

FY23-24

A year in **FOCUS**



AITPM

Leadership in
Traffic and Transport

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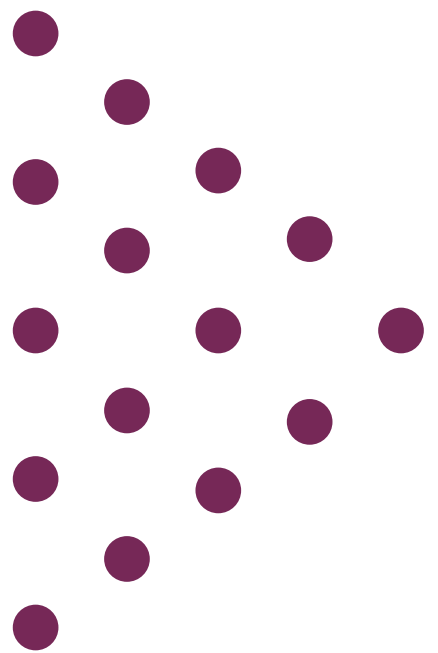
VIC/TAS BRANCH SUPPORTER





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From the CEO Kirsty Kelly

As the CEO of AITPM, I am proud to share our Year in Focus for FY23/24.

In this year's review, we have focused on highlighting the efforts and great work of our branches and networks. Our branches, Transport Modelling Network (TMN), and Emerging Professionals Networks (EPNs) delivered a wide range of events and networking activities, both on the ground and online, to our members throughout the year.

Our National Transport Conference in Melbourne was a great success, with record attendance and an excellent response to our keynote speakers. Special speaking events and stakeholder meetings in other cities with keynote Professor Marco te Brömmelstroet followed the conference, raising AITPM's profile with government and industry.

The Online Technical Conference also had another excellent year, providing on-demand technical content to those unable to attend the National Conference. The high level of engagement at these and our regular events highlight the integral role AITPM plays in delivering high-quality technical CPD to our members and the wider transport community.

We have been on a journey to undertake significant governance transitions with our Board, to support the strengthened delivery of our strategic plan. These changes set the scene for the growth of AITPM, enabling us to increase our external focus while continuing to deliver great member services and CPD activities.

We instituted a new program of industry briefings around the country, meeting with key industry partners and stakeholders to share views and understand emerging issues. Three important initiatives have emerged from this external engagement: the development of a policy platform, the expansion of the inclusive mobility program, and the Careers in Transport project.

All three undertakings highlight the vital role that transport plays in our society, and AITPM will continue to strive to raise the profile of the transport community.

AITPM has emerged from the pandemic stronger than ever, adapting to the challenges and changes of the post-COVID world. We have increased the efficiency and effectiveness of our operations team, with systems and processes in place to better support volunteers to deliver activities throughout the year.

AITPM is going from strength to strength, with new volunteers getting involved in policy working groups and committees. I would like to thank all our volunteers and staff for their hard work and dedication, and our Board for their courage in leading the governance change – in particular our Board Chair, Liz McGregor, and our immediate past President, Gary Wood.

We hope you enjoy this year's Year in Focus and take the opportunity to read the various articles, interviews, and profiles of the individuals and teams that work to deliver AITPM services throughout the year.





From the Chair Liz McGregor

»» Burning issues

Nationally, there are several issues that are shaping the transport landscape, including:

- ensuring equitable access to transportation services for all members of society, including marginalised communities and those with disabilities
- managing congestion and promoting alternative modes of transport
- addressing the impact of climate change within the transport sector, and
- balancing the benefits of data proliferation with privacy concerns.

Addressing these issues requires professional and ethical conduct of the industry, as well as adaptability and a willingness to continuously reassess and adjust plans based on new information and changing circumstances. It is essential to approach envisioning and shaping the future with a realistic understanding of the complexities involved and a commitment to ethical decision-making and inclusive practices.

In 2023, the focus shifted to improving the governance of AITPM, implementing constitutional changes that will reinforce and strengthen the Institute's relevance in the industry, and raising the profile of the professions it represents; all the while respecting and maintaining the volunteer culture that has underpinned the success of the Institute.

Overall, successfully navigating the governance and constitutional changes was a significant highlight this year. These changes will strengthen our organisation and position us for continued growth and success in the years to come.

»» On the change from President to Chair

The change from President to Chair was important for AITPM to provide clarity of roles, to improve efficiency and effectiveness within the organisation, and to ensure that everyone can work together more seamlessly. As organisations evolve and grow, it is essential to periodically review and update governance structures to ensure they remain relevant and effective. Transitioning to a Chair model better suits AITPM's current needs and future aspirations.

»» Future focus

The Careers in Transport initiative is an exciting focus for AITPM. Encouraging and supporting professionals to choose a career in transport is vital for the future of our industry. Whether it is promoting diversity and inclusion, providing mentorship opportunities, or advocating for better career development pathways, investing in the next generation of transport professionals is key to addressing the complex challenges we face, from sustainability to urban congestion.

