



ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS NSW

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



To be presented at
THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday 12 October 2021



acse.org.au

85th ANNUAL REPORT

of the

ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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1. Presidents Report

2021 has been a roller coaster year for many people in NSW. Starting with optimistic view that we were over Covid-19 and back to our normal life, and then suddenly mid-year, everything went upside down and we got back to full lock down. ACSE wasn't an exception in this regard. We started with face-to-face events like pub seminars in the new fully equipped venue in Engineers Australia, and we even had a bowls day in late April! As we learnt some lessons from 2020, as soon as Sydney went to full lockdown, ACSE was ready to go to online mode and continued to actively engage with and promote the consulting structural engineering community. This was done by providing several "Pub Seminars" and "Lunch and Learns" for our industry partners via "Zoom".

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our active board members who volunteer their time to ACSE as this would not be possible without their help, commitment, and generosity. Also, on behalf of the Board, I would like to give a massive thank you to Chloe Wyatt for her commitment, effort and initiatives that helps us to keep ACSE activities running smoothly and efficiently during these hard times.

This year one of the main area of focus for the Board was to prepare a five-year strategic plan to elevate the profile of ACSE NSW within the broader engineering and construction industry. The last strategic plan that was developed in 2014 and has been fully implemented and are now the 'Business-As-Usual' operations of the Association - which is great.

The purpose of the new strategic plan is to position ACSE NSW as the 'go-to' peak body for comment, advice, input and opinion from other associations, government agencies, media, and the wider industry not just for the Structural Engineering profession.

The Board continued to take strategic approach this year to align the association with sponsors that we can form a meaningful partnership. This meant continuing our relationships with our valued and trusted sponsors who have been supporting the association over the years and reaching out and forming a new partnership with the Steel Reinforcement Institute of Australia.

Next year the ACSE is excited to welcome two new Board members, who will continue to provide fresh and exciting ideas alongside our continuing Board members. Unfortunately, we will see the retirement of Matthew Harding who served the Board for 6 years. We would like to sincerely thank Matt for his efforts and contribution to the Board.

For me it has been an honour and pleasure to serve the Board and the association which has a rich 85 years of history behind it and to work with such active, initiative and committed board members.

Ali Habibi

October 2021

2. Strategic Plan 2021

This year the Board of Directors agreed that they would like to elevate the profile of ACSE NSW within the broader engineering and construction industry. The last strategic plan was developed in 2014 and has been largely implemented, so that many of the goals laid out are now the 'Business-As-Usual' operations of the Association

It was decided that a Presidents sub-committee would develop a new strategic plan to inform the direction of the Association for the next 5 years. This committee comprising of Ali Habibi (current President), Paul Moore (Vice President), Joyce Lee (last President) and Chloe Wyatt (Executive Officer) have discussed and drafted a five-year Strategic Plan for implementation in 2022.

The plan consists of four key areas of focus:

1. **Membership** – changes to the structure of current ACSE NSW membership to include a tiered corporate option, for the purpose of increasing revenue and greater participation in programs and activities.
2. **External advocacy** – peak bodies are identified for the purpose of forging partnerships and evolving stronger working relationships with the wider industry.
3. **Stakeholder engagement** – programs and projects are specified for ongoing growth and increased resourcing for the purpose of further enhancing ACSE NSW's engagement with the engineering and construction community.
4. **Environmental sustainability** – sustainable goals are set for events, activities and business practice to ensure that ACSE NSW promotes and chooses environmentally sustainable options wherever possible.

3. Administration

Since the last AGM in November 2020, the Board of Directors has met each month, except for the month of January. The meetings continued to be held on the second Tuesday of each month, online via TEAMS due to ongoing work-from-home arrangements during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Board of Directors 2020 - 2021

Ali Habibi	Joyce Lee
Nishmin Hallam	Paul Moore
Matt Harding	Alison Naimo
Mick Jaroszewicz	Nick Reichinger
Andrey Kandic	Steven Wong

Office Bearers 2020 - 2021

President	Ali Habibi
Vice President	Paul Moore
Treasurer & Company Secretary	Steven Wong
Executive Officer	Chloe Wyatt

Election of the Board for 2021 - 2022

At the 2021 Annual General Meeting Matt Harding will retire from the Board.

