

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

This issue of Australian Geomechanics should arrive earlier than usual as Patrick MacGregor is travelling to Europe for much of May, June and July. I have just got back to Perth after recent work visits to the UK and QLD and hope to get back on top of AGS issues in the very near future.

Now that you have had an opportunity to review the LRM documentation in the March 2007 edition of Australian Geomechanics I am sure there will be widespread acknowledgement and recognition of the productive and valuable work completed by the AGS – LRM Taskforce.

Our second National Committee meeting for 2007 is scheduled for Saturday 20 October to coincide with the 10th ANZ conference. Please contact your state National Committee representative, Peter Robinson (AGS Secretariat) or myself if you would like any detailed feedback in relation to the AGS national meetings.

It is pleasing to note that our membership numbers continue to grow. Please pass on details of the significant professional development advantages of joining AGS to all new entrants into the Australian geotechnical and geological professions.

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) and online registration facilities should now be available. The conference brochure should be available in the very near future and will provide details of the Key Note Lecture by Dr Peter Mitchell and a lecture from Dr John Christian as our Distinguished International Speaker.

Mark Jaksa continues to co-ordinate our distinguished speaker programme. After preliminary discussions with Antonio Gens it is hoped that he can visit Australia in 2007 or 2008 to deliver his 2007 Rankine Lecture. Details of these initiatives are available 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)

At the March 2007 National Committee meeting it was decided to proceed with the provision of enhanced web page services from Engineers Australia. The new AGS web page should be on line by June 2007 and we thank Engineers Australia for their support in this area. The new arrangements will ensure that the AGS webpage (www.australiangeomechanics.org) is updated on a regular basis and that an improved and modernised web based service can be provided into the future.

AGS AWARDS

As previously advised Professor Robin Fell, of the University of New South Wales, is the recipient of the **2007 John Jaeger Award**. 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.

As indicated in March the **2007 E H Davis Memorial Lecture** will be presented by Dr Chris Haberfield of Golder Associates in Melbourne. We look forward to the lecture tour later in 2007 and will provide details of dates and locations once they are known.

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.

Although not an AGS award we are pleased to be able to report here that Professor Scott Sloan of Newcastle University has been elected to a Fellowship of the Australian Academy of Science. Scott joins Professors Mark Randolph and Harry Poulos in this prestigious position, further enhancing the strong representation of Geotechnical Engineering in this national institution.



ISSMGE, ISRM AND IAEG NEWS

Fred Baynes has been travelling overseas as **International President of IAEG** and we look forward to continuing Australasian involvement with IAEG resulting from Fred's international role. AGS and NZGS are providing financial support to Fred in this role and it is hoped that Engineers Australia may also be able to contribute.

Alan Moon is now established in his role as **Australasian Vice President (VP)** for IAEG and Alan was able to attend the March National Committee meeting to give us valuable feedback in relation to IAEG activity. Alan will be attending the 2007 IAEG Council meeting in Texas later in 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.

It is anticipated that our nominee, Dr Jayantha Kodikara of Monash University, will become a participant in ISSMGE TC3 - Pavement Geotechnics, in the near future.

Tony Meyers continues in the role of Australasian **VP** for **ISRM** for 2007 to 2011. Tony has played a proactive role in explaining AGS activity in relation to the proposed AusIMM Mining Geoscience Society that is expected to be formed later in 2007. Plans have been developed to ensure that there will be some close interaction between AGS and the AusIMM Geoscience Society and we will provide additional details in future editions as they become available.

SECRETARIAT AND FINANCIAL ISSUES

Peter Robinson continues in his efficient secretariat role and our accounting, auditing and reporting are up to date and transparent. We are pleased to confirm that Peter has agreed to negotiate a further, two year, contract with AGS at the end of 2007 to provide enhanced continuity into the future.

Peter has recently made significant progress with our membership records and contact details. Please make sure that you let Engineers Australia and the AGS Secretariat 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.

LANDSLIDE RISK MANAGEMENT

The LRM project documentation, including a Hazard Zoning Guideline and Commentary, Slope Management and Maintenance GeoGuide and LRM Practice Note and Commentary were provided to the relevant client bodies and published in the March 2007 edition of AG. It is anticipated that downloadable versions of the documents will be available from the AGS web page in the near future.

We understand that JTC-1 will be publishing a Landslide Zoning Guide, which has some relevance to the LRM work, in the International Journal of Engineering Geology later in 2007.

LIAISON WITH NZGS

We welcome **Dr C Y Chin** into the role of National Chair for NZGS and look forward to ongoing productive liaison between AGS and NZGS. **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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In closing I again acknowledge the assistance and support that I have received from Peter Robinson, Mark Jaksa, Neil Benson and the AGS National Committee.

Patrick MacGregor and Sarah Lanesman again deserve recognition for their excellent work on the editorial, production and management of advertising with AG which continues to grow in quality and industry support with each edition.

Please contact me if there are any issues that you feel can be better addressed by AGS.

Marc Woodward

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