

A look back on another year for engineering in Northern Territory

As the year comes to a close, Engineers Australia would like to thank all members and non-members alike for their continued support. We look back at the achievements of the Northern Division members and committee groups in 2021, and their contributions to the engineering profession and the wider community.

In 2021, the Northern Division welcomed Richard McAllister FIEAust CPEng EngExec NER as the Division President, and had a number of changes on the committee. The committee welcomed Carrie Heaven, Shannon Keiran, Simon Flowers and Sam Strohmayer, while Nathan Ting and Chris Lugg will complete their full tenure in December.

In the Darwin office there has also been significant growth, Jen Mahony moved to a national role (while still based in Darwin) and we welcomed Shani Carson as the Member Engagement Manager in August.

President Richard McAllister says it has been a privilege to represent the engineering community in the Northern Territory during such a challenging time.

“The double-edged sword of the pandemic, that brought about swift adaptation, has also enabled mindset shift on major challenges like climate change and resourcing shortages. It has also necessitated the need to communicate in different ways, which led to the rise of online CPD and seeking out experts and connections beyond our immediate geographical vicinity.”

Our members have been integral to the progress we've made at Engineers Australia this year and we want to thank you for being a part of Engineers Australia. Our local memberships grew this year, an indication not only of how the economy has been growing, but also the hard work of the Northern Divisions General Manager Keely Quinn and the past and present division staff, Jen and Shani.

Our new 'Meet the Engineering Community' events, delivered in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs were well received by the members and broader engineering community. We had nearly 300 registrations and great feedback on the networking series. This shows us the engineering community in the Northern Territory is engaged and strong. We will continue to host networking events into the new year, providing key networking opportunities for all engineers.

The Northern Division successfully delivered four round table events in 2021, focusing on energy, infrastructure, transport and CDU graduates. These were highly engaging discussions between some of the best engineering minds and decision makers in the NT. Not only did the participants go away with some fresh ideas on intractable problems, but decision makers were provided with some key policy areas on which to focus.

The 'Coffee Club Mentoring' and 'Interview Initiation' programs were again well supported, despite the restrictions of COVID. These saw 26 students and graduates participate along with their senior mentors. In addition, our first 'Elevation Jobs Fair' was a sell-out, with over 50 students and graduates attending, with more on a waitlist.

We would like to recognise some of the supporters, ADG, RPS Project Management, AECOM, who've enabled us to undertake programs such as 'Structural Support' which managed to donate over 380kg of food to Foodbank. We also want to thank key partners, Territory Generation and INPEX who contribute to programs and functions such as 'Meet the Engineering Community'.

We would also like to recognise the progression of our profession locally, with 22 engineers becoming chartered and six engineers rising to the rank of Fellow. We encourage all other members who are not yet chartered to consider doing so, as achieving such milestones continues to grow the strength and recognition of our profession.

Diversity in engineering remains one of our key priorities in the Northern Territory and we need to continue as an engineering community to strive to do better in raising the profile of female, migrant and Indigenous engineers. Next year's program will continue the hard work undertaken this year to raise the profile of these underrepresented professionals. Look out for details of our International Women's Day event coming out in the new year.

Engineers Australia's holiday shutdown period will run from Monday 27 December 2021 to Friday 7 January 2022. During this time our office will be closed and there will not be any events held.

Wishing you all the best over the holiday period and into the new year.