



## **Society of Automotive Engineers Australasia**

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### **Bosch's Patrick Ross elected SAE-A president**

Bosch Australia Regional President of Automotive Electronics, Patrick Ross, is the new president of the Society of Automotive Engineers – Australasia. He holds a B Eng (Mech) and has enjoyed a long engineering management career with Bosch in Australia, the United Kingdom and in Germany.

“To survive the global crisis in the automotive industry, Australian companies must maintain their relevance to their local and offshore head offices, and to their local and export customers,” said Patrick Ross. “Most vehicle makers and component suppliers operating in Australia have recognised this need to integrate tightly with their international network. Many, as shown by GM Holden, have also enhanced their positions by investing in high level product development work that services their international network.

#### **Serving an industry in crisis**

“The human aspect of the crisis is reflected in job losses as companies align staff levels with business needs, and there have been the predicted business closures. These employment changes have impacted on Society members at both the design engineering and skilled technician levels. To assist members, we hope to soon introduce a new employment advisory service.

“The financial implications of the crisis are also being felt by our not-for-profit Society with cut backs in sponsorship for our premier educational project Formula SAE-A. The industry consortium that has successfully staged this event in Australia since 2000 has a significant funding shortfall for 2009. With 25-plus teams of up to 30 students expected to attend the 2009 event, we now face a major challenge to secure this important training project.

“An annual event in Australia since 2000, Formula SAE-A brings student teams from most Australian and many overseas universities together for four days of competition to prove the design and construction of the race car that each team builds in the final year of study. Many Australian teams have won overseas Formula events.

“The value of Formula SAE-A has proven to be that it prepares engineering graduates for high level employment. Most Formula SAE-A ‘graduates’ win jobs in the automotive industry, or join race teams at Formula 1 and V8 Supercar level. We are now seeking outside financial assistance to ensure that Formula SAE-A takes place as planned in December 2009,” said Patrick Ross.

In meeting its charter of promoting excellence in automotive engineering, SAE-A also hosts major annual events, such as the International Change by Design Conference in association with Automotive Week, the Automotive Engineering Excellence Awards, and conferences on alternative fuels, vehicle safety, and technical topics.

[More]

## **New Board of Directors**

At the recent annual general meeting, retiring SAE-A president Max Gillard , who is Toyota Technical Centre Australia vice president and chief operating officer, was thanked for his valuable contribution to SAE-A over the past three years. Other directors elected at the meeting were: Max Chanter of Lemax Body Repairs; Professor Harry Watson, Melbourne University; Andrew Sansome, Holden; Professor Aleksander Subic, RMIT University; Robert Tilbury, Ford; Stephen Spalding, Royal Automobile Club of Queensland; Bill Malkoutzis, Talk Torque Automotive; and Timothy Car, Clean Air Power. Retiring Vice President John O'Reilly was appointed a Fellow of the Society.

**Photo caption Patrick Ross SAE-A Pres:** *Patrick Ross, President of the Society of Automotive Engineers – Australasia.*

**Photo caption SAE Formula RMIT racing:** *The RMIT University team hopes to run this pioneering electric car in the 2009 Formula SAE-A competition. In the difficult year, the not-for-profit Society is seeking funding to ensure this educational program is secure in 2009.*

## **About SAE-A**

The Society of Automotive Engineers – Australasia (SAE-A) promotes excellence in automotive engineering and is committed to the protection and betterment of the environment. Its members are engineers, scientists and technicians working across the entire spectrum of the Australasian automotive industry – vehicle and component manufacturers; vehicle service, repair and aftermarket sectors; importers, insurance services, fuel suppliers, government authorities, and students. SAE-A is a Council member of the International Federation of Automotive Engineering Societies, and is linked to SAE-International and the International Pacific Conference on Automotive Engineering.

## **Interviews invited on the impact of the global automotive crisis on:**

- **Australia's professional automotive engineers and technicians**
- **Funding needed for Australia's premier automotive education event – Formula SAE-A**

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