

*ASSOCIATION OF GEOTECHNICAL
TESTING AUTHORITIES (QLD) INC*

NEWSLETTER



*THE ASSOCIATION OF
GEOTECHNICAL TESTING
AUTHORITIES (QLD) INC.*



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AGTA 2005 Committee Officers

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Fax. 07 3870 5980

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Fax: 07 3282 1698

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Fax. 07 5524 6533

Treasurer

Chris Thurley
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Deputy Secretary

Ron Richards
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Fax. 07 5495 1733

Deputy Treasurer

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A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The 2005 year has started out with a bang for most GTA's. While there are a few pundits who are flagging a slowing down in project development and construction later in the year, there are as many, possibly more who say that there will be little change in Queensland for the foreseeable future. So 2005 has all the earmarks of being another bumper year for those AGTA members who can stay on what is likely to be quite a roller coaster ride.

This feverish activity makes it difficult for committee members to put as much time as they'd like into AGTA activities. My thanks go to the committee, all of whom served last year and have put their hand up for another stint. We are not expecting to do any ground-breaking work this year. There will be the monthly committee meetings. We hope to issue three Newsletters and have two General Meetings (the last one being in conjunction with the AGM). We will maintain AGTA representation on Standards Australia committees CE/09, CE/12 and CE/27.

It is well recognized that any association is only as good as its members, and that the association is there for the benefit of the members. At last year's General Meetings, it was suggested to the committee that the Newsletters could contain such information as current problems facing the industry and errors in widely used test methods (yes, there still are some). These and any other suggestions will be gladly received and acted on by the committee.

One of the chores to be done this year is a rewrite of the rights and Obligations of Members. This needs to be done to reflect the simplified member structure of the association – we now have only two classes of members. We hope to get the amended document out to Members for approval soon.

See you in a paddock somewhere, Peter Davis

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1. Measurement Uncertainty (MU)

Deadline

As from 1 May 2005, laboratories will be asked to provide MU estimates for all test methods which are either in-house or do not meet the requirements of Note 2 of clause 5.4.6.2 of ISO/IEC 17025 for both currently accredited methods and for new methods for which accreditation is being sought. When applying for additional methods to be added to the scope of accreditation, laboratories will need to show whether the methods meet Note 2 or not. A new policy circular will be issued shortly regarding MU and future actions required.

www.nata.asn.au

NATA's Web Site includes the Construction Materials Testing Guide to Measurement Uncertainty which includes three examples of MU estimates. You will need to go into the Members Section of the NATA web site, select Meas Unc, Examples, Construction Materials Testing. Another useful publication is [Assessment](#) of Uncertainties of Measurement for Calibration and Testing Laboratories which is available on the web site under Meas Unc, General Guidance Articles.

How will MU be assessed?

When you are asked to provide NATA with information about your reassessment, i.e to forward the Assessment Information Document and your quality documents, you should also provide copies of your estimates of measurement uncertainty. This will enable the NATA staff officer to forward them to the technical assessor prior to the assessment visit. Hopefully, this will reduce the time taken to review the estimates at the reassessment.

The technical assessor will provide the major input into the assessment of MU estimates. If there are issues which need to be raised, these will be reviewed by Meryl Ferguson and, if necessary, referred to the CMT technical consultant and/or a member of the CMT Accreditation Advisory Committee.

Training is being organised in 2005 for a number of technical assessors in the Assessment of Measurement Uncertainty.

2. Staff Changes

Bettina Poxleitner is the new Manager Construction Materials Testing and is located at NATA's Melbourne Office.

Mark Schembri in the Melbourne Office has taken over as the Regional Coordinator for Queensland. Please direct all inquiries to the Brisbane Office in the first instance, but you can contact Mark or Bettina in Melbourne, if necessary.

Meryl Ferguson has now become a fully-fledged NATA staff officer so many of you will meet Meryl as she performs reassessments at your laboratories. Meryl has also added Measurement Uncertainty as her speciality and she will be able to assist the technical assessors with issues raised concerning MU.

3. Standards Australia

In March 2005, the following Standards Australia committees met to discuss revision of methods and codes:

CE-009 – Soils
CE-012 – Aggregates
CE-027 – Earthworks

Both NATA and AGTA are represented on these committees. Feel free to provide comment to NATA and the AGTA committee on any of these groups of Standards.

Soils

The moisture content tests are soon to be reissued, as are the compaction control tests AS 1289.5.4.1 and AS 1289.5.7.1.

