

Happy New Year and welcome to the first 2020 newsletter.

Newsletters will be issued throughout the year to keep members informed of what the SFS Committees (executive and state) are doing.

Each newsletter will also be posted in the SFS website: <https://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/Communities-And-Groups/Technical-Societies/Society-Of-Fire-Safety> where you can also find our Practice Notes and Guides and past seminar presentations.

The Executive Committee consists of the Chair, Past Chair, Deputy Chair, Treasurer/Secretary, Seminar Coordinator, Conference Coordinator, and the Chair of each State / Territory chapter.

SFS Executive elections were held late 2019, and below is the list of the committee and a brief summary about themselves. Please come and say hello should you see one of us out and about. Also, do not hesitate to contact us for questions, suggestions for state events, or offers to assist.

Please direct any questions to lsadmin@engineersaustralia.org.au; attention to the person you would like to speak to.

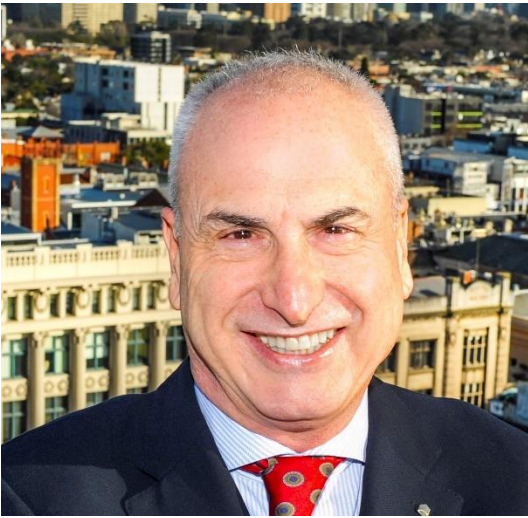


Past Chair

Dr Weng Poh served as the SFS National President from 2014 to 2017 when he strived to increase communication, invigorate the society, and increase its membership to over 500 – a target that has since been achieved.

Weng started his involvement in fire engineering at BHP Research way back in the 1980's when much of the pioneering fire testing and research was conducted in Australia. He was also extensively involved in Fire Code Reform Centre Projects in the 1990's when the performance-based design method in Australia was first developed.

Besides fire engineering, Weng's interests lie in art and craft. In his spare time, he enjoys creating small and interesting artworks. Mainly, he draws, builds, paints, and has recently become an avid sculptor.



Chair

Dr Jonathan Barnett is an internationally acclaimed technical expert in fire safety engineering with over forty-four years' experience in his field. Previously a professor at WPI in the United States, and has worked with the CSIRO, The University of Canterbury, the University of Melbourne, Victoria University, RMIT University, the University of Newcastle, the Australasian Fire Authorities Council, and fire brigades in Victoria and New South Wales. In 2001 Jonathan was a core team member for the Building Performance Study that investigated the events of 9/11.



Vice-Chair

Sarnia Rusbridge studied mechanical engineering at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand, before completing a Master of Fire Engineering in 1999.

She served as the previous national seminar coordinator and has served as past NSW chair, as well as being involved in numerous SFS practice notes and guides, and co-chaired the working group on the quantification of performance requirements.

Sarnia is an active member of the Rural Fire Service, and in her spare time reads, runs, swims, and rides two horses.



Treasurer & Secretary

M.C. Hui is one of the SFS Founding Members.

M.C. has a mechanical engineering background with a Master's degree in Building Fire Safety and Risk Engineering from Victoria University. Having worked in the fire safety and fire protection industry for more than 40 years, being an ex-professional building services engineer, and a current professional fire safety engineer, he is keen in transferring his knowledge and experience to the younger engineers, and is a guest lecturer at Victoria University and Western Sydney University.

Personal hobbies and interests include GO, martial arts, tennis, table tennis, swimming, and astronomy; but is master of none.▶



Seminar Coordinator

Blair Stratton studied chemical and process engineering at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand, before completing a Master of Fire Engineering in 2005. Blair specialises in complex projects such as road/rail facilities and industrial facilities, and is currently part of a team assisting various government departments with their ongoing response to combustible facades. In his spare time, he enjoys gardening, cooking and rock climbing

Conference Coordinator

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NSW Chair

Ed Ang completed a degree in Mechanical Engineering, and a MSc in Advanced Computational Methods at the Imperial College London – the same institution where Ed is currently a part time PhD researcher working on tunnel ventilation.

Ed is grateful for the opportunity to serve the fire safety community through his role with the SFS. Ed's main goal for the next two years as the NSW Chair is to increase the consultations and engagements of fire safety engineers with the public, governments and other technical organisations. This is on top of continuing to organise SFS members' activities for NSW.

Outside of work, Ed enjoys reading, cooking, and is also trying to write up his PhD thesis.

VIC Chair

Kjetil Pedersen studied fire safety engineering at the Stord/Haugesund University College, Norway, before completing a Masters in Applied Mathematical Modelling and Scientific Computing at the University of Greenwich, London.

