NEWSLETTER NO. 11: NOVEMBER 2000

Correction
Please note that the August Edition of the Newsletter was No. 10, not No. 9 as stated.

THE ASSOCIATION OF GEOTECHNICAL TESTING AUTHORITIES (QLD) INC.

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The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and not necessarily shared by all members of the Association of Geotechnical Testing Authorities (Qld) Inc.

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Editorial

Welcome members to the final newsletter for 2000. Due to a wonderful response of contributions from Association and Industry members, this edition is perhaps the most informative and interesting I have been involved with. A special thanks to all contributors, including the advertisers, for their input. Hopefully, input of the quality and quantity I received for this Newsletter will continue for future editions.

Within these pages we have coverage of the last General Meeting and the Inaugural Graduation Night for the "Certificate III in Construction Materials (Soil) Testing" Qualification. For 'People in Profile' this Edition, the focus is on the incumbent chairman of our association, Mr Paul Thompson. Paul's life history makes an interesting read. As with the last edition, you will note that the centre pages are the AGTA Membership Application. This document now serves two purposes: the first – as a membership application and secondary as a change of address notification. Should any member change their mailing address in the future please record the change on this document and return to AGTA.

The fourth AGM of AGTA is to take place next month (details inside). A big roll-up would be great and if any members feel they could further the AGTA cause by serving on the committee next year – go for it. Fresh faces and fresh ideas would be enthusiastically welcomed.

In closing I would like to wish all members a Happy and Safe Xmas/New Year period, and keep in mind with all those Xmas Parties happening – only bloody idiots drink and drive!

Terry Ferguson
Executive Editor

Chairman's Report

Welcome to all the members, old and new. It truly is a pleasure to be able to contribute to this Newsletter by way of the Chairman's Report. Although there are many that contribute to its contents, Terry Ferguson, the Editor must be well and truly congratulated. The significant increase in advertisements in the Newslettter shows the increasing realisation by companies that our association has enormous potential and is being recognised throughout the state. Show them your support by purchasing their products.

Membership is holding strong and judging by the enquiries for membership applications we may be set for some strong growth provided that the current economic downturn does not take too much effect. In the twenty eight years I have been in the industry I have seen some ups and downs and at present all the people I am talking to agree that the potential for it to get worse is very high.

The Annual General Meeting is just around the corner and I hope you will use it as a vehicle to have your say. Not just to vote for who you think is or isn't doing a good job but to take the opportunity to take part at committee level. Yes it does take up time and it certainly does need some effort but by being more involved you will learn more about the industry. Please have consideration to those members organising the Annual General Meeting and let them know whether you can attend or not.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Paul Thomson
CHAIRMAN

General Meeting – August 2000. "Site Classifier's Licence"

A successful and somewhat vocal meeting on the topic of site classifier licensing was held by AGTA on 23 August 2000. The meeting was well attended by 30 members/guests and judging by the level of discussion and questions put to the speakers, there was a lot of interest on the topic.

The theme of the night "Gourmet Beer and Cheese" set the scene for a pleasant social gathering while at times seemed to generate as much interest as the serious topic of licensing. Many thanks to Amanda for once again organising the refreshments.

Guest speakers were Michael Chesterman (Building Services Authority), Bevan (Blue) O'Shea (Construction Training Queensland) and Alan Bartlett (Alan Bartlett Consulting). Many thanks also to the guest speakers for their contribution of time and effort. Unfortunately, Michael Chesterman could not answer some of the questions put to him however, we intend to follow up on these issues. Remember, if you intend to do site classifications in Queensland after 1 January 2001 you are required to hold the appropriate licence (unless you are an RPEQ Engineer!).

If you have any questions regarding any aspect of the site classifier's licence, you should contact Rebecca Blight at Building Services Association on Phone 3225 2968 or Fax 3225 2929. **Cont over page……..**

General Meeting – August 2000 cont…

"Site Classifiers Licence"

Members enjoy a chat and refreshments prior to the meeting commencement.
L-R: Rex Fleiter, Jim Perry, Graham Sheppard and Brett Hollingum.

The Gold Coast Connection – Mark Bolton, Howard Hughes and Heath Thomas travelled up for the night.
Shown here in discussion with committee member Amanda MacFarlane.

Industry Update

Engineering and Construction Laboratories Association (ECLA Inc.) NSW A Brief History & Introduction

The Engineering and Construction Laboratories Association (ECLA) was formed in NSW in July1997 at a meeting of Companies, Government and Industry Associated bodies. For five years prior, a group of Sydney Laboratory Managers had formed an informal focus group. This group recognised the important contribution and growing necessity for collective representation of testing laboratories in the Construction Materials field.