Nominations will be raised for new Board Members:

Mitchell Starkey – Robert Bird Group
Andrew Derbidge – Partridge

Nominations for remaining Board Members will be raised for:

Ali Habibi	Paul Moore
Nishmin Hallam	Alison Naimo
Mick Jaroszewicz	Nick Reichinger
Andrey Kandic	Steven Wong
Joyce Lee	

Proposed Office Bearers for 2021 - 2022

President	Ali Habibi
Vice President	Paul Moore
Treasurer & Company Secretary	Steven Wong
Executive Officer	Chloe Wyatt

4. Membership

Currently there are 111 Senior members, 17 Associate members, and 13 lifetime members.

Annual Subscriptions

Membership renewal invoices were issued in July 2020. It was agreed postpone the biennial increase in fees due to the potential financial impacts of Covid lockdowns and reduced employment across the sector. In 2021/22 fees will be increased by 11% to \$350 p/yr. This will be the first increase since 2018.

Membership Strategy

The Strategic Plan 2021 proposes the inclusion of a three-tiered corporate membership option for the Association, in addition to individual membership. This will allow or larger firms with multiple members to process one annual payment and to put forward mid-level staff for the Associate level membership.

This addition will require an amendment to the Articles of Association and will be voted on at the Annual General Meeting 2021.

New Members

The Board continues to promote the benefits of membership of the Association. In 2021 applications were accepted from 5 new Senior members as well as tentative acceptance of 4 new Associate members.

The new Senior members are:

Ali	Alobaidi	Modular Engineers
Bassam	Matty	Xavier Knight
Mitchell	Starkey	Robert Bird Group
Pablo	Hardina	MAJ Consulting
Robert	Correa	Stantec

The new Associate members are:

Cameron	Haack	Approved Consulting Engineers
Chris	Iannuzzi	Rincovitch Consultants
Eliot	Greenwood	Greenwood Consulting Engineers
Volkan	Guner	Dunnings Consulting

Associate Members Network

The Associate Members Network began holding regular monthly meetings following the officiation of the Associate Membership tier at the 2020 AGM. An Associate Member Representative, Aaron Dewberry, was given a position on the Board and assumed responsibility for reporting between the two.

Attendance at the monthly meetings was very low and after 6 months it was decided to abandon these for the time being and focus on establishing a quarterly networking event, which would also serve as a meeting to promote Associate activities, including high school presentations and updating practice papers.

Industry Partners, Cookson & Roberts are keen to assist with organising and promoting the quarterly events as part of their partnership. It is anticipated that these will become a regular feature of the ACSE event calendar in 2022, when we return to face-to-face opportunities after Covid.

5. Events

MONTHLY - Engineering in the Pub

These events are free technical and project-based presentations held on the first Tuesday of every month. ACSE NSW Pub Seminars intend to offer a relaxed format allowing structural engineers to learn from experts and socialise with their peers.

When the Covid restrictions permitted, we tried to bring back face-to-face events and developed a relationship with Engineers Australia to use their function space. We ran several sessions as hybrid live and online events before the next lockdown forced us back to online only via Zoom.

