Another successful IPWEAQ state conference, held in the north this year is now behind us which foreshadows the winding up of another year that passed by all too quickly.

Aside from the state conference (and 12.5 CPD hours), IPWEAQ delivered a number of other professional development programs for the NQ Branch this year including:

- Managing Risks on Lower Order Roads, Cairns, September 2017
- Managing Risks on Lower Order Roads, Townsville, September 2017
- AAPA Pavement Spray, Cloncurry, September 2017
- Supervisor’s Workshop, Cloncurry, February 2017

If you were unable to attend the state conference, the podcasts of all 44 presentations plus papers and (PowerPoint) presentations are available in the IPWEAQ Knowledge Centre. The cost for members to subscribe to the podcasts is $600 plus GST and $900 plus GST for non-members. Delegates are able to access these as part of their conference registration.

With 2018 just around the corner, planning is underway for the NQ Branch conference in Cairns, 18-20 April. We are looking for papers on projects that might not have gone so well and invite you to share your lessons learned with others. Please contact Craig Moss, Director, Professional & Career Development if you would like to present. We would also like to encourage the younger members of your team to take the first step in writing a paper and presenting at a branch conference. Up to 45 CPD hours are available.

Two students from JCU presented at the inaugural IPWEAQ Futures Challenge held at the state conference: Michael Sarrun presented on his thesis, ‘optimal design of multi-purpose reservoir system to meet water demands in Townsville’ and Daniel Marais presented on behalf of his team member, Janelle Ogg on the ‘influence of compressibility on soil susceptibility to contact erosion’. You can read about their experiences attending the IPWEAQ state conference in this issue of Engineering for Public Works.

There are a number of PD programs planned for delivery in the north in 2018 including:

- QUDM, Townsville - 6 March 2018
- QUDM, Cairns - 7 March 2018
- RSA, Townsville – 20 March 2018
- RSA Refresher, Townsville – 22 March 2018
- Managing Risks on Lower Order Roads, Cloncurry, April 2018

Other courses to be scheduled include Bridge Inspections Level 1 & 2, Grants and Funding, Understanding Extended Design Domain (EDD) applications, Supervisor Workshops, and Introduction to Asset Management, all in the first half of 2018. New programs for grader operators and timber bridge maintenance are also now in development.

The new and improved IPWEAQ PD program under the direction of Craig Moss is a ‘needs-based’ program so please be sure to contact Craig to discuss whatever issues you are facing in your council.

Seren McKenzie has chosen MS Queensland for the President’s Charity. There are a number of fund-raising activities available including a swimathon to be held in Cairns on Friday 20 April. If you are interested in participating, please complete the form on the website. IPWEAQ team polo shirts and caps will be provided for all participants. Non-members welcome.

The IPWEAQ 2018 Conference Grand Slam gets underway in March with the SWQ Branch conference to be held in Goondiwindi. This is followed by the NQ Branch conference in Cairns, the CQ Branch conference in Barcaldine with the state conference to be held in the SEQ Branch on the Gold Coast.

Best wishes to you and your family for Christmas and the year ahead.

Bruce Gardiner
NQ Branch President