»» Acknowledgements and thanks

Liz expresses sincere appreciation and gratitude to:

- **Volunteers** for their hard work, dedication, and support throughout the years
- **AITPM Partners and Sponsors** for their continued support and enthusiasm not only by supporting AITPM financially but also partnering with AITPM in advocating for a better transport future.
- **Presidents who have served on the Board** – and before that on the National Council – for their contributions during their tenure, not only on the Board but also in leading the Branches.
- **Gary Wood**, who was the President of AITPM from 2019 to 2023. Gary successfully navigated AITPM through the pandemic and was instrumental in developing the Strategic Plan 2021 – 2025, and delivering on its goals and initiatives.
- **CEO, Kirsty Kelly, and her staff** who work tirelessly to support the Board, branches, partners, and members, as well as **Company Secretary, Lauren Barnett**, who has ably supported the Board in navigating its governance responsibilities.

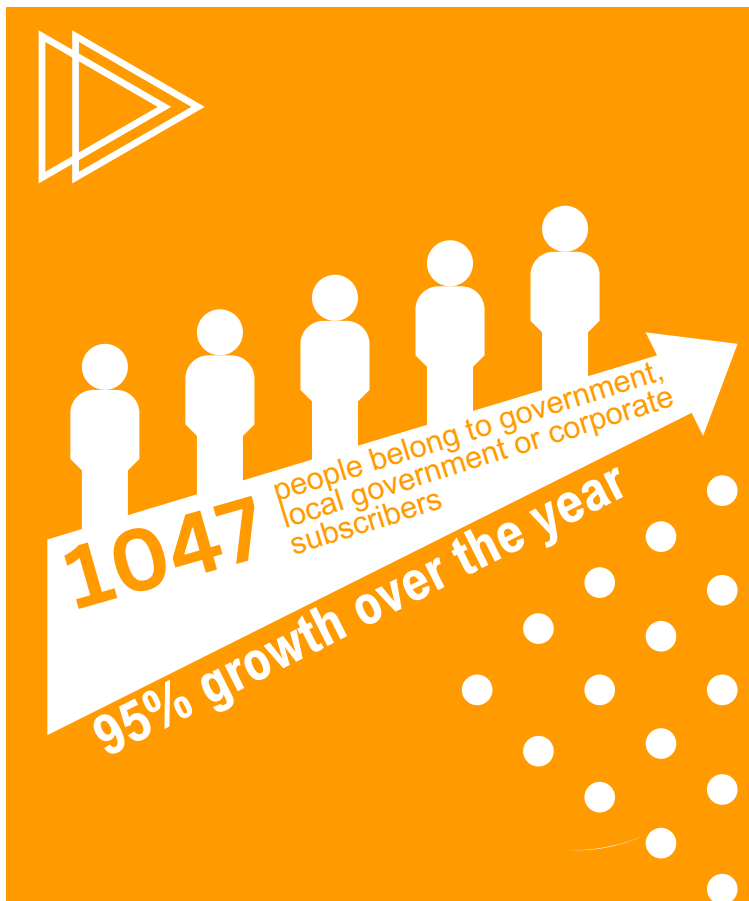
"I'm grateful for the opportunity to have worked alongside such dedicated and talented individuals," she said. "I'm proud of what we've achieved together during my time as Chair, from advancing our strategic goals to fostering a culture of collaboration and inclusivity within the organisation.

"I look forward to remaining engaged with AITPM as a member. Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as Chair, and I wish AITPM and its members all the best in the years to come."



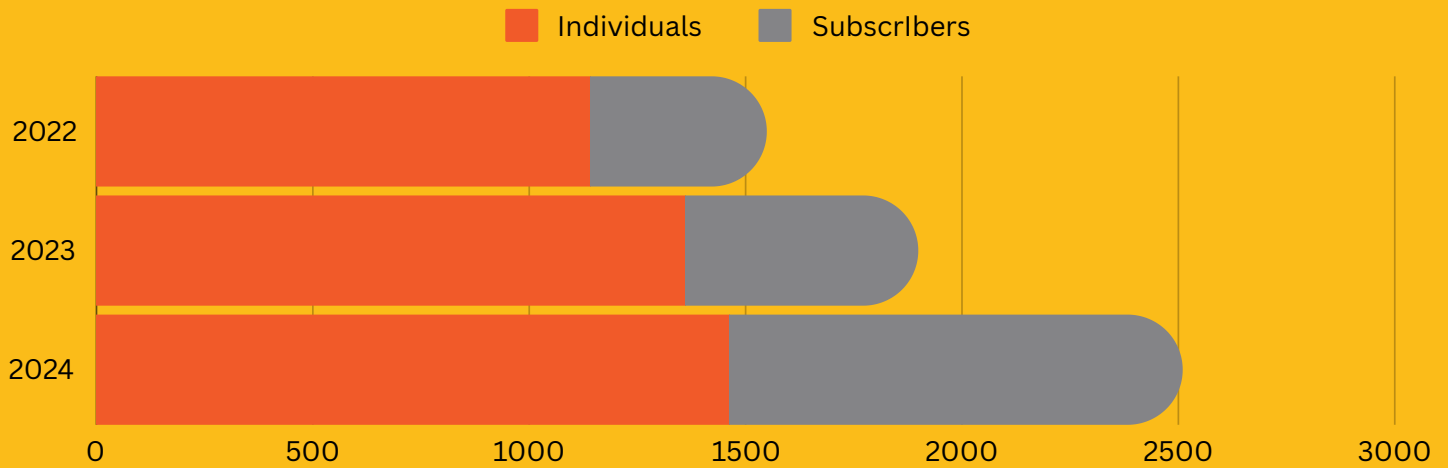
AITPM MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

In the past financial year, AITPM recorded membership and diversity growth across both corporate and government sectors. This reflects the continuing value AITPM offers the Australian transport community as well as the opportunity to connect, collaborate, and participate to advance professional skills, capabilities, and knowledge. AITPM thank all our members and subscribers who have renewed their membership. Your support is assisting in driving our growth and allowing AITPM to continue delivering a wide of projects and new initiatives.

