

# 7. What Automotive Engineers Bring to Other Industries

Walking the aisles of the Melbourne Exhibition centre with exhibitors showcasing their automotive accessories products in light filled stands, it was good to see that business is thriving in the aftermarket automotive space.

The SAE-A ran an event at the AAAA on the capabilities of the Automotive Engineer. The topic of discussion focussed on what it means to be an automotive engineer and what an automotive engineer can bring to other sectors of Australian industry including auto after market.

Did you know that automotive engineers work on global projects applying business and technical skills to deliver integrated products to the customer? Most people are unaware of this. But even if you happen to be amongst that minority who are aware of strong capabilities of a Mechanical, Electrical, Metallurgical, ... engineer in automotive sector, you may still be astonished to learn how closely auto industry design and development process sits by construction building processes, to the extent that at some stage certain employers in building construction industry were looking for automotive engineers to join them!

Or how an automotive engineer can take an automotive component manufacturing business and through diversification move to manufacturing medical equipment. It makes sense because engineers are innovators!

Our guest speakers for the night were Mario Turcarelli and George Konstandakos, both previous GM Holden Automotive Engineers who between them share over 40 years of automotive experience and have transitioned to new industries.

Stay tuned for exciting news about the Industry Programs Working Group!



Left to Right: Keynote speakers George Konstandakos and Mario Turcarelli with SAE-A's IPWG team, Martha Oplodias and Peiman Rajaie.

## KEY SPEAKERS



### Mario Turcarelli – MD of Dolphin Products

A Chartered Professional Engineer with over 23 years of engineering and management experience in Automotive Industry (GM Holden). After taking over the senior management and later on the leadership of Dolphin, Mario managed to diversify the product and services range to other industry sectors such as medical devices and equipment.



Mario: "I loved Dolphin Products so much I bought the company ..."



### George Konstandakos – General Manager of Timber Building Systems

Previously – CEO of Hickory Building Systems  
A Mechanical Engineer with over 17 years of experience in Automotive Industry (GM Holden)  
In his new roles in Building Systems, George has utilized:



- Automotive product development techniques and methods
- Automotive engineering and CAD skills
- Automotive Project management Skills
- Lean Concept

George believes Building Systems Industry is very similar to Automotive industry in terms of Project Management, Product Development, and Lean concept application.