

Application of Various Ground Control Techniques to Specific Mining Methods: An Industry Perspective

EAGCG Brisbane Meeting 27-28 May 2010

The Eastern Australian Ground Control Group bi-annual meeting was held again recently, with 76 members attending the workshop in Brisbane. Two days were spent discussing specific mining methods and the application of various ground control techniques to these methods. A vast array of presenters were present from all around the globe; from South Africa, to England, to Canada, to New Zealand, to India. The variance didn't come only from global position however. There was a vast array of experience and it was encouraging to see the same ideals and topics being discussed by both the new and the not-so-new. 'Mentoring' was available for the younger crowd, without criticism being introduced. The case studies from site based Geotechs were interesting as always, and the committee thank all the site Geotechs for making the effort to have been there and present. We understand that it can be difficult to get away! The site based topics are always interesting, and the sessions just wouldn't be the same without them. The topics and mining methods varied greatly, and most mining methods were presented including; open cut, underground coal, caving, stoping, traverse stoping, tunnelling, and thin tabular.

The keynote presenters were of excellent calibre and included; Alan Day who gave an excellent overview of rock mechanics throughout the decades, and the world. Will Bawden was kind enough to present two keynote presentations, the first discussing the prediction and back analysis of rockmass failure behaviour, and discussed some issues with commonly used theories and predicted the future direction needed for the industry. On the second day, he gave an interesting presentation on In-Situ monitoring of Wetfill, and the difficulties in the installation of such instrumentation. Francois Malan introduced (for the first time for many audience members) ground support practices for the thin tabular orebodies commonly found in South Africa, and followed up again on the second day by detailing the wooden varieties of the ground support elements.

Prizes were awarded to the best presenters from each day. The recipients were:

- Geoff Capes (Newcrest Ridgeway) - Examples of Stability / Instability in Open Stopping and Caving Operations
- Ellen Morton - Determination of energy absorption capabilities of large scale shotcrete panels

Participants engaged in some lively discussions sessions each day, and gained useful pointers. Handheld mining was discussed on the first day, followed by the requirement for registration with BPEQ, tertiary education options, and the criteria which geotechnical engineers should be assessed against for chartership on the second

The committee thank once again, our faithful sponsors; Minova, Elasto Plastic Concrete, Geobruigg, BOSFA, Rock Australia, Fero, AMC Consultants, DSI, ISS, Mega Bolt, Geotechnical Systems, Coffey Mining, Applied Concrete Solutions, Mining One, BASF, and last but not least Jennmar. Their support is greatly appreciated as it allows us to remain a low cost, high quality event.

The next event will be held in October 2010. The location and theme are still to be announced. Registrants will be kept informed of the details. Please contact the committee secretariat@eagcg.org for participation and sponsorship information. If you know of personnel involved in the industry who would like to be added to the mailing list, please use the above email to forward as many contact details as possible.