

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



AGS membership currently stands at 1,283 which makes the AGS the second largest technical society affiliated with Engineer's Australia. We welcome our new corporate members Geobruigg Australia P/L and Geovert Pty Ltd. Activity to increase membership numbers and the level of engagement in AGS events remains a priority.

The next National Committee meeting will be in Sydney in October 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

The **IAEG Congress** (which is held every four years) is the biggest international event in the IAEG calendar and there is already a lot of international interest in the Auckland congress in September 2010. New Zealand is an exciting place to visit and work, there will be some great keynote speakers and the many field trips during and after the congress will be a particular highlight. By the time you read this, the abstract deadline will be close, so check out the website (www.iaeg2010.com) and take the opportunity to contribute to and attend a major international congress in a very different geological environment close to home.

We have previously advised of a new Engineering Geology course being developed by **Phil Flentje, Fred Baynes, Mark Eggers** and **Alan Moon** on behalf of the Australian Geomechanics Society and proposed to be held in Wollongong in September 2009. This has now been postponed due to the challenging market conditions which have impacted on attendance commitments.

Our distinguished speaker programme is being managed by Professor **Barry Lehane** of the University of Western Australia. There are currently proposals either on a National or State level for talks from Professor William Powrie (University of Southampton), Professor S. Sakurai (Japan) and Dr. Fred Baynes (Australia) (President IAEG).

AGS WEB PAGE (www.australiangeomechanics.org)

We would appreciate any feedback on the new web site. There are constant updates for conference, seminars, Chapter events and award information. Photo's from members would be welcomed and will be displayed on the web site; these can be sent to the secretariat.

Stage 1 redevelopment of our website was launched in March 2009. **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.

AGS AWARDS

The 2008 **Trollope Medal** was awarded to **Dr Xiangtau Xu** for the paper “*Pile and penetrometer end bearing resistance in two layered soil profile*” published in *Getochnique* in 2008.

The **Australian Geomechanics Award** for 2008 is awarded to **Brian Burman, Gary Mostyn and David Piccolo** for their paper entitled “*Experiences with post-construction re-testing of engineering clay fills*”.

LANDSLIDE RISK MANAGEMENT

The AGS Landslide Risk Sub-Committee reports that they were successful with a submission to the National Disaster Mitigation Programme for funding to run workshops Australia wide on Landslide Risk Management.

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 will attend the ISSMGE Council Meeting on 4 October, 2009. Agenda items include:

- Linking of membership, society activity and subscription fees
- Rationalization of voting procedures
- Election of President for 2009-2013 period
- Presentations by China and France to host XVIII ICSMGE

News Bulletin for ISSMGE is available at <http://www.issmge.org/home/page.asp?sid=296&mid=2&ld=473>

John steps down from this role at the Alexandria Conference to be succeeded by Professor Mike Davies of Auckland University.

Our Australasian VP for ISRM is **Tony Meyers**. Details of ISRM activities 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 member's zone of the web page.

Tony has continued to be active in representing AGS with ISRM and AusIMM activity. Tony attended the ISRM Board and Council meetings in Hong Kong in May 2009.

At the Board meeting Yia-Ting Feng from China was elected the next ISRM President (2011-2015).

Tony was also a contributor and presenter on the 2nd ISRM lecture tour given in four cities in China, (7 universities and over 1,000 postgraduates and practitioners attending).

SECRETARIAT AND FINANCIAL ISSUES

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

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.

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
June 2009