

## Managing Geotechnical Hazards

EAGCG AGM AND WORKSHOP, MELBOURNE 24-25 SEPTEMBER 2008

The Eastern Australia Ground Control Group recently held another successful meeting in Melbourne with a record attendance of over 88 members. The two days were spent discussing experience and expertise in geotechnical hazard management in underground and open cut Australian and Canadian mines. A broad range of coal and metalliferous mines from across Australia were represented as well as consultants, researchers, government regulators and industry suppliers. Site tours to Ballarat and Bendigo Mines were made available to participants prior to the conference and were well supported. Special thanks to Kate Williams (Lihir Gold Ballarat), and Rob McLean (Bendigo Mining) for making the site visits possible.

Four excellent keynote addresses were presented:

- Peter Kaiser (Chair for Rock Mechanics and Ground Control, Laurentian University. Founding Executive Director (Pres/CEO), CEMI) discussed the Rock Mechanics challenges facing the mining and construction industries
- Malcolm Bridges (Principal, AMC Consultants) reported on the downward trends in mining fatalities
- Don Jones (Coroner, Magistrates Court of Tasmania) provided insight into Coronial inquests and the function of the Coroner
- Alan Bye (Director, WH Bryan Mining and Geology Research Centre) presented research on quantifying risks, costs and benefits for decision making

There were also 15 shorter presentations on various aspects of ground support management, legislation and risk management methods from a range of industry experts. Participants engaged in discussion sessions each day and many valuable experiences were generously shared. Prizes were awarded for the best presentation from each day. Recipients were:

- Katie Ormonde (Department of Mines and Energy, Townsville) Geotechnical Obligations – How much is enough?
- Willard Zirima (OZ Minerals, Rosebery Mine) Management of Geotechnical Hazards of OZ Minerals Rosebery Mine, Tasmania.

Thanks to the sponsors of this event (Minova, BOSFA, EPC, Geovert, Rock Australia, AMC Consultants, BASF, Geotechnical Systems, Coffey Mining, Applied Concrete Solutions, Mining One and Pybar) for making the speaker's prizes, keynote sponsorships and dinners possible. The ongoing and generous support of our sponsors is invaluable.

The Annual General Meeting for the EAGCG concluded the program; the main discussion points included:

- The members voted to hold the next meeting in Cairns in May 2009
- Marnie Pascoe and Andrew Campbell did not seek re-election due to work commitments.
- The Committee for 2009 is Ben Roache (Mining One), Meredith Goss (Coffey Mining), Tony Meyers (Rocktest Consulting), Kate Williams (Lihir Gold Ballarat), Jacqui Monk (Xstrata Mt Isa), Anna Gentle (BHP Billiton Cannington), Adrian Pilcher (DSI), Anthony de Veth (AMC Consultants), Danny Palhares (Pybar)

The next meeting is to be held in May 2009, please contact the committee at [eagcg@ausimm.com.au](mailto:eagcg@ausimm.com.au) for sponsorship and participation information.

The Committee wish all our members a safe and prosperous conclusion to 2008 and we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.