout the second half of the year and this role is currently being reviewed to determine its effectiveness and if it will be continued.

YEA-V continued to foster ties with other Board of Engineering groups through joint technical events. Other relevant BoE events were also promoted to young engineers through the technical page of the YEA-V newsletter. During the year, progress was also made in enabling young engineers to become involved in committees of other Engineers Australia groups with several young engineers joining the Structural, Mechanical, Civil Infrastructure and Transport committees.

Strategic analysis was undertaken by the general committee running a SWOT workshop, which assisted in refining operational procedures and identifying future directions of YEA-V.

Although a considerable amount of effort was put in to developing a sponsorship proposal and maintaining relationships with a variety of industry partners, the availability of sponsorship during the GFC and post GFC has affected the ability of the committee to secure sponsors for the 2010-2011 period. At the time of publication the committee is yet to confirm ongoing sponsors. It is worthy to note that YEA-V are not the only committee currently facing this situation.



2.2 Membership & Education subcommittee

2009/2010 was a very productive year for the education subcommittee with a number of initiatives being well received. Several YEA-V committee members participated in Enq Quest & The Engineers in Schools program which saw a number of site visits, including Melbourne Girls Grammar and Marcellin College amongst others. YEA-V visited a number of the universities including Melbourne, RMIT and Monash, and a "University BBQ Series 2010-2011" is planned for the coming year and will be delivered with the support of the Engineers Australia youth coordinator. Through these activities, we successfully enrolled over 200 new student members. A presentation was also given to new migrants explaining the benefits of a career in engineering.

The membership subcommittee managed two events throughout the year. The first event was a joint workshop with the Young Water Professionals on Entrepreneurship which was targeted at the 28-35 year-old group and attended by 50 people. The second event was an internal networking evening where 20 people attended. This event brought together members of YEA-V, BOE, VDC and WIE and enabled them to share ideas and form closer links. In addition to these events the membership subcommittee was involved in the Australian Student Forum, publishing Kinetic (a free engineering magazine) and the Canstruction program.

2.3 Events subcommittee

YEA-V has continued to deliver a wide variety of educational and social events over 2009/2010, most of which sold out long before the event date. This level of interest shows that YEA-V is not only running events that are beneficial, but are also enjoyable.

Events this past year have included the Generation Exchange Dinner, lawn bowls, a regional day at the races, presentation skills seminar, entrepreneurship seminar, a wind farm tour, a microbrewery tour, a speed networking evening, and a tour of Visy's paper mill. As mentioned earlier, all events were well attended and feedback was very positive. One of YEA-V's focuses was to deliver a balance of social and educational events which can help a young engineer develop both his/her skill set and networking skills.

YEA-V depends on sponsors to run these events and appreciates the continued support of our monthly event sponsors: Gasco and SKM. Without them, none of these events could have gone ahead. The team of hardworking and creative volunteers who organise these events should also be commended.



2.4 Information subcommittee

This year has seen an enormous amount of changes with the YEA-V IT infrastructure, including but not limited to:

- New website, of which YEA-V conducted the beta testing for Engineers Australia
- A new document management system and intranet. (Again YEA-V conducted the beta testing for Engineers Australia.)
- A Social Media presence, which has had a significant uptake and has given YEA-V an interactive tool to communicate with members
- A new format newsletter

Website: Was updated, with YEA-V assisted EA through testing and feedback. The YEA-V page suffered a significant amount of content loss during the transition but due to the procedures YEA-V had put in place all content was recovered and the site is now functioning well.

YEA-V newsletter: Is going strongly, with excellent content being sourced from across a wide range of sister groups and organisations, including EWB, the Regional and the Technical groups. The email format for the newsletter was updated during the year and is showing improved readership, however there is an inconsistent but persistent problem with the Newsletter not being received by a random selection of our members. YEA-V identified this problem and has referred it to Engineers Australia's IT department to investigate the cause.

YEA-V Facebook fan page: was created, resulting in a transition period from the Facebook group to the Fan page. Our current membership is 500 fans. Having a fan page allows us to better service our members with notification of events, individual event photo albums and linking to other related events.

YEA-V Intranet: YEA-V now has access to a proper document store for all internal documents, Confluence. Training has been provided to all committee members and handover documentation is currently being posted to assist the new committee. The collation and transfer of documents from obsolete systems was a significant achievement of the IT subcommittee.