Previous years had shown a decided change in the Building and Construction Industry with regard to testing, its importance to the contractor and their consequent influence. Laboratories were and still are required to provide an increasingly flexible and timely service with a vastly diminished return.

Economic rationalism within the industry and natural competition from a rapid increase in the number of laboratories also impacted significantly. The emphasis of quality testing was perceived to have shifted from the laboratories proportionate to what the client dictated.

Our industry has itself to blame for much of the added instability of recent times, but it was considered the ECLA could provide the medium by which much common sense could be restored.

In the past, singular representation by laboratories to bodies such as NATA, Standards Australia, Sydney Water and the Roads & Traffic Authority (NSW) had largely proved unfruitful. These bodies were seen at the time to hold a somewhat impertinent regard to concerns raised by individuals.

One perception was that the expediency of the Quality System paper trail was paramount and the accuracy of the test result was becoming less governed. New Standards appeared to some a reflection of the personality of the standing committee rather than the practical performance of the test and 'hands on' understanding of what the result reflected. (The current Max/Min test debacle is a good point at hand.) Whether these views be correct or not, laboratories at the time were becoming increasingly cynical of their voice in our industry.

Over the past three years, however, each of these bodies and more, have become responsive to considered and substantial communication ECLA as a group. Significant links have been created and ECLA now has many working parties and sub committees that act in conjunction with each of these bodies. As of this year three of the Executive have gained representation on Standards Australia concrete, soils and aggregates standing committees. All drafts and developments in these fields are now tabled at ECLA meetings for discussion.

Undoubtedly ECLA's most significant achievement to date is the creation of a Federal Award for workers in the construction materials testing industry. The ELCA/AWU Soil, Concrete Testing and Analysis Award 2000 has been ratified by the Australian Industrial Relations Commission and came into effect as of 19th May 2000. It is the culmination of two years of intense negotiation, meetings, and discussion and procures a tangible wage and conditions base for the first time in our industry. Minimum rates of pay and experience levels are recognised in the various classifications and wage structure. Most importantly, the award details maximum allowable ratios of 'trainees' to experienced personnel on site projects.

The award provides a sound basis for testing personnel to be paid at a level commensurate with their required skills and hopefully ensure a greater commitment to a career in Construction Materials Testing. Employers likewise foresee the benefits of much needed uniformity, particularly with the classification of testing personnel. The award has been immediately adopted into site agreements in NSW and indications are its effect will be far reaching in the future.

The need for ECLA was highlighted by membership of over 80% of independent laboratories in NSW in the first twelve weeks. Membership is on a 'Company' basis. Presently, there is no grade or associate membership, however, the Constitution allows for the like. ECLA was formed under the umbrella of the Australian Business Chamber (formerly the NSW State Chamber of Commerce). As such, members enjoy a 'two for one' membership which also accesses them to the privileges of a business organisation. Separate to association activities, members are independently offered a diverse range of business advisory and management services. These include free advice lines in areas such as industrial relations, occupational health and safety, award provisions, superannuation, training and dispute advocacy.

The affiliation with Australian Business has proved invaluable to ECLA achieving significant goals in such a short period. They provide ECLA with secretarial support, financial statements and professional meeting and conference venues.

Similarly to your situation in Queensland, our membership is largely far flung throughout regional areas. Attention is currently being given to an Association website. It is hoped this medium will provide an interactive centre whereby all minutes, information and events can be easily accessed. This will be particularly useful for remote members being better informed and allow for greater interaction with similar bodies like AGTA nationwide.

By its very existence ECLA has initiated unprecedented dialogue between laboratories in NSW. In the future we foresee enormous potential as a Central Monitor for equipment and suppliers, reference materials, proficiency testing, draft standard comment, a casual staff register and any number of possibilities.

I hope this article provides a useful insight into our operation in NSW and marks the first step towards a continuous interaction between our two associations. I am certain both associations have very similar, if not identical objectives. A committed liaison in the future may well expedite many issues and enhance the voice of both associations within our industry.

Peter Weir
President – ECLA Inc.

Technical Talk

Technical Talk Cont……

Technical Talk Cont……

Letters to the Editor

Assessment Procedures for Sediment Control Basins

The Following is an extract from a Brisbane City Council (BCC) request for information to support a development application. Other local authorities can be expected to use a similar approach in the future.

