



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HYDROGEOLOGISTS

Australasia-Pacific region, 2016 report

Regional initiatives

Planning for the **Australasian Groundwater Conference** (AGC2017 [web link here](#)) commenced, to be hosted by UNSW Sydney from 11-13th July 2017. Participants from NZ, the Pacific and Asian countries will be warmly welcomed, with particular thanks to **Prof. Dr. Makoto Taniguchi** who joined the planning committee. AGC2017 is jointly organised by IAH and the NCGRT (National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training). NCGRT continues to represent groundwater training across Australia although the boom of activity (20009-2015) has unfortunately declined since drought conditions eased across the world's driest inhabited continent.

The **IAH New Zealand chapter**, established during 2015, continues to meet regularly in Auckland on the North Island and in Christchurch on the South Island. It is terrific to note that a skype connection to meetings is offered too. A committee of volunteers ensures the success of this new chapter, led by **Theo Sarris** who is also part of the AGC2017 planning committee (Theo.Sarris@esr.cri.nz).

To **support groundwater personnel in the Pacific Islands**, informal mentoring and support connections have commenced with senior IAH members in Australia. **Emeritus Professor Ian Acworth** has contributed to training sessions in Fiji, with the support of **Peter Sinclair**, advisor to SOPAC in Suva Fiji. IAH members with recent stories to share on groundwater support in the Pacific, Papua New Guinea or East Timor, or interest to mentor groundwater personnel in these areas, are encouraged to contact w.timms@unsw.edu.au.

In addition, an opportunity arose for dialogue with Asian neighbours during work travels by the Regional VP. **Dr Wendy Timms** met with groundwater researchers at Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (**A/Prof Abhijit Mukherjee**), and Indian School of Mines (**Dr Prasoon Kumar Singh**). Also, while at the Asian Rock Mechanics symposium, she arranged to meet with **Dr Ginting Jalu Kusuma** from Bandung Institute of Technology. The local Indonesian groundwater association has recently become more active and so there was interest to hear of IAH activities including AGC2017.

Australian National Chapter

There were some changes to the IAH Australia Executive Committee positions at the end of 2016. **Dr Lange Jorstad** was elected the new President of IAH Australia, succeeding **Chris McAuley** in this role. **Dr Ian Brandes de Roos** was elected Secretary, and **Dr Anna Greve** elected Secretary, following **Kyle Horner** and Dr Lange Jorstad in these roles. Chris and Kyle are thanked for keeping the association on an upward trajectory, **working together with many wonderful volunteers on the National Committee and in local IAH branches across the nation.**

The current national committee for Australia, who continue to meet by regular phone conferences of the National Committee, are as follows:

- Lange Jorstad – President
- Ian Brandes de Roos – Vice President
- Anna Greve – Secretary
- Ron Colman – Treasurer
- Chris McAuley – Past President
- Kyle Horner – Membership Secretary and Web Administration
- Ben Rotter – Newsletter Champion
- Wendy Timms - IAH Regional Vice President

Despite the distances involved travelling 'Down Under', we were fortunate to hear **Dr Ty Ferré** present the ***Darcy Lecture*** across the region during August 2016. **Dr Rebecca Nelson** delivered the ***NCGRT/IAH Distinguished Lecture*** during 2016, an initiative now well-established in the regional groundwater scene.

Again in 2016, IAH Branches around the Nation delivered an incredible number of quality events including field trips. Reports by Branches in Queensland, New South Wales, Australia Capital Territory, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and Northern Territory and Tasmania can be found in newsletters [here](#).

It is also worth noting that IAH made an important contribution to national decision making with a submission to the Australian Senate Select Committee on Unconventional Gas Mining. The submission on this hot topic of continuing community debate is available on the IAH Australia website.

A final reminder for locals, that membership for 2017 can be paid through the IAH Australia website. Further information on membership benefits, and upcoming events across Australia is available at www.iah.org.au, and in New Zealand by contacting Theo.Sarris@esr.cri.nz.

Dr Wendy Timms

Vice President IAH, Australasia-Pacific