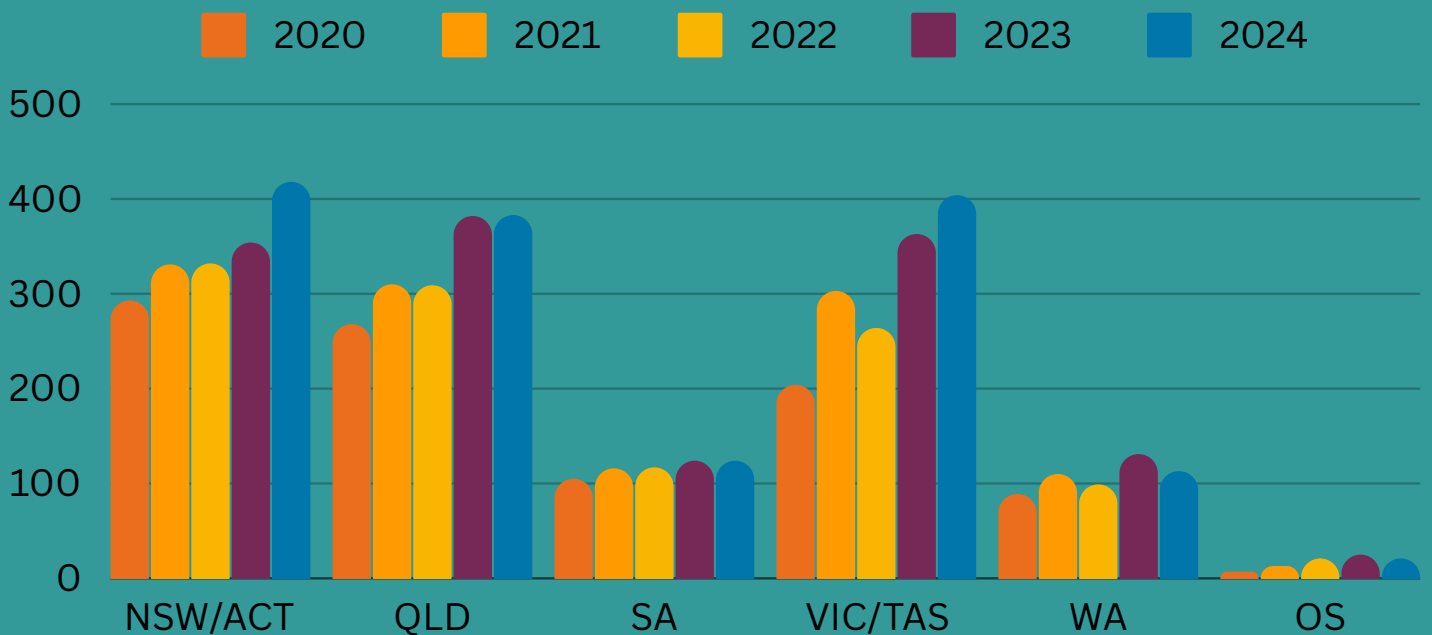


AITPM MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Members / Subscribers by year



Branch Individual Members by year





NSW/ACT Highlights



Chris Roberts
President, NSW/ACT Branch
Principal Transport Planner
Mott MacDonald

What do you do in your day job?

I have done quite a few different things across traffic impact assessments, traffic modelling, strategic planning, active travel, GIS and data analysis. For the past few years, I've been doing a lot of pedestrian modelling, mainly in rail environments.

How did you get into transport?

I did a civil engineering degree and transport came out as my main area of interest, with some transport electives and a thesis. I then pursued transport planning, mainly related to climate change and our (arguable) ability to influence sustainable outcomes.

Why do you volunteer for AITPM and how did you first get involved?

It's important for the industry to have a forum to discuss the practice and it's important for me to be exposed to technical things outside my little areas. I've been able to take control of my development in terms of leadership capabilities by seeking out opportunities through volunteering.

What advice would you have for others interested in volunteering with AITPM?

It provides great opportunities - having a good network has been valuable to me in my career, and it's been greatly enhanced by my involvement in AITPM.

» HIGHLIGHT OF THE YEAR

The 2023 National Conference in Melbourne was a great opportunity for members to meet people and see the breadth of AITPM activities around Australia.

» FAVOURITE EVENTS

Transport for NSW collaborations that provided a conduit for industry feedback on draft guidance. These events show AITPM's value as an almost unique consultation forum for our industry.

» COLLABORATIONS

Transport for NSW, WSP, GHD, Arup, Arcadis, SCT, EMM, Matrix, BDO, VLC, Ramboll, City of Parramatta and Urbis in delivering a full calendar of technical events, with future events planned with Aimsun, SMEC and AECOM.

» FUTURE FOCUS

The AITPM policy platform under development – a good opportunity for people to advocate.



Read full article



Read Chris' full Q&A





Erin Thomas
President, QLD Branch
Transport Planning & Advisory
Manager - QLD/NT
SMEC

What do you do in your day job?

