

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

Greetings from Perth where the mid winter weather is better than the recent mid summer weather in Manchester, UK!

I hope, as this edition of AG is a WA special, you won't mind me briefly adopting my own WA focus? I am very pleased to be able to announce that **Francis Raymond "Ray" Gordon** was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Engineering by the University of Western Australia at a graduation ceremony on 21 March 2007. This prestigious award was made in recognition of Ray's pre-eminent contributions to Geology and Engineering Geology in WA and his contributions towards the education of undergraduate Geologists and Civil Engineers at both UWA and Curtin University. We understand that Ray's book on Coastal Limestone is due to be published early in 2008.



I hope that the recent, well publicised, Engineers Australia initiatives in Safety in Construction, on-line CPD records and Women in Engineering have been noted, engaged with and actioned where possible by all AGS members and practitioners in the Geomechanics profession.

EA have also recently initiated a Sustainability Charter and all interested parties are invited to contact Nina Lenz (nlenz@engineersaustralia.org.au) for further details.

Our second National Committee meeting for 2007 will be held on 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.

COMING EVENTS

Burt Look and the committee members in QLD have just about wrapped up 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 are now available. We have had more than 250 advance registrations which is confirmation of a high level on interest and bodes very well for a successful and informative conference for all participants.

The finalised ANZ conference arrangements include the Conference Key Note Address by Dr Peter Mitchell, presentation of the 13th NZ Geomechanics Lecture by Dr Do Van Toan, the John Jaeger Memorial Lecture by Professor Robin Fell and, to recognise the ISSMGE council meeting being held in Brisbane, Dr John Christian as our invited Distinguished International Speaker. Burt Look, the conference committee, AGS and NZGS all extend an open invitation and encourage all geotechnical and geological practitioners to attend this important and valuable conference.

Mark Jaksa continues to co-ordinate our distinguished speaker programme. We are pleased to confirm that Antonio Gens has agreed to visit Australia to deliver his 2007 Rankine Lecture – "Soil-environment interactions in geotechnical engineering". It is hoped that Antonio can visit most chapters between late October and mid November. Further details will be announced by your local chapter representatives.

The very successful, bi-annual, **Geology for Engineers** course, run in Adelaide by Alan Moon, Fred Baynes and Isabelle Lamb, is to be organised again for April 2008. Places are limited to 18 and this course is always fully booked well in advance so please contact Alan Moon (alan_moon@coffey.com), or complete the application form provided in this edition of AG, if you are interested in attending.

The next **YGP Conference** is due to be held in Wellington late in 2008 and the NZGS has recently set up an organizing committee. All interested AGS members, below the age of 35, are invited to send abstracts to Dr Elisabeth Bowman, the YGP committee chair, at the Civil Engineering Department, Canterbury University, Locked Bag 4800, Christchurch 8140, NZ (elisabeth.bowman@canterbury.ac.nz).

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. We understand that the new AGS web page should now be on line in September and we thank Engineers Australia and Mark Jaksa for their support and activity in this area. These new arrangements will ensure that the AGS webpage 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.

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 or early in 2008, and will provide details of dates and locations once they are confirmed.

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 our international societies VP's.

ISSMGE, ISRM and IAEG news

In his capacity as **International President** of IAEG, **Fred Baynes** had a very busy month of June. Fred chaired the IAEG Executive and Council meetings, in Vail, Colorado, followed up by chairing the meeting of IAEG, ISRM and ISSMGE, in Paris, to discuss developments with the FIGS initiative. It is understood that nominations for the role of President of FIGS are invited in late 2007, with an appointment expected in early 2008. The IAEG secretariat, Fred and our Australasian VP's, can provide additional information on FIGS and other international matters if you require them.

Alan Moon, our **Australasian Vice President (VP)** for IAEG, was also able to attend the 2007 IAEG Council meeting in Colorado to represent Australasia. Alan will be reporting on IAEG issues at the Brisbane national committee meeting in October.

Ann Williams will be acting as NZGS liaison in support of Alan Moon to ensure effective liaison between AGS and NZGS in relation to IAEG issues.

Professor John Carter, our **Australasian VP** for ISSMGE, has been very active with the preparations for the ISSMGE council meeting in Brisbane in October to coincide with the ANZ conference. John will 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.

Steve Crawford will be acting as ISSMGE liaison in support of John Carter to ensure effective liaison between AGS and NZGS in relation to ISSMGE issues.

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.

We are pleased to note that our nominee, Dr Jayantha Kodikara of Monash University, has become a participant in ISSMGE TC3 - Pavement Geotechnics.

Tony Meyers, our **Australasian VP** for ISRM, attended the ISRM Board and Council meetings in Lisbon in early July. Tony continues to play a proactive role in ISRM and liaison between AGS, AusIMM and the Australasian Tunnelling Society (ATS). Additional details of ISRM activity are available from the web page www.isrm.net. AGS members in ISRM are encouraged to obtain a password to gain full access to the information available from the members zone of the web page.

The 2008 Rocha Medal has been awarded to Dr. Liang Zhengzhao for his thesis "Three dimensional numerical modelling of rock failure process. The medal will be awarded at the November 2008 ISRM international symposium in Tehran.

Tony and AGS wish to thank Dr. John St George, our outgoing ISRM VP, for his considerable and valuable contributions towards ISRM activity up to 2007.

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 has now been delivered to the sponsoring bodies and distributed widely through the special edition of AG. The LRM documents are also available as a down load from the AGS web site.

Steve Crawford and Grant Murray are chairing the NZ Stability Guidelines Committee that will review the AGS Landslide Risk Management Guidelines as part of the process of determining the optimum arrangements in LRM for New Zealand.

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. It has been suggested that AGS and NZGS investigate the possible benefits of reciprocal membership arrangements and we hope to report on this issue in more detail after the October national committee meeting.

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

I would like to thank Peter Robinson, Mark Jaksa, Neil Benson and the AGS National Committee for their assistance over the last couple of months, during which I have been working out of Australia, and have needed more support than in “normal” circumstances.

Patrick MacGregor and Sara Lanesman continue with their excellent work on the editorial, production and management of advertising with AG and deserve our collective congratulations and thanks for their efforts and the success and quality of *Australian Geomechanics*.

Please feel free to contact me if there are any issues relating to AGS that you want to discuss with me.

Marc Woodward (marc_woodward@coffey.com)

AUSTRALIAN GEOMECHANICS SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SATURDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2007
10 AM
Level 5
Brisbane Hilton
190 Elizabeth Street
BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND