



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HYDROGEOLOGISTS

Australia-Pacific region, 2014 report

Regional initiatives

The IAH has been seeking opportunities to boost groundwater advocacy in the Australasia-Pacific region. The New Zealand Hydrological Society (NZHS) is very active and a strong identity. During a working visit to Christchurch, Dr Wendy Timms took the opportunity to discuss NZHS and IAH with some colleagues. We look for future joint opportunities with NZHS, such as the NZHS-IAH-NZSSS 2005 Conference held in Auckland in December 2005 "Where waters meet".

Australian National Chapter

There was an upward trend in active number of members during 2014, after a decline in numbers from a peak in 2012 as the economy shifted. Challenges with membership payments on the IAH Australia website meant that payments were somewhat delayed, with numbers of non-renewed members. However, thanks to initiatives of National and local branch member champions, the membership numbers had recovered to 565 by the time of the IAH international congress in September 2014. A new database was being developed to support membership initiatives, along with website improvements for 2015.

An IAH information booth was placed at the Australian Earth Science Convention (Newcastle, July 2014), staffed by IAH volunteers. Groundwater issues receiving considerable attention in Australia include coal seam gas, the economic value of groundwater and water planning for Northern Australia. IAH Australia President, Dr Rick Evans, continued to actively promote an IAH voice in groundwater management decisions, and the National IAH committee worked very well, with regular phone conferences and action items. The National IAH AGM was held on 19th November in Perth, with a new President, Chris McAuley and committee elected.

Just to highlight a few events around the country (www.iah.org.au), the Victorian branch ran an IAH fieldtrip, a national field methods school was offered in South Australia, and IAH student nights were held by several branches. Newsletters with further information are available: <https://www.iah.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/IAH-Newsletter-Q4-2014.pdf>

https://www.iah.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/2014Q1_IAH-Newsletter.pdf

With an eye to the future, a bi-annual Australian groundwater conference was being planned for 2015. A sub-committee was established to deliver this joint IAH event with the National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training. Also, the Darcy lecture tour of Professor Dorthe Wildenschild was planned for February 2015 to capital cities across Australia.

Dr Wendy Timms

Vice President IAH, Australia-Pacific