I lead the planning and advisory services for SMEC in QLD/NT, which includes strategic leadership, operational management, business development, tendering and delivering projects across Australia and globally. I enjoy working with the large multidisciplinary team across SMEC to deliver city-shaping transport planning projects that have a positive impact on the future of our community.

Why did you get into transport?

I originally had my heart set on structural engineering, however during the Global Financial Crisis (2007-2009), I diversified my skill set and discovered my passion for transport projects, particularly to be able to plan for the future of people movement and to help communities be more accessible and inclusive,

Why do you volunteer for AITPM and how did you first get involved?

AITPM has been on my radar since 2010, when I won the Queensland Young Professional Award and attended my first AITPM conference. I started volunteering on the Queensland Branch Committee in 2018. I volunteer now to enable our industry to continue to have networking and development opportunities, particularly for emerging professionals.

What advice would you have for others interested in volunteering with AITPM?

The opportunities that have opened to me from volunteering for AITPM have been fantastic, including huge growth in my professional network, development of my technical skills, and enabled me to attend several conferences. My position on the Board has been a highlight of my career, and I strongly recommend getting involved in AITPM if you can, as it really helps to accelerate your career.

Read Erin's full Q&A



QLD Highlights

»» HIGHLIGHT OF THE YEAR

The AITPM Toowoomba technical seminars every two months on a variety of topics with very diverse speakers are great, and the number of events from the Queensland Branch Emerging Professionals Network (EPN) has been outstanding.

»» FAVOURITE EVENTS

The hackathon-style event on the topic of 'Connecting Brisbane's Inner City for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games' was a fantastic workshop with several teams bringing their creative problem-solving skills to solve big issues.

»» BURNING ISSUES

Planning for the 2032 Olympics and Paralympic Games continues to be a hot topic for South-East Queensland in particular, as well as the housing crisis across the whole of Queensland, and how we can plan and deliver the transport network needed to support the expected population increase.

»» FUTURE FOCUS

The branch will continue to work with partners and sponsors to deliver larger scale events, as well as continuing to deliver our core technical development events.



Read full article



VICITAS Highlights



Mike Willson
President, VIC/TAS Branch
Director
Amber

» HIGHLIGHT OF THE YEAR

The AITPM National Transport Conference, which was held in Melbourne, with Branch President Mike Willson one of the co-convenors. An incredible 650 people attended the event, which 30 volunteers had pulled together.

“Seeing all the hard work pay off while standing at the MCG, looking out over the ground, and enjoying a drink with colleagues and friends will be hard to beat,” Mike said.

» FAVOURITE EVENTS

The Branch held a new Summer Drinks event in Melbourne this year as an opportunity for peers to catch up after the break.

» BURNING ISSUES

The pausing or cancellation of some major infrastructure projects has been challenging for some, but there are some other sectors that are going from strength to strength (such as the renewable sector). Government announcements such as housing targets will impact our industry, but many people have stepped into 2024 with optimism.

» FUTURE FOCUS

After hosting the conference in 2023, the Branch is looking forward to getting back into the webinars and in-person technical seminars which are very important for members.

On the national level, the Branch is excited about the new structure and strategy around how we want to improve the industry, how we interact with our partners, and how we add value to our members. We are only at the beginning of this change and there will many opportunities to contribute.



What do you do in your day job?

I started Amber so people could achieve work/life balance through flexible working arrangements, and now it's also about creating great careers. As company director, I want my team to achieve their goals and experience success and satisfaction.

We primarily work for the private sector with a focus on preparing Traffic Impact Assessments which bring together a range of traffic engineering skills. We also have skilled people that work on public sector projects helping to create a safer and more efficient road network.

How did you get into transport?

While at university, I received a scholarship and summer internship with an engineering company. I had no plans to be a traffic engineer, but I had a great time getting involved in projects and enjoyed the collaboration and different skills that were needed for the role. After that summer I was offered a full-time job when I finished university, which came with a financial benefit I couldn't say no to, and from there I never looked back.

How did you start volunteering with AITPM?

I was working in Sydney and one of the older guys I was working with was looking to step down from the AITPM Committee after being heavily involved in the organisation and he was keen for someone to continue in his place. I was only on the committee for a few months before I moved back to Melbourne, but I had decided that I had unfinished business and wanted to give back to the industry, so I nominated for the VIC/TAS Branch.

What advice would you have for others interested in volunteering with AITPM?

Just do it. Give it a try. If you don't feel like it's for you then that's fine. While the best way is to nominate for the committee, we also have co-op members who aren't formally appointed to the committee but still get basically all the same benefits and can contribute as much as they are willing to. You won't regret it.

Read full article



Read Mike's full Q&A





Bill Cirocco
President SA Branch
Consultant
BE Engineering



What do you do in your day job?

As a consultant my work is varied but with my main focus is traffic impact assessments.

Why did you get into transport?

I needed a change and traffic and transport suited my skill set.

Why do you volunteer for AITPM?

I enjoy the interaction with other professionals in traffic and transport that I did not encounter in my day-to-day activities.

I joined the SA Committee in 1993 and this is my second stint on the committee.

What advice would you have for others interested in volunteering with AITPM?

You can contribute to an important industry. I was fortunate to also serve on the then National Council for 10 years and was able to provide input to where AITPM is now.