Tests that are soon to be put out to combined public comment and postal ballot include AS 1289.3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.2.1, 3.3.1, 3.3.2, 3.4.1 and 3.6.1. Keep a look out in *The Global Standard* and advise your CE-009 representative if you require changes.

Aggregates

The committee is currently reviewing AS 2758.1 – Aggregates for Concrete and will be asking for public comment for AS 2758.1.2 and AS 2758.5 in the near future.

Review of the test methods for fillers and for the shape of aggregates is currently in progress. Have you made your comments?

New methods for vision sizing of aggregates and petrological examination for potential alkali –silica reactivity are to be issued for public comment in the near future.

Earthworks

After an initial request for comment from the public, AS 3798 has been reviewed by committee CE-027 and will be put to public comment in May 2005. If you are performing Level 1 or Level 2 supervision of earthworks, the revisions may affect you. Major changes include the definition of the Geotechnical Inspection and Testing Authority, the Geotechnical Testing Authority and Full-time Inspections. The requirement of “one-for-one testing” and “none-to-fail” have been reinforced together with some additional requirements concerning unsuitable materials and potential acid sulfate soils.

The issue of measurement uncertainty has also been addressed.

Both the committees CE-009 and CE-012 have agreed to include lists of major sources of uncertainty within the test methods, when applicable.

The committees are due to meet again in Brisbane in early July 2005.

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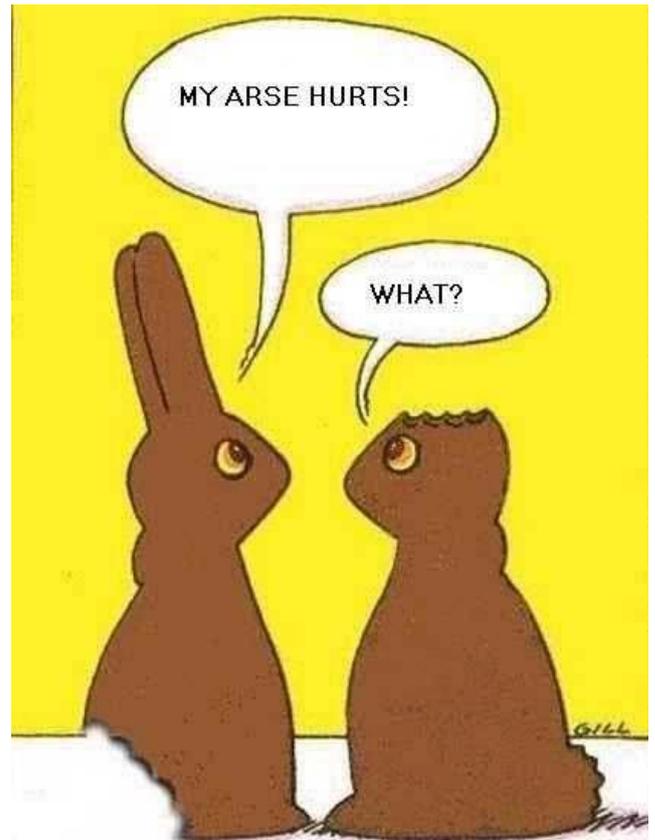
PROBLEM CORNER

It must have been the Christmas / New Year annual hiatus that has put people off their stride. Up until then, we were receiving good feedback from Members on industry problems, but there has been very little of late. I do not for one minute believe that the problems listed in the last Newsletter have gone away – at least, not that I've heard – but there seems to be little point in regurgitating them again until at least they are raised again as problems.