1. The following information is required before this Application can be assessed further:

2. Soil testing is required using a suitably qualified geotechnical consultant from a minimum of 4 boreholes spaced evenly across the site and to a depth of 0.5m below existing surface level to determine erosion and dispersivity potential of the soils on-site. This information (including copies of laboratory results) is to be submitted to Council… For each borehole and any distinct change in soil profile you are required to undertake soil testing and analysis in accordance with AS 1289 and determine the following:

3. (a1) Particle Size Distribution including hydrometer analysis;

4. (a2) Dispersion Index

5. (a3) Emerson Class number

6. (a4) Soil pH

7. Determine whether a sediment basin design is required in accordance with Council's Sediment Basin Design Guidelines – Feb 2000. Note that this Guideline requires particular soils data from (a) above, therefore you should familiarise yourself with the Guideline requirements prior to undertaking geotechnical investigations"

…….

Sediment control basins are now being seriously considered for use in the control of fine particles in runoff water. Silt fences, hay bales and other small scale devices are less effective than a well constructed and managed sediment basin. However this change in control emphasis requires effective assessment and design procedures if sediment basins are to survive as a control method. If a soil has a high proportion of fine particles capable of being lost in a storm event then VERY large storage volumes will be required to contain and treat this water. For poor soil conditions all runoff may need to be contained for the design storm event. In a high proportion of locations it may prove impossible to contain this volume of water. The failure to use a sediment control basin may then adversely affect the success of the development proposal. In most cases there will be a strong incentive to utilise the smallest basin size compatible with control objectives.

Very little Australian research data is available to validate current design models and most of the design to date relies upon Stokes Law (describing the settling velocity of spherical particles in still water of known temperature). Design methods require measurement of the particle size of soil using classical hydrometer or pipette methods. These particle size test methods are used to classify soil texture and attempt to completely separate the soil aggregates using a variety of chemical and physical procedures. In a storm event complete dispersion of soil aggregates is extremely rare. The aggregated particles carried in runoff settle much faster than dispersed particles. To account for this a fudge factor (Dispersion Index) is used based upon a sample shaken end over end 30 times in one minute. The ratio of completely dispersed material (< 5 micron fraction) compared with the one minute shake (< 5 micron fraction) to calculate the index.

The required procedure for soil assessment is detailed. First you must anticipate the layer/s of soil potentially exposed during a development and sample these in a representative manner. Then measure the soil particle size using AS1289.3.6.3 – 1994. (This method refers to 13 other standard methods.) Now measure the dispersion index (AS 1289.3.822 – 1997). Also required are tests for Emerson Class number and soil pH.

However only two values are required for the preferred design. These are:

a) The proportion < 2 microns of soil carried by runoff
b) The proportion <20 microns of soil carried by runoff

(pH values are used to identify soils requiring chemical treatment for acidity control but this does not directly affect basin design.)

The assessment procedure uses published test methods as these are the only readily available methods. Most design engineers and regulators have little technical training and experience in soil test methodology and published test methods are the only resource available. However strict use of these methods requires expensive test methodology and leads to results that may be inappropriate for the intended purpose. The most common problem is likely to be a design requiring a massive storage basin that can not possible be constructed. One then either builds a basin anyway or uses what is likely to be a less effective control procedure "because the soil data says we can't use a basin".

Proposed Test Procedure

1 Prepare a soil water suspension that represents a storm runoff event
2 Measure the proportion of <2 and <20 micron particles in this suspension

A one hour rolling shake (or something like this) is a convenient laboratory representation of a soil particle being washed down slope in a storm event. The water should be deionised water not Calgon as this will be closer to the real world environment. For a small catchment it may be possible to argue a smaller shake period is valid but very short periods may not expose aggregates to wetting and rain drop energy experienced prior to soil saturation and runoff. I expect most dispersion to occur in the first few (5-15) minutes with a diminishing rate over time. Therefore there may be little difference between a one hour and a two hour shake for most soils. Now measure the particle sizes of 2 and 20

Letters to the Editor Cont……

microns within the prepared suspension using either the hydrometer or pipette method.

The proposed method attempts to directly measure soil behaviour rather than infer it using published standards. It should be significantly more reliable and much less expensive. pH measurements could also be made on the suspension thus omitting another soil preparation.

Problems With Changing Methods

I have observed that most committees are conservatively biased and prefer to use established independent procedures rather than be exposed to the risk making a poor personal recommendation. If you add to this a limited level of technical support and the need for rapid conclusions then it is reasonable to expect change to be slow. In most cases (as a consultant) it is much easier to accept this than attempt some form of change. In this case the existing test methodology appears inappropriate and an alternative approach seems to be simple and effective. I would be pleased to discuss this with other practitioners with the view to submitting an alternative test method that could be used as well as the existing procedure.

