

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

We enjoyed another glorious summer in WA with some very mixed reactions to the trial introduction of daylight saving. I am temporarily working in the UK and the winter temperatures in Manchester are a very good advertisement for the Perth climate.

LANDSLIDE RISK MANAGEMENT

This issue of *Australian Geomechanics* is dedicated to providing you with the results of the LRM projects which have been carried out over the last three years with funding support from the National Disaster Mitigation Program. The projects have involved AGS and representatives from Local Government. The first task involved research into landslide likelihood whilst the second project resulted in the development of three guidelines including: a Hazard Zoning Guideline and Commentary; LRM Practice Note and Commentary; and GeoGuides for Slope Management and Maintenance.



The finalised versions of the documents have been provided to the relevant client bodies and are published in this issue of *Australian Geomechanics*. Downloadable versions of the documents will be available from the AGS web page in the near future.

AGS and the LRM team wish to acknowledge and thank the following people for volunteering their time over the Xmas and New Year period to review the final draft documents. **Bill Bamford** (University of Melbourne), **Bruce Bulley** (GHD), **Tom Bowling** (Hydro Tas), **Mark Delaney**, **Graham Scholey** (Golder Associates), **Bram Knoop** (Hydro Tas), **Greg Hawkins** (Douglas Partners), **Colin Mazengarb** (Mineral Resources Tasmania), **Chris Haberfield** (Golder Associates) and **Tony Meyers** (Rocktest). I would like to thank **Mark Drechsler**, who assisted with the review process and who volunteered to coordinate and administer the communication and document collection with the review panel. I particularly acknowledge the efforts over an extended period of the LRM team.

AGS NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Our first national committee meeting for 2007 is scheduled for 30 March and will be held in Melbourne. We thank **Beng Cheah**, **Doug Stewart**, **John St George** and **Fred Baynes** for their earlier contributions. We now look forward to active engagement and contributions from **David Williams (QLD)** and **Barry Lehane (WA)**. **Alan Moon** and **Tony Meyers** will be assuming their new roles as the Australasian VP's for IAEG and ISRM respectively.

Patrick MacGregor has included details of the current members of the National Committee in this edition of AG to assist with communications between all AGS members and the committee.

It is pleasing to note that our membership numbers continue to grow. Please pass on details of the significant technical and professional development advantages of joining and supporting AGS, to all new entrants into the Australian geotechnical – geological industry. In particular, recent graduates and skilled migrants that are new to Australia, all of whom will obtain maximum benefits from the CPD delivery and networking opportunities to be found within AGS, should be encouraged to join wherever possible.

In early February I represented AGS at a meeting with Engineers Australia (EA) in relation to national and international issues. Of particular note was an increased level of involvement by EA on the international engineering arena, including the September 2010 CECAR conference that Civil College will host in Sydney. Additionally, the soon to be introduced revised arrangements for measuring and recording of CPD will be very relevant to all members of EA. Details of these interesting and important initiatives can be found at the EA web site www.engineersaustralia.org.au.

COMING EVENTS

Burt Look and the committee members in QLD are finalising the conference arrangements for the **10th ANZ Conference "Common Ground"** in Brisbane from 21 to 24 October 2007 (www.anzgeo2007.com). The conference web page is up and running and online registration facilities are expected in the very near future.

As immediate past chair, **Mark Jaksa** continues to co-ordinate our national and international distinguished speaker programme. Arrangements are in place for **Allan McConnell** to deliver his talk, entitled *Two Geotechnical Mess-ups at the Gold Coast – What really happened?*, to the different state chapters between 10 and 18 April 2007.

On 19 February **John Carter** delivered his **2005 E H Davis lecture** to a large and appreciative WA Chapter audience and he is expected to complete his tour in the near future.

It is also hoped that **Professor Robert Mair** will be returning to Australia in 2007 and that he will find the time to visit more of our regional Chapters to present his 2006 Rankine Lecture. Details of these, and other national initiatives, are available from your local Chapter Chair or by contacting **Mark Jaksa** (mark.jaksa@adelaide.edu.au).

As previously advised, the very successful, bi-annual, Geology for Engineers course, run in Adelaide by **Alan Moon** and **Fred Baynes**, is to be organised again for April 2008. This course is always fully booked well in advance so make an early note in your 2007 diary if you are interested in attending in 2008.

AGS WEB PAGE (WWW.AUSTRALIANGEOMECHANICS.ORG)

Following discussions at the 2006 National Committee meetings, review of commercial proposals for the provision of web page services and a recent meeting with Engineers Australia, we are about to decide on the optimum arrangements to ensure that the AGS webpage (www.australiangeomechanics.org) is updated and enhanced on a regular basis. Based on both potential arrangements we are comfortable that an enhanced and fully functional web page will be available by around the middle of 2007.

Any comments in relation to the AGS web page are welcomed and can be sent to Peter Robinson (pbmr@optusnet.com.au), myself (marc_woodward@coffey.com.au) or Mark Jaksa (mark.jaksa@adelaide.edu.au).

AGS AWARDS

We are very pleased to confirm that **Professor Robin Fell** of the University of New South Wales is the recipient of the **2007 John Jaeger Award**. As detailed in the awards page on our web site, this award is made *to recognise contributions of the highest magnitude over a lifetime of commitment to the geotechnical profession in Australia*. Robin will be presenting his John Jaeger award paper, provisionally entitled *Internal Erosion and Piping of Embankment Dams and their Foundations* at the Brisbane ANZ conference in October.

We are also very pleased to confirm that the 2007 **E H Davis Memorial Lecture** will be presented by **Professor Chris Haberfield** of Golder Associates in Melbourne. I am sure that all AGS members will join us in congratulating Chris on this prestigious award in recognition of his *distinguished recent contribution to the theory and practice of Geomechanics in Australia* and look forward to his lecture tour later in 2007.

