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EMICoL eNews December 2008

Chairman's festive greetings

Peter Hill- EMICoL Chairman

Dear EMICoL members and Potential Members,

At this time of year we are all, as usual, looking forward to the changing activities in our businesses ,including holidays with our families and loved ones, and the celebration of our Christian traditions.

Although we are seeing some worrying financial related problems occurring , your Directors also see this as a time for us all to re-evaluate the many advantages of We have delivered some very worthwhile activities and programmes during the year, and with LEAPS now being a reality, and other exciting member benefits to be introduced early in the New Year, we see a big future for our co-operative.

So , on behalf of the Board I wish you all a Merry Christmas, and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

EMICoL – The future lies in your hands

*Mick McCarthy- Regional Development Executive
Manager, EMRC*

The establishment of EMICoL as an industry led, member focused organisation for the engineering and manufacturing sector in Perth's Eastern Region is a major achievement and an arrangement that provides employment and economic benefits for members into the future.

From its early days as an industry cluster, it was clear that there were many areas where the small to medium sized member companies could work together to secure a greater share of the business coming into the area, refer work amongst members, gain better deals on collective purchasing and service provision and form groups to tackle larger projects/tenders.

I am proud to have played a key role in the formation of this innovative group of companies that are seeking better deals for its members. I trust that the existing and new EMICoL members will get behind the cooperative and actively participate in taking EMICoL to the next level and ensuring that it continues as a much needed and viable member based organisation. The future of EMICoL is now squarely in the hands of its members.

The EMRC has played a key role in the establishment of EMICoL and will continue to provide administrative support.

I will continue to monitor the progress of EMICoL as I move to a new career role in the private sector at the engineering and environmental consulting firm Parsons Brinckerhoff in early December 2008, and wish the Board of Directors and EMICoL members all the best for the future.

Christmas Cheer

Kevin Davis- EMICoL Director

Firstly let me wish all EMICoL members a joyous festive season and a safe Christmas and New Year. It has been a busy time for the EMICoL team in getting our LEAPS program up and running for next year. Leaps is a structured work experience program that we are trying to implement which we hope will result in a steady supply of keen young people into engineering trades.

To help us get things going we contracted Antonella Segre and Chris Reed to do a lot of the footwork and keep you all informed. We have received a lot of interest from the high Schools in the region and look forward to seeing some young people take advantage of the program in the New Year.

In the coming year we will be relying on your support to provide these budding

trades people with valuable experiences in your work places. The LEAPS program has the potential to be a best practice model that other trades will want to be part of and as such we need to make every effort to make it a success.

If anyone needs to know more about the LEAPS program please give me a call. Again enjoy the upcoming break and Merry Christmas.

In this issue

- Chairman's festive greetings
- Farewell message from Mick McCarthy
- Christmas Cheer from Kevin Davis
- Verriers Engineering- EMICoL members' benefits
- New partnerships with the Apprentice and Traineeship Company
- LEAPS Project- Update

Enterprise Connect

John Morris- EMICoL Director

My first priority in this message is to wish Sponsors, Members, staff at the EMRC and our Project officers a big thank you for their support a very Merry Christmas and a successful New Year. Since establishing our Cooperative the Board has worked on a number of key initiatives in line with business objective in order to benefit members and grow membership. Your continued support in 2009 will be greatly appreciated and assist in the growth of EMICoL.

One of the key areas that I have worked is as follows and early in the New Year members and those wishing to join EMICoL, will be invited to a breakfast meeting to meet with the professionals from Enterprise Connect to find out more about current and future opportunities.

Enterprise Connect – Local manufacturers now have access to free business advice from a highly skilled local expert through the Federal Government's Enterprise Connect Manufacturing Network. Five experienced Business Advisers are located in Western Australia and will work closely with manufacturers to conduct a comprehensive business review. The Government will also provide financial assistance on a matching dollar-for-dollar arrangement – up to \$20,000 – to engage specialist consultants to provide advice and support to implement changes that improve productivity and business performance. Over 1000 businesses are or have been assisted by Enterprise Connect nationally; this includes 8 EMICoL members who have each participated in a comprehensive review. A simple application process has been established to allow access to the program through our EMICoL group application. For further information please e-mail johnm@projectindustries.com.au.

Enterprise Connect includes five manufacturing centres located in Perth, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Burnie. There are also five dedicated innovation centres; one for mining technology in Mackay, one for remote enterprise in Alice Springs, one for innovative regions in Geelong, one for creative industries and one for clean energy. In a related move, the initiative establishes a series of industry innovation councils to promote dialogue and develop long term strategies for boosting innovation and productivity.

Enterprise Connect can also support the placement of researchers from universities or public research agencies into businesses where it is identified that such a placement would help to develop and implement a new idea with commercial potential. Funding through Researchers in Business can provide for up to 50 per cent of salary costs, to a maximum of \$50,000 for such a placement. Placements can be for a period of up to 12 months. Up to fifty projects will be supported per year.

Verriers Engineering Services

2008 Organisational Winners

Prime Minister's Small Business of the Year

Winner: Verriers Engineering Services (WA)

Verriers Engineering Services is a family owned and operated business that has been supporting the transport, mining, agricultural and food industries for the past 62 years.

With a strong belief that training should be an integral part of any business, Verriers Engineering Services has invested heavily in its staff. Its 13 employees include fitters, welders, trade assistants, general hands, office and administration staff and two Australian Apprentices.

Verriers is tackling industry skill shortages through its commitment to employing unskilled staff and providing training through TAFE WA, in-house or through private registered training providers.

Congratulations to Verriers Engineering Services for this outstanding award and achievement.

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