SA Highlights

» **HIGHLIGHT OF THE YEAR**

Revitalising the Branch by getting back to basics in the past year and providing a high number of varying technical forums to cater for the diverse traffic and transport professionals.

» **BURNING ISSUES**

The shortage of experienced traffic engineers, particularly in local government as well as the reduction in the number of experienced traffic and transport professionals in state government.

» **FUTURE FOCUS**

Preparing for the 2025 National Conference and firming our relationship with the State Transport Department.



Read Bill's full Q&A »

Read full article »



WA Highlights



Richard Isted
President, WA Branch
Manager, Transport Planning and
Advisory - WA
SMEC

» HIGHLIGHT OF THE YEAR

Aurecon hosted a joint AITPM and engineers' event on the changes on energy transition in transport that was a great synergy of different minds and disciplines that rarely come together.

» BIGGEST CHALLENGE

The biggest challenge has been preparing for the 2024 conference in Perth in August, but the Branch is working together thanks to the skills and drive of the volunteers.

» BURNING & EMERGING ISSUES

The growing disconnect in viewpoints between professionals from different backgrounds and circles about how to improve the transport and liveability outcomes. Whether on achieving outcomes in road safety, providing mid-tier transit (of one mode or another) or the use of modelling in predicting and providing road infrastructure, the Branch believes the industry needs a united focus and a common language

» FUTURE FOCUS

The National Conference in August, but also a desire to provide more from the local in-person events; we are planning a few events that provide different forms of interactions with our members.



What do you do in your day job?

I lead a team of consultant transport planners, modellers, and engineers to win and deliver work. I enjoy bringing together people from a diverse range of backgrounds to deliver positive outcomes and helping emerging professionals succeed in their careers.

How did you get into transport?

When I graduated (in mathematics) I had two job offers - one was in financial modelling and the other was in transport modelling. The financial modelling firm offered me a week experience so that I could see just how much I liked it; I completed the week of work experience and decided to do transport modelling instead.

Why do you volunteer for AITPM and how did you first get involved?

Having a paper accepted as part of the 2009 conference in Adelaide was my first real involvement. I hope to give back to the AITPM community that has supported me through my career, and it also connects me to keep abreast of what is going on around Australia and in the world of transport engineering.

What advice would you have for others interested in volunteering with AITPM?

Do it! It can add a lot of value to your career, and you can forge networks and gain a lot of skills that you might otherwise struggle to gain elsewhere.

Read full article



Read Richard's full Q&A





TMN Highlights



Steven Piotrowski
Chair, Transport Modelling Network (TMN)
Technical Principal - Transport Planning & Advisory
SMEC

What do you do in your day job?

I'm based in Perth but I have a national role within SMEC. My job is to build SMEC's reputation as a leading consultant in the transport planning sector with a strong reputation for innovation, technical excellence, quality and project delivery. Personally, I have a strong interest in transport modelling.

How did you get into transport?

I applied to study Civil Engineering and ended up in transport planning with the support of one of my professors at the University of Waterloo in Canada. Thanks to one of his contacts at London Regional Transport, when I travelled to the UK after university for a working holiday, I was fortunate to get a job as a student at LT. That was my introduction to transport planning and it couldn't have been a better place to start my career.

How did you start volunteering for AITPM?

I was working at the WA DoT in 2011 for Craig Wooldridge and he encouraged me to join AITPM and get involved. My good friend Bruce Aulabaugh also had good things to say about it.

What advice would you have for others interested in volunteering with AITPM?

Don't be afraid to nominate yourself for a division committee or for the TMN if you are interested in Transport Modelling. Submit a conference abstract on a topic that you are passionate about. Be persistent. I would also highly recommend that emerging professionals should try to attend the AITPM conference each year (if possible).

» HIGHLIGHT OF THE YEAR

The AITPM conference is always the highlight of the annual calendar for TMN. "The modelling workshop, Bill Allen's keynote address and the YPN debate were three events that stood out," says TMN Chair Steven Piotrowski. "The annual TMN planning day where all members of the TMN congregate in one place to plan the year ahead was another highlight."

» BURNING ISSUES

In the Strategic Modelling area, several Government agencies have decided to build Activity-Based Models and others are considering it. These types of models are very expensive to build, are highly complex and have excessive run times. Although they have the potential to provide answers to difficult questions, there are several challenges for their widespread use which have not yet been resolved. It remains to be seen whether our traditional trip-based models will be replaced by these new models or whether we will need to run multiple model types in parallel for different purposes.

» FUTURE FOCUS

Continuing our traditional annual activities and events: hosting modelling related in-person and online webinars in each state and territory and helping to organise the Modelling Workshop at the annual conference.



[Read full article](#)



[Read Stephen's full Q&A](#)





Taking Opportunities

AITPM's Emerging Professionals Network (EPN) is for members with up to 10 years' transport experience and provides support for students interested in learning more about the industry, as well as those already in the sector.

Each AITPM state branch hosts several events every year, tailored specifically to the needs and interests of younger professionals. These events include career development sessions, technical forums, and tours of major transport projects.

The EPN Buddy program runs for six months each year and is designed so that aspiring or newly joined professionals can interact with experienced professionals who have established themselves in the industry.

Award Winners 2023

Congratulations to the seven AITPM members who received Young Professionals Awards at our gala event on Thursday 14 September, 2023.

The audience at Zinc@FedSquare in central Melbourne heard the seven recipients have a range of interests but all share a passion for the industry.

