

# Christmas Newsletter 2013

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## Seasons Greetings

*To all from friends and colleagues around the world I want to wish you all the best for the holiday season and joy, love and happiness for 2014.*



Sun going down over Northern Australia

Have a wonderful holiday season

## Conference Activities

I prepared several papers for conferences that were held during the months of June and December 2013. My papers for the CESB13 conference held in Prague in June covered two topics. The first paper was on the “Design of an Environmentally Sustainable Business and Cultural Centre for Indigenous People in Yarrabah Community, Australia”. This paper examined the design of the proposed Yarrabah multi-purpose centre with respect to environmental, economic, and cultural sustainability, with the aim of producing a building that holds both cultural significance and environmental integrity. The second paper was a “Post-Construction Review of Environmentally Sustainable Housing for Indigenous People in Nguuu Community, Australia.” This paper reported the findings of a review of four houses in the remote community of Nguuu, emphasising environmental design features and performance, construction materials and methods, and cultural aspects. I also served on the scientific committee for Prague conference and reviewed several papers for submission.

A special thanks to Petr Hyjeck conference leader for the welcome back to Prague and for providing yet another successful iisBE conference.

The second conference I attended was the SB13 Dubai conference. I presented two papers at the conference. The first paper was on ‘Waste Material Recycling Facility and Sustainability in Remote Communities: An Australian Case Study.’ This paper provided background on the establishment of an Material Recycling Facility in a remote aboriginal community and various factors influencing the project’s success and completion. The second paper was on “Sustainable Building in Remote Communities: Insights from Australia.” In this paper I covered the construction of housing on a remote island off the coast of Australia and two commercial buildings in remote locations.



The World Construction Symposium 2013 was held in June in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Prof Chitra Weddikara, Chairperson, asked that I serve on the Scientific Committee for the WCS 13, and I accepted that honour.

This conference focused on the issues and challenges facing the Sri Lankan people after a long war. Countries in this region face different challenges than those faced by the Western & developed countries. These challenges require a different approach from what is prevalent in the West and most conferences. Thus the papers in this conference brought a new perspective which will hopefully complete what is not addressed by other SB13 conferences.

Here I am at the oldest mosque in Dubai, listening, during our cultural awareness presentation.



# University Activities

## University of Canberra

It was a busy year at the University of Canberra with the following activities:

Lecture Fifth and Fourth year studio in landscape architecture. Travelled to Cherbourg aboriginal community with 15 students to work on the 10 year plan for the material recycling facility that I was designing.

Supervision of final year student producing training manual for young aboriginal children in Cherbourg.

Took three education facility students to Cherbourg for two visits of one week each to work in the classroom with the children and develop the training manual for recycling.

Lecture on Research methods subject for the final fifth year design facility students.

Supervision of final fifth year student working on two remote aboriginal projects and presentation of those projects to community for implementing.

Serving on University of Canberra, Research Impact Advisory Committee with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Frances Shannon

## Overseas University

The Technical University of Prague in the Czech Republic is working with me in running a final year Engineering/Architectural studio via the internet. The head of school Petr Hajek and Jan Ruzicka are working with me to deliver a remote indigenous project to them for presentation in early 2014.

As part of a masters placement program based around development, a masters student from the Finnish University spent time with me both in Canberra and in Northern Queensland helping to develop community development project submissions.

Here I am the old bloke with the shinning head. Where is that hat?



# Consultancy Activities

## Consultancy Indigenous

Natural Resources Management, Business Navigator Program, supporting the community of Weipa, Portland Roads, Lockhart River and Coen with a community gardens project concept and implementation.

Natural Resources Management, Business Navigator Program, supporting the indigenous communities of the WACCA in the development of a tourist eco-tourism site protecting and preserving the middens located at Red Beach North of Weipa, Queensland.

Natural Resources Management, Business Navigator Program, supporting the tradition owner of the Nesbit River land wishing to build an eco-tourism facility, camp ground, research facility and back to country homes for his people.

Cherbourg Material Recycling Facility, Cherbourg Queensland, supporting the local Cherbourg council and community in the development of the MRF to

provide jobs and skills to the local residents and to support the local surrounding towns within the South and North Burnett Regional Councils with reducing waste



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## Consultancy Department of Health

Independent certification on the Lismore Hospital refurbishment development including operating theatres, day surgery and recovering, new endoscopy unit and staff upgrades to hospital, on-going during 2014

Independent certification on the Charles Sturt University, medical facility to be commissioned in early January 2014

Independent Certification of the Hyden, medical facility under construction in Hyden, Western Australia

Independent Certification of the Eucla, medical facility under construction for the remote indigenous community in Eucla, Western Australia

I was riding in a helicopter down this river and in the top of picture the Pacific Ocean and the Great Barrier Reef. The island in the middle of the river is where I want to build the new resort and research facility.



Day Care recovery unit newly completed, inspected and ready for use.



## Other Activities

### Consultancy ISPT

Development of peer reviewed journal papers and presentations at international conferences on the performances of two buildings from the ISPT 70 commercial building portfolio worth some \$9.7billion

The first paper is to be presented in Gainesville, Florida on a building located at 345 George St in Sydney and it is focused on smart engineering taking a standard 30 year old building from 2.5 stars to 5.4 stars with manual expense.

The second paper is to be presented in Barcelona, Spain on a building located at 477 Pit Street in Sydney and it is focus on smart engineering as well looking at Indoor Environmental Quality bases on the NABERS IEQ rating system.

### Promoting Australia

During the 2013 year two separate visiting Chinese Delegations came to Canberra. As part of their experience I was asked by the Chinese Government to spend two hours speaking to them on topics of concern to them. These topics consisted of sustainable building and the development of evaluation techniques for new and used commercial buildings.



Here I am with my interpreter and the Chinese Delegation giving them a lecture on Sustainable Building.