

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



The next National Committee meeting will be in Sydney on 17 October 2008. Please contact your state National Committee representative, **Peter Robinson** (AGS Secretariat), **Graham Scholey** or myself if you would like any feedback or additional information in relation to the AGS National Committee meetings.

Marc Woodward (Immediate past Chair) has announced that he will relocate to the UK as a Director of Coffey Geomechanics in June 2008. We wish Marc well in his new role and extend our thanks for his contribution and involvement with AGS. Marc assures me that he will remain involved, although remotely!

COMING EVENTS

- The next **YGP Conference** is due to be held in Wellington 5-8 November 2008. 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).
- As advised in AG June 2008 a new Engineering Geology course. The course is being developed by **Phil Flentje, Fred Baynes, Mark Eggers** and **Alan Moon** on behalf of the Australian Geomechanics Society and will probably be held in Wollongong in September 2009. The new course is intended to complement the Geology for Engineers course that is run in Adelaide every two years. It is envisaged that students will be engineering geologists and geotechnical engineers involved in civil and mining projects who have a working knowledge of geology and at least 3 or 4 years experience in industry. Enquiries to **Phil Flentje** at pflentje@uow.edu.au.
- Under our Distinguished Speakers program, **Professor John Atkinson**, from the UK, will undertake a lecture tour in September 2008 presenting "*The basic Theories of Soil Mechanics*".
- The AGS, in conjunction with the ISRM, is also supporting the **1st Southern Hemisphere Rock Mechanics Symposium** to be held in Perth in September 2008.
- **Alan Moon** IAEG VP for Australasia has advised that the European Conference of the International Association of Engineering Geology (EUROENGEО) will be held in Madrid, Spain from 15 to 19 September 2008. (For further information visit www.euroengeo.com)

AGS WEB PAGE (www.australiangeomechanics.org)

Mark Jaksa continues in the role of AGS webmaster and so please contact Mark if you have any questions or comments in relation to functionality, content, use and maintenance of our web page. The National Committee agreed in March 2008 to assist Mark with some external support to streamline the process of uploading material. This will address the challenge of ensuring the site remains current and up to date information is available to our members. Enhancing communication and availability of information to members through the web site is a priority for this year. A redesign of the website is currently underway.

AGS AWARDS

Nominations have been received for **D.H. Trollope Medal** and 2008 **Geotechnical Practitioner of the Year..** The submissions are currently being considered by a panel appointed by the AGS executive.

Details of the various AGS awards are given in the *Prizes and Awards* page of the website.

LANDSLIDE RISK MANAGEMENT

Matters pertaining to the National Professional Engineering Register (NPER) Landslide Risk Management progressed during 2007 with a call for volunteers for "*NPER LRM Assessment and Interview Panels*" published in AG in December 2007. Thanks to those who have put their names forward. The National Committee formed a sub committee which will review submissions and nominate Panel members.

ISSMGE, ISRM AND IAEG NEWS

- **Fred Baynes** continues to be active as international President of IAEG.
- **Alan Moon** is our Australasian Vice President (VP) for IAEG. The IAEG Council meeting for 2008 will be held in Madrid, Spain, in September 2008. Additional IAEG details can be obtained from **Peter Robinson** or **Alan Moon** if required.
- The 17th **International Conference** of ISSMGE will be held in Alexandria Egypt from 5-9 October 2009. **Professor John Carter** our Australasian VP for ISSMGE has reviewed Abstracts and 23 papers have been proposed from Australia. News Bulletin for ISSMGE is available at <http://www.issmge.org/home/page.asp?sid=296&mid=2&id=473>
- Our Australasian VP for ISRM is **Tony Meyers**. 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 ISRM annual meetings for 2008 (Board, Council Commissions) will be held in Tehran, Iran, from 24 to 26 November 2008. Nominations are currently being sought from the Rock Mechanics Community for the Rocha Medal 2010. Details are found at www.irsm.net.

SECRETARIAT AND FINANCIAL ISSUES

Peter Robinson continues his effective secretariat role and our accounting, auditing and reporting continue to be up to date and transparent.

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.

Please also ensure that individual and corporate memberships remain current. Our current paid up membership stands at 1170 for the Society.

Peter has also made progress in relation to administration of individual AGS membership of the international societies. Please contact **Peter Robinson** if you have any questions or concerns in relation to the status of your membership of the international societies.

Patrick MacGregor and **Sarah 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.

Neil D Benson (*nbenson@golder.com.au*)

AGS National Chair

June 2008