The awards aim to provide networking opportunities and inspiration to winners to pursue or continue their career in the rewarding transport industry.

And the awards went to...

Transport engineer Hans Gao, Past Chair of the Victorian Tasmanian Emerging Professionals Network, says EPs have a significant role to play in the future of the industry.

"We are the next generation and it's important we have the opportunity to learn from industry experts as fast as possible," he said.





The NSW EPN had a strong start with a joint event in April in collaboration with the City of Parramatta and the NSW State Committee, hosting a cycling tour around new active infrastructure.

Our annual trivia event saw teams battling it out, and we introduced a new Shark Tank-style case competition, challenging groups to devise sustainable solutions to future global transport challenges.

We rounded off 2023 with social networking event centred on 'Affordable Vibrant Living' and celebrated the end of the year with drinks.

Early in 2024, we again collaborated with the NSW State Committee, hosting an International Women's Day event featuring diverse and knowledgeable panellists.



The VIC/TAS EPN had a fruitful financial year with four events, assisting the National Conference in Melbourne. The VIC/TAS EPN committee contributed to different aspects of the National Conference, from reviewing abstracts and program setting to contacting speakers and organising events. At the conference, we hosted a Meet & Greet morning tea at the Modelling Workshop opening day and a thought-provoking debate between Industry Experts and Young Professionals on 'Private cars will always be king in Australia'.

The Buddy Program continued as an annual tradition in Victoria and connects more than 10 pairs of emerging professionals and graduating students. We started with a collaboration event with PIA Young Planners in June, bringing together planning and transport with speakers from public and private sectors.

In October, we ran a collaboration with ITS Australia NextGens and Young ITE, Transport Australia Society (TAS) and Young Transport Professionals (YTP) and hosted a Melbourne EP Trivia Night. In November the 2023 Buddy Program wrapped up with closing drinks.

In 2024, Monash University and the committee co-hosted the 'Careers in Transport Industry' featuring three outstanding speakers from diverse backgrounds to share their journeys and stories in transport with graduating students.



This year the Queensland EPN committee averaged one event per month, a new record for the committee.

The formal election process saw a new group of members become involved in the committee, bringing fresh ideas and an eagerness to deliver quality and consistent events. We continued the mentoring program, with 10 mentor/mentee pairings in the 2023 program, and in March we officially joined the Urban Unwind collaboration between Planning Institute of Australia (PIA), Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) and Australian Institute of Architects (AIA), providing a monthly opportunity to catch up with emerging professionals in the urban space.



In the past year, the WA EPN has curated a range of engaging events, providing platforms for emerging professionals and enthusiasts in transport, city shaping and planning to connect and develop personally and professionally.

The year commenced with the 'YPN Bowls Night' in May 2023, where attendees enjoyed an evening of friendly competition and networking on the greens. The 'Young Professionals Showoff Night' in August showcased the ingenuity and talent of professionals in an environment of knowledge exchange and inspiration.

The EPN welcomed the new year with a lawn bowls event, blending recreation with networking. These events have not only facilitated professional growth but also cultivated a sense of camaraderie and belonging.

Looking ahead, the WA EPN will be injecting vitality at the upcoming National Conference in Perth, representing diverse perspectives from future industry leaders.

[Read full EPN Wrap up](#)

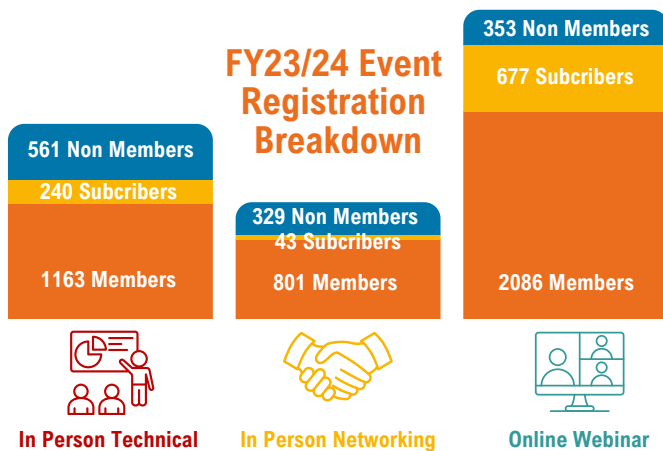
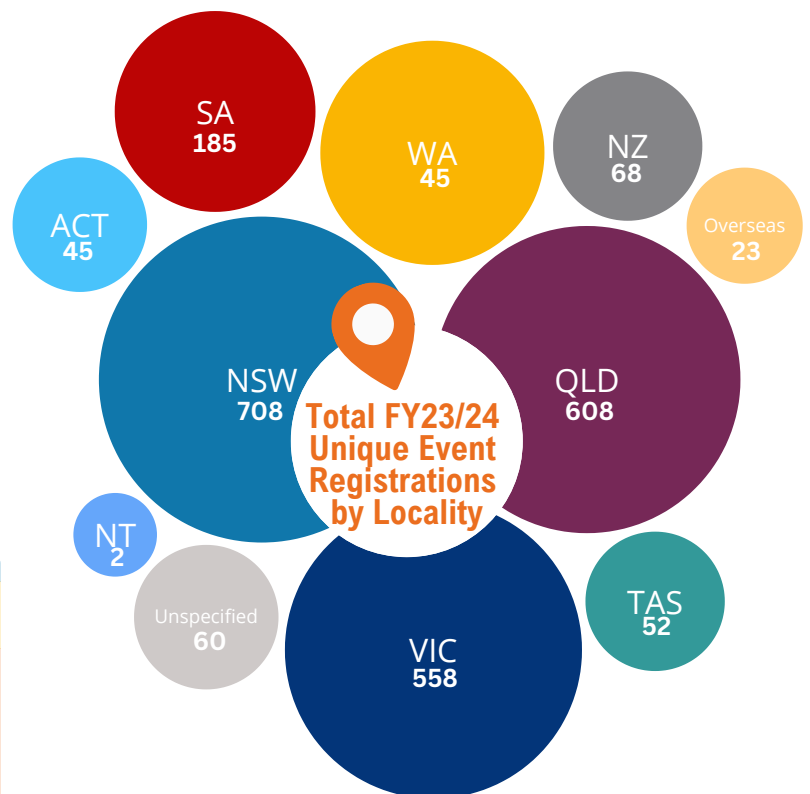
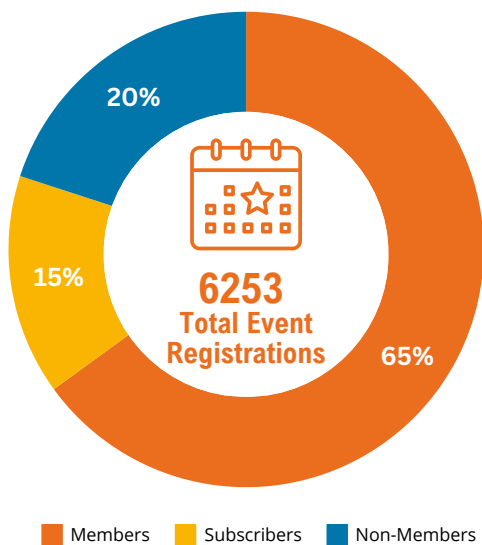


