

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



On behalf of the National Committee I would like to convey our best wishes to all members of AGS and their families for 2009.

The next National Committee meeting will be in Adelaide in 27 March 2009. 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.

EVENTS

As advised in AG June 2008 a new Engineering Geology 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 AGS agreed to support the development of this course at the October National Committee meeting. 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.

The **EH Davis** lecture tour by **Dr. Chris Haberfield** concluded in Newcastle in November.

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 October 2008 to commission an external consultant to redesign the website. Stage 1 is due for testing in Q1 2009.

AGS AWARDS

I am pleased to announce that the winner of the **Geotechnical Practitioner of the Year** award for 2008 is **Dr. Peter Mitchell**.

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 2008 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

reported to the last National Committee meeting. The subcommittee is now in the process of reviewing submissions to facilitate the nomination of Panel members. We expect this to be resolved early in 2009.

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. 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. Tony attended the ISRM annual meetings for 2008 (Board, Council Commissions) held in Tehran, Iran, from 24 to 26 November 2008.

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. The 2007/2008 audited accounts were signed off at the October **National Committee Meeting**.

The AGS is currently in a healthy financial position which will benefit members by allowing us to find new initiatives including, as discussed previously, the Engineering Geology Course, Web Site development, Distinguished Speakers Program and the 11th ANZ Conference in 2011.

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.

We have advised Engineers Australia that there will be no increase in AGS membership fees for 2009/2010 financial year. At the last National Committee Meeting we also agreed that all full time students will receive a free membership.

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 **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 continue to actively engage with and support AGS as the success and growth of our society is closely connected to the success and growth of our profession.

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

December 2008