My contact details are: Peter Edmiston, Bio-Track Pty Ltd, 781 Mt Glorious Road, Highvale. Phone 07 3289 7179 Fax 07 3289 7155 email pe@biotrack.com.au

One alternative to site specific testing is a regional mapping based upon soil or geological maps. Whilst this approach uses no site specific information it can let the designer know whether it is worth testing at all in the first place. If space is restricted and regional soils suggest dispersive soils with a high clay content then it will be obvious that basins are inappropriate.

Dear Editor,

Most readers will have heard by now of the **Soil Testers Conventions, Soilies 2000 & 2000 Revisited.** Well, we have come a long way as a social group of **grubs** and it looks like we have a long way to go. Come **Feb-March 2001**, we're takin it to the streets. **Soilies on Tour**, a Highway Coach is booked, look out Gold Coast cause we're comin, the Gold Coast Soilies will be pleased to hear the news. Approximate costs, Brisbane return, $45.00, contact number for enquiries is **0412 153 249**, don't miss out **make a tentative booking now.**

The Hornet.

Lighten Up

Did you hear about the Irishmen who built a bridge over the Nullarbor Plain?

They had to pull it down because too many Australians were fishing from it.

RE: AGTA Management Committee

As AGTA approaches its 5th year, some of the committee members who have served 2, 3, or 4 years on the committee are looking forward to the possibility of a break and some "new blood" after the AGM. The future viability and prosperity of our association is very much dependant on the members pitching in and sharing the responsibility of a committee position. With new committee members also comes new ideas and enthusiasm.

This year, the committee has been considering the idea of contracting out some of the more labour intensive duties associated with the management committee eg. typing membership records, accounts etc. The newsletter by necessity, has already been contracted out for 2/3 of this year.

I believe that AGTA is now at a crossroads and this issue must be given very serious consideration if the association is to move more ahead and focus on the main objectives. Also, if this occurs, I believe that the committee roles will be less demanding and more rewarding. Our contempories in NSW (ECLA) have operated with outsourced professional management since they started. As membership grows so does the management work load and therefore at some point it is inevitable that professional management or assistance in some shape or form will be needed.

I believe that the time has come and I hope for the future sake of AGTA and the industry that the 2001 Committee will move in this direction.

Paul Fraser
Civil Quality Assurance (Qld) Pty Ltd

Industry Editorial

Vac-Tron Australia Pty Ltd is pleased to introduce to Australia the world class Vac-Tron Vacuum location system.

Developed in the USA the Vac-Tron system enables contractors and utilities to easily locate underground services without the risk of damaging these services by backhoes, excavators or manually digging.

This means that the utility or contractor can avoid costly damage bills, delays and legal costs of cutting underground services.

The Vac-Tron system is easy and simple to operate and can locate an underground service within minutes.

The system utilises a vacuum to excavate the soil or in some instances high-pressure water to penetrate, expand and break up the soil. As the ground is loosened, it is removed by a vacuum and stored in a holding tank, either for use as a backfill or hauled away for disposal. In this way a pothole is created deep enough to expose the buried utility without running the risk of damaging the utility in the process of finding it.

This system can pothole a utility in a matter of minutes, compared to laboriously hand digging for buried services.

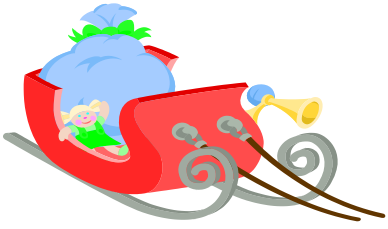
Vac-Tron is also indispensable to boring contractors as a tool to clean up mud created by the boring process. With more and more pressure on contractors to minimise environmental damage, this system easily helps the contractor to leave the site clean.

Vac-Tron is versatile in that it has over 50 different applications, as well as potholing it can be used as a high pressure wash down unit, install short horizontal bores, clean storm water drains, install street signs and power poles, clean up road spills and clean out underground pipes and ducts. Obviously these are only a few of the applications it can be used for.

Vac-Tron is the leading vacuum excavation system in the USA today with over 1,800 machines in use, and has already attracted major interest in Australia.

With over 13 different models available to suit any type of requirement there is no reason why all public utilities, contractors and boring companies should be without a Vac-Tron unit.

Vac-Tron units are available as skid mounted or trailer mounted petrol or diesel powered and a variety of tank sizes.



