



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HYDROGEOLOGISTS

Australia-Pacific region, 2013 report

The highlight of 2013 was of course **the IAH 40th Congress held in Perth, Western Australia**. The IAH December news reported on several aspects of this successful congress and again, we congratulate the local organising committee. Many IAH members in this region were involved in the congress, and happily hosted colleagues from around the world. We are grateful to our international colleagues who took time before and after the congress to visit this far flung region of IAH and enjoy our natural wonders.

In addition to the congress, we are pleased to report that a **new local IAH branch in the Australian Capital Territory** continues to be very active. Located in the Canberra, there are many Federal government employees involved in groundwater management work, and the local committee has several very enthusiastic members. Also, several IAH representatives have been busy contacting and supporting our groundwater colleagues in less developed areas of the world, and contact invitations have been sent to PNG and Fiji groundwater managers to gauge their issues and offer support.

The **National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training (NCGRT Australia)** completes its five year funding cycle in mid-2014. Although the centre did not receive a second round of funding support due to the changing economic climate in Australia, there are other avenues for research funding that are being explored. Further updates on research outcomes, and the successful industry training program and many useful resources are available at <http://www.groundwater.com.au>

The **Australian National Chapter** is continuing to enhance the local website <http://www.iah.org.au> and overcome some initial challenges in functionality. Led by Dr Rick Evans and a very capable National Executive team, there is now an established network of IAH membership champions and IAH web champions throughout the local branches. This region is looking ahead in 2015 to continuing to support our members, local IAH branches and to reach out to those beyond Australia.

Dr Wendy Timms

Vice President IAH, Australia-Pacific

20th February 2014