The AGS Joint Societies Award will be decided and announced at the Brisbane ANZ Conference, to recognise *the most valuable conference paper*, as judged by an executive committee formed from AGS, NZGS and the international societies VP's.

ISSMGE, ISRM AND IAEG NEWS

As previously advised, **Fred Baynes** is now the **International President of IAEG** and we look forward to enhanced Australasian involvement with IAEG resulting from his new international role.

Fred Baynes has now handed over the role of **Australasian Vice President (VP)** for IAEG to **Alan Moon** and we look forward to Alan's contributions in 2007. Alan will be attending the 2007 IAEG Council meeting in the USA in June 2007 to represent Australasia.

Professor John Carter continues to actively represent Australasia as our **International VP** for ISSMGE. The next ISSMGE board and Council meetings will be held in Brisbane to coincide with the opening of the ANZ conference. John continues to report on progress with the formation of FIGS from an ISSMGE perspective to help us assess the implications of these proposed international changes for Australasia.

AGS has been asked to provide nominations of suitable people to join the ISSMGE TC37 *Interactive Geotechnical Design*. Please check out the ISSMGE web page (www.issmge.org) or contact John Carter (john.carter@newcastle.edu.au) if you require any additional details and/or would like to make a nomination.

As previously advised **Tony Meyers**, of Rocktest in Adelaide, is the **Australasian VP** for ISRM for 2007 to 2011. We look forward to continuing active involvement from Tony and note that he submitted a paper on the AGS role and industry activity to the January 2007 Mining Bulletin. Tony has also played a positive and proactive role in explaining AGS activity in relation to the proposed AusIMM Geoscience Society that is expect to be formed later in 2007. It is anticipated that there will be some technical common ground and close interaction between AGS and the AusIMM Geoscience Society. We will provide additional details of these developments in future editions of AG as they become available.

Tony has previously reported the excellent news that Professor Edwin (Ted) Brown was awarded the prestigious 5th Muller Award and that Ted will present the Muller lecture at the 11th ISRM Congress in Lisbon in July 2007.

SECRETARIAT AND FINANCIAL ISSUES

The successful and efficient provision of secretariat services by **Peter Robinson**, of Money Tree Associates, continues with our accounting, auditing and reporting up to date and transparent. We are very pleased to confirm that Peter has extended his contract with AGS for a second year and we can look forward to his active and efficient support up to and beyond late 2007.

With ongoing assistance from Engineers Australia, and particularly Lois Wurzer, Peter has made significant progress with our membership records and contact details. Please make sure that you let Engineers Australia (lwurzer@engineersaustralia.org.au) and the AGS Secretariat (pbmr@optusnet.com.au) know if you change your address or contact details so that we can keep the membership database up to date.

Our treasurer Neil Benson and Peter Robinson continue to actively monitor and report our financial affairs and we are pleased to note that AGS is in a healthy financial position.

SPECIALIST GEOTECHNICAL CONTRACTORS

I would like to recognise and thank the contributors from **Austress Menard, Broons Hire, Keller, Rock Engineering** and **Vibropile** for their interesting and valuable contributions to the December 2006 "Specialist Geotechnical Contractors" issue of AG. I hope these papers have given other members of AGS a useful insight into the activities of these Australian specialist geotechnical contractors and hope that we will continue to have enhanced engagement between the consulting, academic and contracting areas of our profession.

LIAISON WITH NZGS

Kevin McManus, the current Chair of NZGS, is expected to attend the next national committee meeting in Brisbane that will coincide with the opening of the 10th ANZ Conference. The opportunity for face to face contact significantly enhances the ongoing communications between AGS and NZGS. We thank Kevin for finding the time to join us and look forward to continuing fruitful liaison between our two societies

Mark Eggers, Alan Moon and **Fred Baynes** will maintain direct contact with **Ann Williams** and the NZGS team organising 2010 IAEG Congress to ensure effective support from AGS.

The NZGS committee now have confirmed that liaison personnel will be appointed for each international society VP, to ensure appropriate levels of communication are maintained between AGS and NZGS in relation to IAEG, ISSMGE and ISRM activity. We have been advised that **Ann Williams** will fill the role of NZGS liaison for IAEG, the other positions will be finalised after the next NZGS committee meeting.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In closing my fifth Chair's letter it is appropriate again to acknowledge the continuing assistance and support that I have received from **Peter Robinson, Mark Jaksa** and **Neil Benson** and the other members of the national committee.

Patrick MacGregor and **Sarah Lanesman** again deserve our special thanks and appreciation for their excellent ongoing work on the editorial, production and management of advertising within AG which continues to grow in quality through industry support with each edition.

Please feel free to contact me if there are any issues that you feel can be better addressed by AGS in the interests of our members and the wider geotechnical profession.

Regards

Marc Woodward

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Geoscience Australia has been coordinating the development of a collaborative landslide inventory framework as part of a larger project that will demonstrate a way of bringing diverse landslide databases together. The inventory structure adopts agreed standards, terminology and classification systems as outlined within this edition of the AGS Journal and provides guidance in the fields required for reporting. Fields chosen have been selected with consideration of data requirements for landslide risk assessment and aim to highlight where current gaps in knowledge are. The framework is being developed in conjunction with project partners, members of the AGS LRM taskforce, review committees and local government. It is anticipated the framework will be provided to the AGS for

official technical review in 06/07. Further information on Geoscience Australia's initiative is outlined in AGS Volume 41, No 3 September 2006, p177, as a Letter to the Editor.