

Selecting the Appropriate Ground Support

EAGCG CAIRNS MEETING 14-15 MAY 2009

The Eastern Australia Ground Control Group recently held another successful meeting in Cairns. 72 members spent 2 days in tropical north Queensland discussing their knowledge and experiences with ground support selection in underground mines. A large range of coal and metalliferous mines from across Australia were represented as well as consultants, researchers, government representatives and industry suppliers.

4 excellent keynote addresses were presented:

- Peter Fuller discussed the support selection process recently undertaken at Beaconsfield Mine.
- Peter Mikula discussed dynamic support selection and corrosion assessment.
- Yves Potvin presented a range of dynamic support test results.
- Paul O'Grady spoke on support selection in Australian Coal Mines.

There were also 12 shorter presentations on various aspects of support selection, monitoring and modelling from industry experts. Participants engaged in a discussion session and many opinions were generously shared from around the room. AMC Consultants provided prizes to be awarded for the best presentation from each day. Recipients were:

- Frans Basson – Visual presentation of Support design criteria
- Rhett de Vries – Resin bolting at Cannington Mine

Thanks to the sponsors of this event (Minova, BOSFA, Rock Engineering, AMC Consultants, BASF, Geotechnical Systems, Coffey Mining, EPC, Geobrugg, ACS, AVKO, DSI, Mining One, Jenmar and Pybar) for making the speaker's prizes, keynote sponsorships and dinners possible. Without the ongoing generous support of these companies and our other sponsors we could not maintain the high standard of events for our members.

A short meeting for the EAGCG concluded the program; the main discussion points included an increased presence from coal mines and the next meeting. The next meeting is to be held around September 2009; the location and theme will be announced shortly. Please contact the committee for sponsorship and participation information.

An excellent start to 2009! We look forward to seeing you all in September.