

NZGS Committee Meeting 3rd December 2013

- The Committee would like to extend their thanks to Tony Fairclough (Convenor) and the full Organising Committee of the 19th NZGS Symposium recently held in Queenstown. It was a fantastic event with great presenters and interesting exhibitors, and delegates had plenty of opportunities to talk amongst themselves too.
- *John Wood is to deliver the 2014 Geomechanics Lecture. His topic is "The earthquake performance of soil retaining structures".*
- Almost 40% of the NZGS Membership is under 35 years of age, and perhaps some members aren't aware that this means they can attend YGP functions (conferences etc.); and in some instances apply for awards (e.g. Richard Wolters).
- The next YGP Conference is in Noosa, Queensland, 3rd-5th September, 2014. Call for abstracts closes 31st January, 2014.
- Professor Mark Jaksa, the new Australasian VP for ISSMGE attended the Committee meeting; welcome Mark to NZGS. Professor Jaksa will attend some NZGS Committee meetings and liaise with Mick Pender at other times.
- Professor Jaksa advised that following the disappointment to secure the next ICSMGE to be held in Sydney in 2017, the AGS has decided to pursue the 2021 ICSMGE.
- David Beck, the Australasian VP for ISRM, reported that membership has grown internationally, mainly in Europe and Asia, to 7,063.
- The Geomechanics News editors, Hamish Maclean and Ross Roberts, advised that following distribution of the December Bulletin, an online survey (reviewed by Committee members) will be distributed to all members.
- The sponsorship prospectus for the 12th Australia New Zealand Conference on Geomechanics (ANZ 2015) has been launched; the keynote speakers booked; and the call for abstracts will open in February 2014. Full speed ahead.
- IPENZ is updating its Code of Ethics. As all NZGS members are bound by the IPENZ Code of Ethics via the NZGS rules, it was suggested that members may need to be more formally aware of the Code of Ethics. The Committee will discuss further once the update is complete.
- The Committee agreed that Gavin Alexander (NZGS Chair and NZGS representative on Engineering Reference Group) sign and accept the ERG Terms of Reference.
- NZGS continues to liaise with UCQC (mainly with reference to potential cross-over on Seismic Design Guidelines).

- Ann Williams, the Australasian VP for IAEG, reported that there has been adjustment to the representation on the IAEG Executive to 1:1, term for term. This means that New Zealand Engineering Geologists have the opportunity to take on the role of Australasian VP every 4 years.
- The NZGS Scholarship applications for 2013 are currently being assessed.
- NZGS rules require updating, mainly editorial adjustment and tidy up – a draft is to be prepared for the next Committee meeting, and will need to be voted on at a future AGM.
- Progress on new and updated Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering Guidelines remains frustratingly slow, and options to speed up delivery of them were debated at length.

Next NZGS Committee meeting, 4th March 2014, Auckland.