2.5 Sustainability subcommittee

This year the sustainability sub-committee have continued efforts to maintain YEA-V's carbon neutral status, with the assistance of all committee members reporting on YEA-V activities and events. This procedure was made easier with the development of an online carbon reporting tool. YEA-V has also continued to enable other areas of Engineers Australia to adopt a carbon neutral policy. The subcommittee were also extremely fortunate to partner with both Acciona Energy and Visy in running the informative and enjoyable tours of the Waubra Wind Farm and Visy Recycling Plant respectively. Continuing the grand old tradition of the environmental newsletter article was also a highlight for the subcommittee presenting a range of issues in a hopefully engaging approach.



3 **2010/11 Plans**

YEA-V's profile continues to gain momentum. In 2009/10 some significant frameworks were developed to build on our key strategic directions, including: promotion and support of Chartered Status, targeted membership campaigning, ensuring environmental integrity and communication planning.

In 2010/11, YEA-V will continue to develop current programs, support other branches of EA and encourage a sustainable approach to our responsibility as the premier professional association for young engineers in Victoria.

3.1 **General subcommittee**

- Increase participation of YEA-V members from outside the committee in organising YEA-V activities through the YEA-V Ambassadors program.
- Increased interaction of YEA-V members with other groups within EA and other professional societies in Victoria.
- Further develop YEA-V Champions list.

3.2 **Membership & Education subcommittee**

- Run two targeted events (28-35 year-old event and Internal Networking Evening with VDC, BOE, WIE etc.),
- Continue providing links with universities and other professional organisations.
- Continue involvement in various education programs such as EngQuest.

3.3 **Events subcommittee**

- Successfully organise monthly events in the fields of generation exchange, regional, social, professional/personal development and networking.
- Promote and organise a second YEA-V Ball that builds on the success of the first Young Engineers Masquerade Ball in 2009.
- Secure lasting sponsorship ties with engineering organisations.

3.4 **Education subcommittee**

- Continue the expansion of the Chartered Status subcommittee, to allow continual development of support services to assist members gaining Chartered Status.
- Establish ongoing alliances with the universities.
- Ensure thorough promotion of YEA-V events and services, to provide students with an understanding of the value of EA membership and to promote higher transition to Graduate membership.

3.5 **Information subcommittee**

- Continue to deliver an outstanding monthly newsletter.
- Improve internal communication, operating systems and processes to increase effectiveness, efficiency and user understanding.
- Be a leader within EA on the use of technology for the administration of activities.

3.6 **Sustainability subcommittee**

- Ensure YEA-V's activities continue to be carbon neutral by reducing and offsetting CO₂ emissions.
- Assist in the implementation of a carbon neutral policy for YEA National and VDC.
- Promote environmental integrity to members.
- Be a leader within EA sustainable operations.



4 **Conclusion:**

Over the past year the YEA-V committee has continued to build and strengthen its delivery of existing events and initiatives. It has also pursued various new opportunities to deliver greater value to members: Chartered Status focus, regional engagement and partnerships with other professional organisations. The processes and culture of the group are positioned for the next committee to leverage, although securing sponsorship will be an ongoing challenge.

The incoming Chair and Vice Chair are both passionate and capable individuals who have set a range of exciting goals to be undertaken within the next year. The election of a diverse and dedicated committee to support them will ensure Young Engineers Victoria continues to provide outstanding value and services to its members and further develop current initiatives.



Attachment A:

YEA-V Committee Members 2009/2010

Position	Name	Discipline
Chair	Ben Aldham	Chemical / Bio Process
Vice-Chair	Emma Russell	Structural
Secretary	Gavin Edwards	Civil
Treasurer	Will Gielewski	Civil
National Rep.	Darren Pace	Chemical
Events General	Brett Timmins	Civil
Events National/Special	Alicja Modzelewski	Civil / Science
IT Officer	Gamila MacRury	IT
BOE Rep.	Kenn Beer	Environmental
Membership & Education Rep	Julian O'Shea	Electronic (ITEE)
Sustainability Rep	Hayden Bed	Civil
General	Rory Paltridge	Electrical
General	Ivanco Neskovski	Mechanical
General	Carla Cher	Electrical & Electronic
General	Harjot Singh Bhatti	Electrical
General	Vaishnav Sundara Rajan	Bio-medical
General	Hillary Davison	Chemical
Past-Chair	Phillip Vrettakis	Electrical / Electronic
Regional Rep Ex-Officio	Ashley Trigger Sandra Perret	Civil -

YEA-V 2009-10 Committee members