AITPM EVENTS WRAP

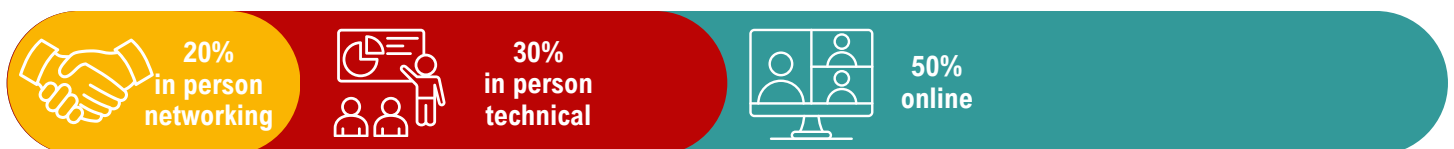
AITPM continues to be a key source of CPD and networking opportunities for the transport community. Branches hosted 90 events across FY 2023/2024, which is an increase of 4% from the previous financial year.

In addition to our flagship national events, the AITPM National Transport Conference and the Online Technical Conference Series, we held 17 online events and 73 in-person events. In-person events made up 81% of all events held last financial year in mainland state capitals Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide, and Perth, as well as in locations including the Gold Coast and Toowoomba.

More than 2500 individuals engaged with our events, of whom 1343 were members or subscribers, with just over 6250 event registrations received in total.



Total Event Registrations by Event Type



In Person versus Online Events FY23/24





AITPM NATIONAL 2023 CONFERENCE

MELBOURNE, 13-15 SEPTEMBER 2023

Sustainability, placemaking and connectivity – the keys to a successful transport future

The 2023 conference was our biggest and best yet, with more than 600 delegates hearing from industry experts, connecting with other professionals, and participating in conversations that will significantly shape future communities.

The conference format encouraged questions, conversations, and debate, and featured leading speakers from Australia and overseas.

With its title of 'Pathways to a Connected Modern Australia', the conference focused on the themes of Sustainability, Placemaking, and Connectivity. Its organisation was the result of outstanding work behind the scenes from the conference organising committee, led by co-conveners Mike Willson and Emily Coldbeck, who are both based in Melbourne.

From sourcing and arranging keynote speakers and sorting through presentations to booking venues and organising registration and catering companies, the time and effort put in by the volunteers – who all have day jobs as well – was extraordinary.

The opening day at the iconic MCG featured the increasingly popular Transport Modelling Workshop, which this year attracted more than 200 professionals, the C-ITS workshop, and the welcome reception.

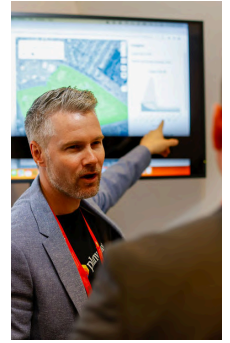
Over the following two days, presentations and speakers addressed and discussed how our strong transport community can better tackle the challenges created by the climate crisis and improve connectivity and accessibility across Australia.

Our Emerging Professionals found the conference particularly inspiring, learning from leaders, making new friends, and extending their networks. A gala awards presentation night was held on 14 September, celebrating the achievements of seven AITPM members who received Emerging Professionals Awards.

The audience at Zinc@FedSquare in central Melbourne heard the seven recipients have a range of interests but all share a passion for the industry.