The 2020/21 presentations were:

Date	Presentation	Registration
Tues 7 July	<i>Steel reinforcement manufacture, types, processing, quality, welding and support</i> - Eric Lume, SRIA	137
Tues 4 Aug	<i>Design and Building Practitioners Act: New rules for the construction industry in NSW</i> - Carrie Metcalfe, Partner, MinterEllison and David Chandler OAM, NSW Building Commissioner	266
Tues 8 Sept	<i>Centrepont Tower</i> - Elvin Candra, Principal Structural Engineer, Arcadis	169
Tues 2 Feb	<i>Exploring the insurance implication of the new D&BP Act & Regulations</i> - Charles Thornley, Partner, Lander & Rogers and Simon Gray, State Manager, Planned Cover	162
Tues 2 Mar	<i>International Women's Day Panel: Female Engineers of the Year 2020</i> - Emma Buis, Associate Engineer, Taylor Thomson Whitting; Aubrey Bullen, Senior Engineer, Robert Bird Group; Siohban Tapia-Smith, Technical Director Built Environment, Aurecon	40
Tues 6 Apr	<i>How to Become a Chartered Engineer</i> - Greg Ewing, GM and Chetan Kabra, Client Manager, Engineers Australia	64
Tues 4 May	<i>Award Winners: Large & Medium Projects</i> – Charlene Li, Senior Structural Engineer, TTW and Xavier Nuttal, Senior Engineer, Arup	103
Tues 8 Jun	<i>Awards Winners: Small & Unusual Projects</i> – Peter Standen, MD, Partridge and Mitchell Starkey, Structural Engineer, Robert Bird Group	89

Members Forum: Design and Building Practitioners Act – Thurs 24 September

Following the August Pub Seminar, ACSE hosted a members only Q&A session with Carrie Metcalfe and Andrew Hales – Partners, MinterEllison Lawyers

WISE discussion panel: Reshaping Mentoring during Covid and Beyond – Tues 20 October

Experts from Mentoring programs discussed the importance of mentoring, the benefits of mentoring for early and mid-career women and looked at what senior women can gain from being a mentor. We then discussed the issue of women missing out on mentoring opportunities during Covid and how to we build new ways of mentoring in the landscape of flexible remote working.

Annual Awards for Excellence in Engineering - Weds 2 December

The ACSE Annual Awards 2020 were scheduled at L'Aqua at Cockle Bay Wharf in March but due to the Covid-19 restrictions had to be postponed at the last minute. The presentation event was finally held at Mott McDonald and on ZOOM as a hybrid live online event, with two way zoom broadcast to all nominated companies.

It was a highly successful presentation and the Board have now voted to keep the awards presentation at the end of the calendar year moving forward.

Full details of the submissions, the judges and the sponsors are contained in the 2020 Annual Report.

The Award Winners:

Large Building Projects - Phoenix Art Gallery, TTW

Medium Building Projects - Ken Rosewell Arena Redevelopment, Arup

Small Building Projects - Balmain House, Partridge

Unusual Projects - Pyrmont Bridge Restoration, Robert Bird Group

Emerging Engineer of the Year - Nicholas Smith, Robert Bird Group

Female Engineer of the Year - Emma Buis, TTW

Gold Medal Award – Eric Smith



The Awards 2020 Presentation Night with two-way zoom broadcast to all nominated companies.

Barefoot Bowls – Thurs 29 April

This friendly game of barefoot bowling for member companies and sponsors was held at Balmain Bowls Club. This was a move away from The Greens in North Sydney which had become too expensive.

Attendance: 60 people attended
12 teams representing 7 member firms and 5 industry partner firms.

Design & Building Practitioners Act Members Forum – Thurs 25 May

The ACSE board presented an overview of the new regulations and the outcomes of participation in various consultations in preparation for the Design and Building Practitioners Act 2021, which came into effect on July 1st.

More than 60 members attended the forum, to discuss what the final regulations of the D&BP Act mean for the Structural Engineering profession.



Barefoot Bowls teams at Balmain Bowls Club



Members Forum about the D&BP Act, hosted by TTW

Industry Partner Events

This year the Industry Partners Meet & Greet was held as an evening drinks event following the December Board meeting, before the Board went out for their Christmas dinner. This format worked well as an opportunity for Industry Partners to meet with the Board of Directors and helped improve engagement between the Board and our Partners.

To help compensate our partners for missing out on the face-to-face networking opportunities at live events due to the ongoing online format during the Covid-19 pandemic, we continued with the Lunch and Learn series. These sessions ran every Thursday lunchtime in November and June with a different partner presenting each week to showcase their products and services.

