

## **VIC/ TAS BRANCH Update**

### **IICA VIC organises myriad of events**

Melbourne & Tas Branch have a busy schedule for 2015, a range of Tech evenings including from MathWorks <http://au.mathworks.com/> (they will be exploring products for MATLAB, the language of technical computing, & Simulink, for simulation & Model-Based Design).

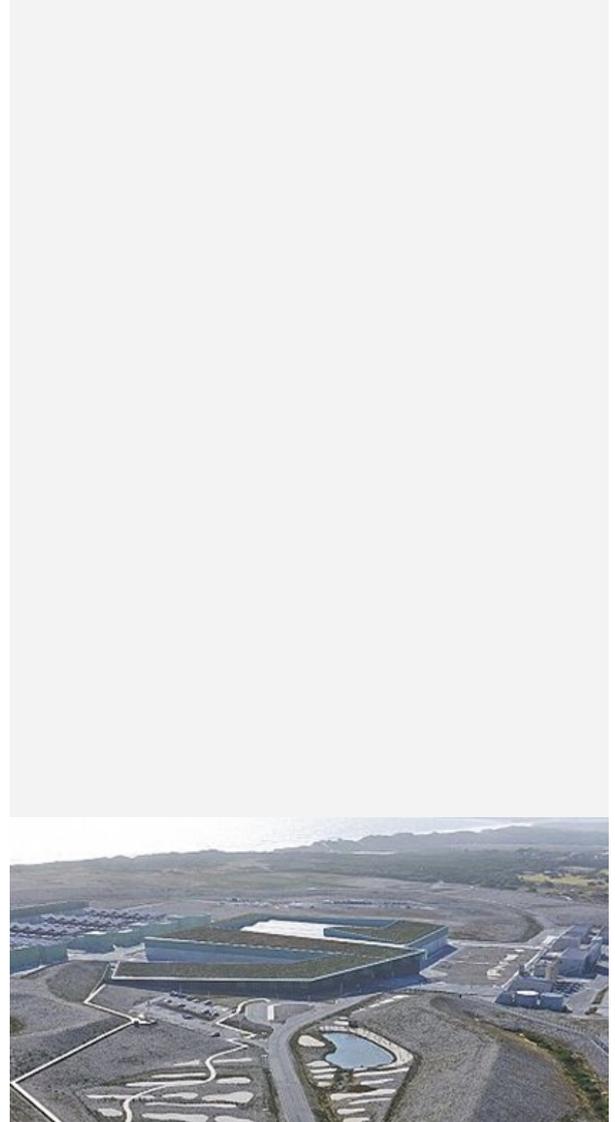
A Technical Breakfast presentation is also on the Melb agenda with plenty of networking opportunities for our members and representatives. Melbourne Seminar Topic: 'The Engine Room of Automation, Security and Safety' including International Speaker, and a "real world" control and automation presentation designed for students to put theory into context on 28 May in conjunction with NMW.

With our scheduled Tech Expos we will thrill communities of BENDIGO Vic, Melbourne- ALTONA NORTH, TRARALGON Vic, DEVONPORT Tas, HOBART Tas & SHEPPARTON Vic, providing the regional areas with the latest & newest engineering products in the industry. Special thank you go out to our Members, Sponsors and Committee Members for their continued support.

### **IICA visits the Victorian Desalination Plant - It's big !!**

On 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014, possibly our biggest ever site visit took place. Around 40 IICA members and associates were given the rare treat of a comprehensive look at the new Victorian Desalination plant at Wonthaggi. Josie, the Melbourne branch secretary and the committee are to be congratulated for all the effort that went into making this even possible (a year of planning) and for the wonderful array of cakes we could all fuel up on to survive the giant hike through this facility.

For all the controversy, this is a very impressive plant. The first observation is that the windfarm built nearby, is nowhere near sufficient to power this behemoth. At full capacity, it would need every windmill currently installed in Victoria to power it. But all is not lost, they only buy green power, so every electron used must be balanced by green generation.



The scale of this plant is amazing. The plant site is about 500 metres inland and associated infrastructure includes tunnels connecting the plant to marine intake and discharge structures up to 1.2 km out to sea, an 85 kilometres pipeline to connect the plant to Melbourne's water supply system, and power supply infrastructure for the plant.

The plant provides up to 150 gigalitres of additional water per year, with the potential to expand production to 200 gigalitres per year. It was planned to cost \$3.5Billion, but ended up costing \$5.7billion. It can produce 33% of Melbourne's daily water needs.

The group had a detailed look at the massive pumps and primary filtration systems and then an awe-inspiring walk through the reverse osmosis building, with cylinders stacked to the roof almost as far as the eye can see. Contrary to popular belief, this plant cannot just be switched on (it is currently in standby mode to keep it in good running order) and would take 6-8 weeks to reach full capacity. Fortunately our dams don't just empty overnight!

Our thanks go to our two hosts from Watersure who graciously managed this very large group of keen technocrats who kept asking very technical questions about this machine. All were answered accurately and with great courtesy. Our thanks again to all concerned and it certainly has raised the bar for future site visits from the IICA Melbourne branch.

### **2014 Fellows Lunch - August, eminent... and humorous. Honouring the IICA Fellows of Victoria.**

On 31 October 2014, your IICA Melbourne committee members gathered to honour the Victorian IICA Fellows. With new inspiration injected by Gonzalo Conesa-Zamora, each of the fellows were asked to produce two truths and a lie. The chocolate rewards on offer soon had everyone competing heatedly. We also learned about the many achievements of our fellows- from the ability to manufacture body parts (Frank Schrever) to finding \$15 million worth of gas gone missing (Howard Wright), and a secret life as a kick boxer (Ryk Jansen)!

Humour aside, to have the elite of the automation, controls and instrumentation profession in one room showed just how exponentially influential our industry is- and also how important it is to keep handing the baton to others. The IICA does that by networking, education and leading the way with standards. How can you contribute to the continuation and growth of our industry? Any ideas, just let us know.

Melissa Kirby - for Melbourne Committee



**I once met Rupert Hamer in a toilet and had a good chat with him.**

**I once met Kevin Sheedy in a toilet and had a good chat with him.**

**I once met Kevin Rudd in a toilet and had a good chat with him.**

**Can you tell which statement is a lie?**



## IICA Melbourne Branch Christmas Function

IICA Melbourne Branch's last activity for the year on Wednesday 10th December was our annual Christmas function.

After many years' absence, we returned to Bell's Hotel in South Melbourne, fondly remembered by some of us for expertly hosting our Technical Nights for a number of years in the naughty noughties.

Members enjoyed the opportunity for a catch-up over drinks and finger food, and donated gifts for the Royal Children's Hospital. Our thanks to Westwick-Farrow for donating a Christmas hamper, deservedly won by the venerable David Dodds, long-time IICA stalwart, who expertly installed his business card in the vessel provided!

The Victoria Committee