The awards aim to provide networking opportunities and inspiration to winners to pursue or continue their career in the rewarding transport industry.

Sponsorships and exhibitor participation also reached an all-time high at the 2023 AITPM National Conference, bringing together the most comprehensive group of industry leaders, experts and innovators to date.





Insights from the AITPM Online Technical Conference Series 2023/2024

In its fourth year, the Online Technical Conference Series (OTCS) saw close to 250 participants engage live and on-demand with 52 expert transport industry speakers.

Presentations were received from speakers across four streams – Plan, Design, Model and Manage – and sparked conversations on the most pressing key industry issues and insights. The conference’s on-demand content, including live Q&A sessions and presenter videos, has already recorded 2,200 member views.

OTCS provides an valuable platform for less experienced presenters to discuss key issues in transport planning and highlighted the importance of tailored, equitable transport planning including:

- Context-specific transport planning
- Evolving Travel Demand Management (TDM)
- The Integration of Public and Active Transport
- Measuring benefits of active transport and placemaking
- Innovative modelling practices
- Encouraging mode shift
- Towards zero emissions.

[Read full OTCS update](#) >>

Membership Honour for Andrew Leedham

In 2023, Andrew Leedham from South Australia became the 12th inductee into AITPM Life Membership over our 50+ year history.

Life membership is our highest award and is bestowed on an existing AITPM member who has undertaken an extended high level of service at Branch and/or National level for the betterment of AITPM.

As a 30-year AITPM member, Andrew has consistently modelled the core AITPM pursuits of relevance, professionalism, responsiveness, and providing value for money and has contributed enormously to AITPM processes and discussions.

His most important and impactful work has been leading the current eight-year governance review and implementation program. Andrew has sat on the National Council, now National Board, in many positions including National President and Chair of the Finance Audit and Risk Committees.

His day job has been as a leading nationally recognised senior transport and traffic professional with WSP and an executive, with over 40 years’ industry experience.



In honour of his life membership, one fellow AITPM member describes Andrew as a deep thinker, calming influence, a caring and nurturing soul, and a good friend who has thought about AITPM every single day for the past 30 years.

[Read full article on Andrew’s AITPM contribution and Life Membership induction](#) >>

WOMEN IN TRANSPORT

Women making their mark in transport

It was the year 2000 when economic geographer Alison Holloway attended her first AITPM conference.

Alison was working at a Sydney advisory firm at the time and felt the event would be an opportunity to network and take on new ideas. She enjoyed the conference but was disappointed by the lack of women and young professionals.

“Out of about 250 attendees, about 10% were women and there were probably even fewer young people,” she says. “It did prompt me to rethink if it was the right industry for me.”

Alison did decide to stay in the transport sector and is now CEO of SGS Economics and Planning. She was delighted to take to the podium as one of the keynote speakers at the 2023 national conference – and equally pleased to see the composition of the conference had changed.

More than 30% of the delegates at the 2023 conference were women, along with many of the presenters and other speakers, as well of course, as AITPM leaders CEO Kirsty Kelly, AITPM President Liz McGregor, and various branch leaders.

Transport planner Vanina Varnier, is vice-president of the AITPM Queensland branch and encourages young women entering the industry to know their own value.

“My advice would be to back yourself, charge ahead, and insert yourself into situations,” she says. “If you can, finding mentors who you can learn from and who may have even paved the way - a good mentor will stay with you for your career.”



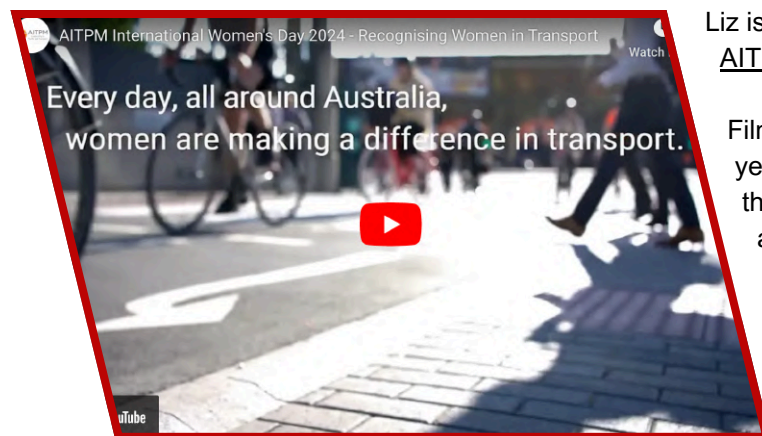
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Exploring the journeys of women in transport

Has there ever been a better time for women in transport and planning? AITPM Chair Liz McGregor doesn't think so.

“The public and private sector are keen to see more women, from graduates to leaders, in the sector, and that makes sense, because women bring unique experiences and ideas,” she says.



Liz is one of several AITPM members who feature in a [special AITPM video](#) to mark International Women's Day 2024.

Filmed at the AITPM National Conference in Melbourne last year, the members explain how they came to work in the industry, what they enjoy about their work, and offer advice to newcomers.

The co-convenor of this year's conference in Perth, Fiona Goodbody, says she joined the sector by fluke after she started chatting to somebody at a TEDx event.



“They mentioned they were looking for people with social science degrees to work in travel and behaviour change – I didn't know what that was, but I was really interested as I rode a bike and used public transport,” Fiona says. “I took a six-month contract and that was the start of my career in transport.”



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