6. Education

University Engagement

There was one guest lecture this year. Andrey Kandic gave a lecture to students at Western Sydney University on Friday 30 April about Bridge Design.

In August 2020 ACSE met with the heads of Faculty at each of the major Sydney universities to discuss how best to facilitate engagement with them and their students. The following opportunities were identified but efforts to implement them have been hampered by Covid-19 and the ACSE Board hopes to pursue these in 2022:

- Guest Lectures by senior members to university students
- PHD research presentations given at Associate Network events
- Consultation with ACSE for enhancing or improving internship placement opportunities

High School Careers Presentations

The Board have not carried out any formal presentations this year. The Associate Network will be managing High School engagement next year.

ACSE have connected with the STEM coordinator at Engineers Australia to improve recruitment of Structural Engineers to participate in their high school workshops and careers fairs.

7. Advocacy and Industry Engagement

Design and Building Practitioners Act sub-committee

The ACSE board established a sub-committee to review and address information as it emerged regarding the new regulations and their implementation. This committee participated in industry roundtables, provided feedback to government, met with the small business commission, consulted with lawyers and insurance providers, and provided information to our members.

A summary of this work can be viewed on the ACSE website here: acse.org.au/dbp-act/

Standards Committees

ACSE have been liaising with Standards Australia to see how our members can get involved with shaping future editions of the Codes we use in design. ACSE are seeking to facilitate opportunities for representatives for some of the forthcoming Technical Committees, Sub Committees and Working Groups that will be updating aspects of the Codes.

Women In Structural Engineering (WISE) Network

We continued to promote our *Women in Structural Engineering Network* but were hampered by the Covid-19 restrictions on gathering and social events. We held one discussion group this year.

8. Practice Papers

The ACSE has not developed or published any new practice papers this year. The Associates Network will undertake a review and updates next year.

9. Charity Partner

The charity partnership with Partner Housing was established in 2017 and ACSE supports this organisation by recruiting pro-bono volunteers and promoting their work where possible. Due to the limitations placed on events and activities because of the Covid pandemic we have not been able to effectively engage with our charity partner this year.

10. Finance

The ACSE have returned quarterly Business Activity Statements, using cash Transaction Reporting. The Association maintains a term deposit and a transaction account.

Industry Partnerships

Annual Industry Partnership agreements were issued at the start of the financial year. The 2020/2021 Industry Partners are:

• AFS	\$4,750
• Inducta	\$4,750
• Peikko	\$4,750
• Penetron	\$4,750
• Ramset Reid	\$4,750
• Steel Reinforcement Institute	\$4,750
• Ultrafloor	\$4,750
• Cookson & Roberts	\$3,562 (reduced introduction price)

Financial Position

The ACSE maintains a term deposit and a cheque account with these balances at 30 June 2021:

Current Account = \$17,547

Term Deposit = \$70,248

Financial Summary for year ending June 2021

Total Income	\$83,784
Total Expenses	\$71,917
Profit / Loss	<u>\$11,867</u>

Financial Reports

The full financial report is available on request as a separate document and includes:

- income statement
- balance sheet
- notes to the statement
- director's declaration
- complication report

11. Annual General Meeting 2021 - Order of Proceedings

1. **Presidents Welcome:** Ali Habibi
Welcome & Apologies
Confirmation of the 2020 AGM minutes
Matters arising from the minutes
2. **Summary of the Annual Report:** Ali Habibi
3. **Charity Partner Update:** Rod Johnston
4. **Financial Summary:** Steven Wong
5. **Membership Report:** Joyce Lee
Associate Members Network
Presentation of **New Members**
Presentation of Membership section of draft strategic plan
6. **Administration for 2022:** Ali Habibi
Acknowledgment of retiring board members
Nominations for new board members
Appoint office bearers
7. **General Business**, open the floor to members to submit matters for consideration
 - Impact of D&BP Act Regulations on PI Insurance renewals