



WA BRANCH PRESIDENTS REPORT 2009

This past year has been historical for WA Branch in some respects. It has been full of technical events, a major conference as well as a number of other activities with a focus on air quality. The 19th International Clean Air and Environment Conference was a major project that consumed the efforts of many of our members. Having a financially viable conference here in Perth was a dream that seemed almost impossible to some of us including me until same last time last year. Although the numbers are still being finalised, I can definitely say that the conference was a very successful event held in a constrained economic environment from 6th to 9th Sep, 2009 at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. The theme of the conference was “Air Quality and Economic Development: Challenges and Solutions”.

Keynote speakers included:

- Dr Paul A. Solomon, US EPA, Office of Research and Development, USA
- Professor Peter Newman, Prof of Sustainability, Curtin University, WA
- Mr Nick Otter, CEO, Global Carbon Capture and Storage Institute, ACT; and
- Dr Martin Cope, Centre for Australian Climate and Weather Research, VIC.

The conference included stimulating presentations and discussion on key air quality issues and enabled attendees to network with people from similar positions in different parts of Australia and around the world. WA Minister for Environment and Youth, Donna Faragher officially opened the event. In a departure from the heavily science and research based topic sessions, a highlight of the conference was an hour long presentation by six students representing two Perth-based AirWatch schools, Murdoch College and Serpentine Primary School. The exceptional quality of the students' presentations drew a warm response from delegates and subsequently CASANZ Executive invited AirWatch to become a regular feature of all future CASANZ conferences.

Over this year the WA branch has presented numerous technical workshops and presentations from experienced air quality professionals. One of the WA Branch events I had the pleasure of attending was an excellent presentation by Keith Cadee and Ian Wallis from Water Corporation, to over 50 guests in a technical seminar held in joint partnership with the Australian Water Association. Title of their presentation was “Interesting aspects of odour upgrade at Woodman Point Treatment Plant”. This presentation provided an introduction to design principles and solutions used to achieve effective odour control at Woodman Point Treatment Plant, differences between theory and practice and issues related to odour perception.

And most recently, I attended an informative half-day workshop on “Interesting Aspects of Fine Particles- Science and Management”. Three presentations specifically focussed on

- *Particle Measurement Technology*
- *Particle Control Technology - Industrial Perspective*
- *Fine Particles - Overview of health, toxicology and considerations for Health Risk Assessment -*

The event was sponsored by WA Department of Health (DoH) and Emission Assessments Pty Ltd and presenters included Giacomo Collica, Dr Peter Forester and Mirella Goetzmann.

Added to this flurry of activity, we also got invitation from the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) of Western Australia to provide comments on the draft State Environmental (Ambient Air) Policy 2009. The policy along with an explanatory document has been developed by the EPA which sets out how Western Australia will implement the National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure.

So, where do we go from here? Now while the conference is out of way, WA Branch needs to focus on exploring ways for enhancement of public participation in CASANZ workshops/seminars, increasing our membership numbers to incorporate more professionals from regional WA as well as tertiary institutions to contribute towards our goal of achieving clean air at all platforms. I encourage you to have your say in these important areas and welcome suggestions where our Branch can make constructive contribution.

Thank you for attending this mornings AGM. I trust it has been worth your time. I hope to see you all at many more CASANZ events in the future.

Farah Adeeb
Branch President