As a chartered and accredited fire engineer, he specialises in performance-based fire engineering and risk analysis for building design and infrastructure projects. He is also a sitting member of the Building Appeals Board.

The VIC committee is currently in the process of planning CPD sessions for the year, including a half day seminar from Professor Jose Torero, as well as topics on cladding, group numbers, bushfire planning and resilience, and the use of building ventilation systems for smoke hazard management. We will also host the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services for their annual seminar.

Kjetil is otherwise a happy father of two boys and wishes that he had free time to indulge in scuba diving (as a dive master) and golf (as a complete and utter novice) and music (as a rusty musician).





ACT Chair

Brendan Rocha began his career in the fire safety engineering industry in 2010. Prior to his professional career, Brendan was owner and operator of a local labour and bricklaying business for 4 years whilst simultaneously completing a double degree at the Australian National University.

As part of the SFS, Brendan has been highly involved at multiple levels of the fire safety industry, from individual community and company presentations, to assistance with various policies and guidelines at the National and regulatory level. Most recently was his involvement with the team in reviewing the impacts of the upcoming Fire Safety Verification Method, Quantification of Performance Requirements, and Guidelines for Early Childhood centres.

Brendan's goals for 2020 is aimed at strengthening the membership base in ACT, as well as developing a link with SFS NSW to present up to six fire safety seminars to our members.

Outside of work, Brendan likes to spend time with his wife and three kids. He also likes to stay active at the gym and through a number of sporting teams (now at the social level only) in Oztag, waterpolo, running, and swimming.



QLD Chair

Oat Tukaew studied in the U.S. then moved to Australia as a fire safety engineer.

Oat and his committee are planning to invigorate the branch and provide more educational and technical CPD opportunities for members in Queensland. With the construction industry growing in Queensland as well as many forthcoming changes within the field of fire safety throughout Australia, 2020 is going to be an exciting year.



SA Chair

James Sunjaya is a practicing fire engineer throughout all regions of Australia. James has undergraduate degrees in Electrical Engineering and Medical Science and a Masters in Fire Safety Engineering.

James is also a senior fire fighter with the SA Country Fire Service and uses this experience to develop practical and balanced fire engineering solutions on his projects.



WA Chair

Siggý Ingólfsson has a keen interest in all things fire engineering with a focus on Structural Fire Engineering and Facade fire assessments having been a co-author of NFPA EFFECT.

The WA chapter has an interesting year in front of us on top of the usual committee meetings with proposed building regulation approvals reform being considered in the state. We are planning a CPD event on the VM in the year as well as a joint event with SoCLA.

Fire Safety Verification Method

With the proposed implementation of the FSVM, The SFS Executive formed a working group to assess the impact of the proposal on performance-based design. The working group prepared a report reviewing the application challenges of the FSVM, which has been issued to all members. Based on the report, the executive committee have decided to develop a formal Engineers Australia SFS Practice Guide, so our members know how to apply the FSVM. The executive committee hopes to have a draft for SFS approval in the next 3 – 4 months. As part of that process they will welcome input from members as part of the Practice Guide development process.

Quantification of Performance Requirements

The ABCB are proposing to quantify the performance requirements by 2022. The SFS Executive formed a working group to look at how the quantification could be achieved. The working group prepared a report that outline the process and proposed new draft performance requirements, which has been issued to all members. A subset of the working group will continue working with the ABCB during the year as this process continues.

Insurance

The NSW Chapter held a Technical Information Session on Fire Safety Engineering & Contractual Risk Management on the 13th November 2019. A draft contract is being prepared which will be issued to members for their information.

Cladding

SFS has published a Practice Guide on Façade Fire Safety Design (Rev 002 dated 15/03/2019) to provide the building industry a fire risk assessment methodology to determine the potential hazard of fire spread via the façade of existing buildings. The Guide offers a pathway to deliver a risk assessment appropriate to the situation being assessed and enables a level of safety to be defined, from which the assessment goals can be set and agreed with building stakeholders.

Claiming CPD Hours

As a reminder, SFS members can claim CPD as per the EA guide, noting that CPD does not have to be a registered event and certificates are not required. Hours can be recorded by a variety of methods, with EA providing an online option.

Australian Standards Committees

SFS members are always welcome to participate in Australian Standards committees. We will advise members when we are aware of opportunities. If you are a member of an Australian Standards committee, could you please inform SFS. We would like to get a better understanding of which of our members are taking part in the standards development process.

National Conference Coordinator

The SFS Executive committee is still looking for a member to take on this role. The role entails organising our biennial conference. Don't worry, this won't require you to do everything yourself, but to chair the planning and organisation.

Upcoming Events



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NSW Executive – Meeting

Sydney
5 May 2020

NSW Chapter - Fire Fighting Operations Seminar

Venue: Zenith Theatre, Chatswood
19 February 2020, 2:30 pm

SFPE 13th International Performance-Based Codes and Fire Safety Design Methods Conference

Auckland, New Zealand
11-13 March 2020

Fire Australia

Venue: ICC, Sydney
6-8 May 2020