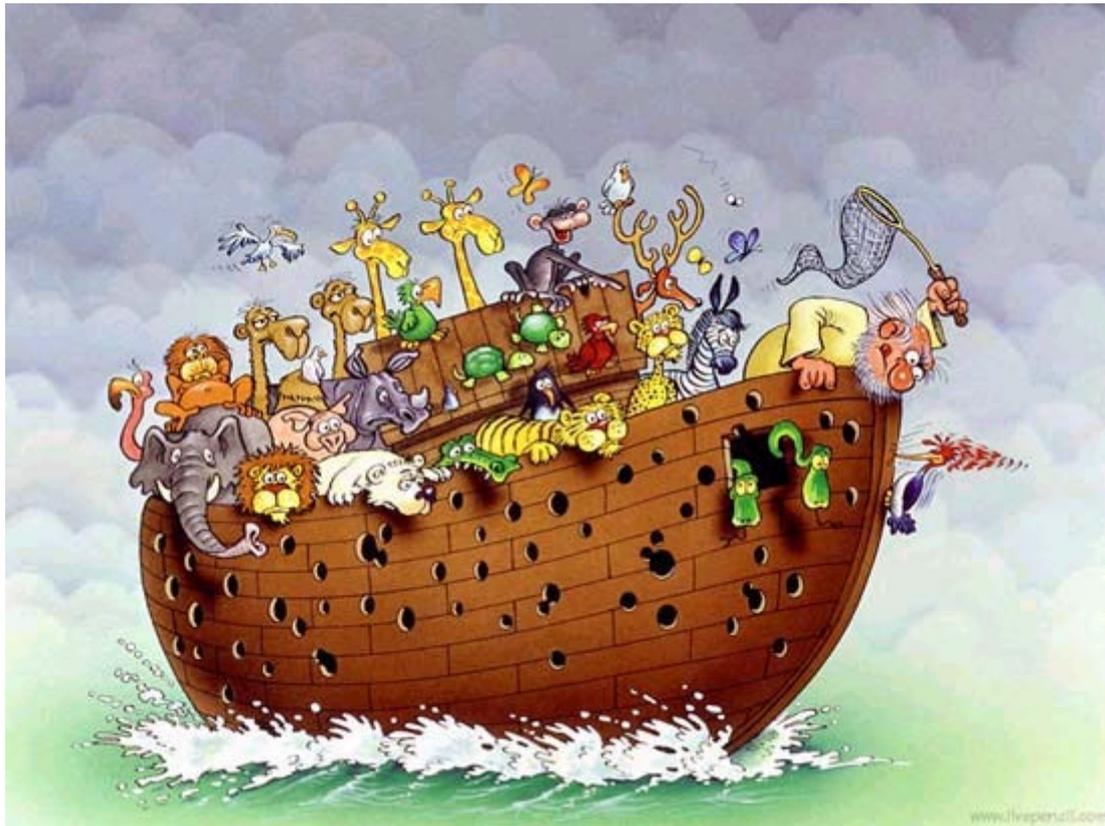
Problems that have been notified include

- An error in Clause 7 of AS 1141.31. The correct mass of zinc chloride is not 137.3 g. A mass of 1,440 g would be more the mark.
- Assignment of an MDD on a visual basis, rather than testing for compaction on a “one for one” basis or using say AS 1289 .5.4.2, without reporting a departure from test method. (This is acceptable when the specification, such as for a QDMR job, gives this as a requirement, but the departure from test method must still be reported.)
- Undertaking monthly and six monthly balance checks using check masses that were not assigned mass values for that particular balance at time of last full calibration.
- An error in the formula for L in AS 1289.3.6.3, Clause 7.3 (g) (i).

The error in AS 1141.31 will be passed on to Standards Australia for action.



THE WOODPECKER MIGHT HAVE TO GO!



Everything I need to know about life, I learned from Noah's Ark...

- One:** Don't miss the boat.
- Two:** Remember that we are all in the same boat.
- Three:** Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
- Four:** Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
- Five:** Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
- Six:** Build your future on high ground.
- Seven:** For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
- Eight:** Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
- Nine:** When you're stressed, float a while.
- Ten:** Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

General Meetings

1. Wednesday - 18th May 2005
2. Wednesday - 30th November 2005

NOTE both meetings will be held at the

Hawkin Auditorium –
Engineers Australia Building,
447 Upper Edward Street, Brisbane
6.00 pm for 6.30pm start.
Refreshments Available

Committee Meetings

Held second Thursday each month.

Tingalpa Hotel, Wynnum Road. 6.30pm start.

Meetings are open to all members and interested parties as an opportunity to put forward ideas or bring concerns

SO DON'T FORGET THE GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY 18 MAY – THAT'S WEDNESDAY NEXT WEEK!

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JUST A REMINDER.....

AGTA HAS EMAIL!!

As a member of AGTA, you are entitled access to AGTA's yahoo email account.

The minutes of every meeting - be it committee or general - are always posted to this website, so if you are not on the committee, or cannot make the general meeting this website is the perfect way to keep in touch with latest movements of AGTA.



For all usernames and passwords, please contact AGTA administration on (07) 3881 1316 or email lawnton@cqa.com.au

LIGHTEN UP!

