

2023 Jan/Feb Newsletter

Message from the Chair

We hope everyone had a great summer and holiday season. For many of us, it's back to the daily new normal routine of work. We start this year with a positive and optimistic view to the year. We have had our first event of the year, a plant tour of the Poly propylene plant which was very well subscribed. A big thank you Viva Energy for hosting this plant tour and our hardworking committee member Rory for making it all happen.

A big welcome to all our new members who recently joined us. We are very pleased to see a significant numbers of engineering students joining GREG and also participating at the PPU plant tour.

Our AGM is scheduled for the 23rd March and immediately after the AGM we have an exciting technical speaker from Deakin University to present on Research Advancements On Traditional & Engineered Materials For Structural Applications. I would like to call on our members to consider helping out on the committee with the running of GREG as elections will be held at the AGM.

We already have a handful of events planned for the year and I look forward to seeing you all at the AGM and throughout the year.

Bernie

PolyPropylene Unit Plant Tour – Viva Energy, 16th Feb 2023

The Polypropylene Plant Tour was a sell out with a full 19 attendees, a mix of members , guests and student members. It was great to see quite a few Deakin Engineering students at this plant tour. We were welcomed by the site manager Scott Thomson who gave a brief overview of the Polymer business while his operational team gave a more detail explanation of the polymerisation process. Scott also alerted that Viva Energy is looking to hire talented engineers into the business and this is encouraging for Geelong and for our engineering profession.



The tour concluded with a reminder of the importance of maintaining a safety culture of the highest degree. Our host was then thanked by GREG's President, Bernie, for an excellent tour before we filed out through security.

For a more detail encounter of the plant tour can be found on our website, <https://www.greg.asn.au/news>.

Van Burston

Info – Engineers Registration - Electrical and Electronic Engineering

The deadline for professional electrical and electronic engineers to be registered in Victoria is 1 June 2023.

It is recommended that affected engineers complete the first step of applying for a competency assessment by March 2023 at the latest, three months before the date you are required to be registered. This will allow six to eight weeks to gain an assessment from the appropriate assessing authorities such as Engineers Australia or Professionals Australia and 28 days for the Business Licensing Authority (BLA) to process the application (as recommended by BLA).

There is a backlog of applications with assessing authorities and the BLA, so completing the first step by March should help engineers to get registered by the June deadline. This is particularly important if you require this registration for signing off designs such as in the building industry and require building endorsement.

For more information about further requirements to become registered in Victoria see our state registration information webpage.

On 1 March Engineers Australia will host a free online information session to help electrical and electronics engineers to get a better understanding of who needs to be registered and what the requirements are. Professionals Australia also offer similar online information sessions, see their website <https://www.rpeng.org.au/>

From 1 June there will be serious implications for anyone attempting to provide professional electrical or electronics engineering services in Victoria without registration.

If you are not registered, you will either need to work under the direct supervision of a registered engineer or only work in accordance with a prescriptive standard to not commit an offence under the legislation.

It is an offence under sections 67 and 68 of the Professional Engineers Registration Act 2019 to provide professional engineering services without registration or to hold out to be registered or endorsed without registration, with those breaching the rules risking fines of up to \$90,870 per offence.

Victorian registration has been rolling out over the past few years across five prescribed areas of engineering. It is now mandatory to be registered as a fire safety, civil or structural engineer. Following the 1 June deadline for electrical engineers, mechanical engineers will need to be registered by 1 December 2023.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact John Lambert.

John Lambert

Membership

Geelong Regional Engineers Group Membership is due on 1st of January each year.

Membership renewals have been sent out to all members. Currently we have had 6 new members sign up so far this year and 16 members have rejoined. To those members who have not yet rejoined, please do so ASAP so that you can gain the benefits that membership confers.

Robert Gregory

VC & Membership Officer

Upcoming Events for 2023

- Dinner Meeting event and AGM, 23rd March 2023, Guest speaker Prof Mahmud Ashraf to present Research Advancements On Traditional & Engineered Materials For Structural Applications.
- April/May 2023, presentation by the CEO of Spirit of Tasmania Terminal and tour of terminal facility at Corio Quay. Final date to be confirmed.
- Dinner meeting event in June 2023, Guest speaker by Claudia Montalvo to present on project engineering and project management. Final date to be confirmed.

Your Committee members:

Chairperson – Bernie Chen	bernard.chen@bcp-solutions.com.au
Treasurer – Dennis Clarke	denjan6256.dc@gmail.com
Secretary – Piyush Jain	contact@greg.asn.au
Membership Officer – Robert Gregory	membership@greg.asn.au
Engineers Registration Working Group – John Lambert	lambertj235@bigpond.com
General Committee – Ian Burston, Rory Lynch, Frank Stajnko, Stephen Hagebols	
Student Representative – Pierson Lang, Jack Peace	