A man went into his local pub with his dog. Both were in Bronco's colours and both watched the match on TV with avid interest. When the Bronco's scored, the dog sat up and yapped excitedly. The new barman watched this performance and finally had to comment on the intelligence of the dog. "But," he continued, "what does the dog do if the opposing side scores?" "Somersaults." "How many?" asked the barman. "Depends how hard I kick him."

Notable & Quotables

- * Our patience will achieve more than our force.
Edmund Burke
 - * He who fears something gives it power over him.
Moorish proverb
 - * The best way to wipe out a friendship is to sponge on it.
S. J. Gudge
 - * A show of a certain amount of honesty is in any profession or business the surest way of growing rich.
Jean de La Bruyere
 - * Bring ideas in and entertain them royally, for one of them may be the king.
Mark Van Doren
 - * Mother is the name of God in the lips and hearts of little children.
William Makepeace Thackeray
-

ENGINEER

A man in a hot air balloon realised he was lost. He reduced altitude and spotted a woman below. He descended a bit more and shouted, "Excuse me, can you help me? I promised a friend I would meet him an hour ago, but I don't know where I am."

The woman below replied, "You are in a hot air balloon hovering approximately 30 feet above the ground. You are between 40 and 41 degrees north latitude and between 59 and 60 degrees west longitude."

"You must be an engineer," said the balloonist.

"I am." replied the woman, "How did you know?"

"Well," answered the balloonist, "everything you told me is technically correct, but I have no idea what to make of your information, and the fact is I am still lost. Frankly, you've not been much help so far."

The woman below responded, "You must be in Management."

"I am," replied the balloonist, "but how did you know?"

"Well," said the woman, "you don't know where you are or where you are going. You have risen to where you are due to a large quantity of hot air. You made a promise which you have no idea how to keep, and you expect people beneath you to solve your problems. The fact is you are in exactly the same position that you were in before we met, but now, somehow, it's my fault."

Sound familiar!

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**ASSOCIATION
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MEMBERSHIP GRADES AND FEES
2005

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FEES
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Corporate Member

Construction materials testing laboratories, or industry associated company, business,
partnership, group, department or body \$150

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Telephone (07) 3881 1316
Facsimile (07) 3881 3513



1 For completion by INDIVIDUAL applicants only

Details of Individual

Name

Residential Address

.....

Telephone Fax

Details of Company

Name of Company

Position

Address

.....

Telephone Fax

2 For completion by CORPORATE applicants only

Details of Company/Organisation

Name of Company/Organisation

Address

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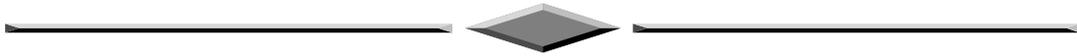
Telephone Fax

Nominated Representative Details

Name

Position

Telephone Fax
(if different from above) (if different from above)



I,
Full Name (to be completed by nominated representative or industry individual)

declare that I will undertake to abide by the rules and ethics of the Association amended from time to time and also any regulations made by the Executive Committee in accordance with the rules:

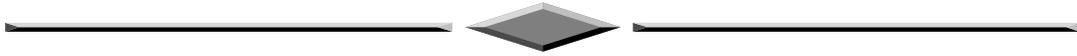
Signature Date

Return to: The Secretary
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Telephone (07) 3881 1316 Facsimile (07) 3881 3513

NOTES:

1. The name shown on the application form should be **EITHER** the full name in which the organisation is incorporated **OR** the full name of the industry individual.
2. The **nominated representative** is the person nominated by the organisation to represent it in all matters affecting the organisation with respect to membership of the Association of Geotechnical Testing Authorities (Qld).

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<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconder</u>	<u>Paid</u>	<u>Membership No</u>
being current members of the Association propose the above-named as a new members of the Association			



AGTA NEWSLETTER

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ATTENDANCE

I can attend I cannot attend

Name: Signed:

PROXY VOTE

I, being a member of the Association of Geotechnical Testing Authorities (Qld) Inc., hereby appoint as my proxy vote on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting on 9 December 2004.

Signed this _____ day of _____ 2004

Signature _____

The appointment of a proxy must be provided prior to the start of the AGM.

NOMINATION OF COMMITTEE POSITIONS (9th Executive Committee)

POSITION	NOMINATION
• Chairman	
• Vice Chairman/ Public Relations	
• Secretary	
• Deputy Secretary/ Newsletter Coordinator	
• Treasurer	
• Non Executive Members (3 positions)	• • •

Proposer: _____

Seconder: _____

(Must be seconded by a member, may be seconded at the AGM)