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Notable Quotables:

Albert Einstein

- When you are courting a nice girl an hour seems like a second. When you sit on a red-hot cinder a second seems like an hour. That's relativity. March 14, 1949. **Albert Einstein**
- If my theory of relativity is proved successful Germany will claim me as a German and France will declare I am a citizen of the whole world. Should my theory prove untrue, France will say I'm a German and Germany will say I am a Jew. May 8, 1947.
- When I examine myself and my methods of thought, I come close to the conclusion that the gift of fantasy has meant more to me than my talent for absorbing positive knowledge. December, 1930.
- I never think of the future. It comes soon enough. December 1930.

BRAIN TEASER
(From August Edition)

Soil in a building pad has been compacted to a bulk density of 2.15 t/m³ at 12.0% moisture content. Its particle density is 2.65 t/m³.

Would it be possible to compact it to a dry density of 2.00 t/m³ at 13.5% moisture content? (Hint: calculate the total volume of soil solids and water).

????????

Solutions to Brain Teaser

Solution 1

Assuming V = 1m^3 of soil, ρ_d = 2.00 t/m^3, ρ_s = 2.65 t/m^3
& w = 13.5%

Mass of dry soil solids M_s = 2.00t
Volume of dry soil solids $V_s = M_s/\rho_s$
= 0.755 m^3
Mass of water M_w= 13.5% of 2.00
= 0.27 t
Volume of water V_w= 0.27m^3(ρ_w= 1 t/m^3)
Volume of water + soil solids = $V_w + V_s$
= 0.755 + 0.27
= 1.025m^3

The amount of soil and water specified could not be compacted into 1 m^3.

Solution 2

The graph below shows the zero air voids for particle 2.65/m^3 and the dry density at the specified moisture content.

The points on the zero air voids line represent the combinations of moisture content and dry density at which the soil voids are completely filled with water. Points to the left represent conditions where some air is present in the voids.

Points to the right of the line represent conditions that cannot exist in nature, so again, the soil cannot achieve this condition.

Does anyone have an alternative solution?

Ed Note: Thanks to Alan Bartlett for the Brain Teaser

Lighten Up

An American firm drilling for oil in northern Australia had its own men as technicians, but employed a few Aussies as labourers.

One of the Australians inadvertently dropped a heavy hammer down the shaft. Further drilling was impossible until it had been removed, and much time, trouble and money were spent in extricating it.

Following this incident the manager assembled all the men around the shaft and called the Aussie forward. He then presented him with the offending hammer and delivered a most sarcastic speech.

"I want you to accept this hammer as a memento," he told the Australian, " and I hope it will always remind you of the trouble and expense you have caused the company through your crass carelessness." He handed over the hammer. "Now," he concluded, "TAKE IT AND GO."

"Does that mean that I'm sacked?" asked the Aussie.

"It sure does," came the emphatic reply.

"Well, this thing's no flamin' use to me, then," responded the labourer – and dropped it neatly down the shaft again!

Advertising Space Available Now!

- *Want the Geotech Industry to know what your Company has to offer?*
- *Want to sell industry equipment? What better way than to advertise in the AGTA Newsletter.*

For Information Phone Debbie or Lisa
3881-3110

People in Profile

For this edition of "People in Profile" it was suggested that the focus of the article be on the Committee that steers our Association. Agreeing that this was a good idea, I immediately made a beeline straight to the top – the incumbent chairman, Paul Thompson.

Paul Thompson was born in Manchester, England in the mid-fifties. When he was 2 years old his family decided that sunny Australia was the place to be, so they packed their bags and immigrated to 'OZ' in 1957.

Adelaide was the first point of call, but Queensland beckoned and in 1959 the Thompson Family moved to Brisbane, Queensland, settling in the Mt Gravatt area. Paul attended Upper Mount Gravatt Primary School and then completed his education at Cavendish Road High School. In 1972 Paul entered the Geotechnical Industry by acquiring a position with W.E. O'Sullivan & Associates as a Trainee Soil Tester. After 3 years learning the basics of Soil Testing he made a career move and accepted a position as a Senior Soil tester with Queensland Water Resources Commission, where under the tutorage of the late Gerry Fitzgerald, Paul continued to further enhance his soil testing skills. During his association with Water Resources, Paul worked on several large projects around Queensland including the Wivenhoe Dam, Tarong Pipeline and the Bundaberg Irrigation System.

In 1981, Paul re-entered the private sector procuring a position with McWilliam & Partners Pty Ltd as a Field Technician/Driller. After two years at the company Pauls skills were recognised and he was appointed Laboratory Manager. A position he was to hold until 1986, when he made his biggest career move. That being the challenge of establishing a new Geotechnical Testing Company in Brisbane – Queensland Geotechnical Services.

Fourteen years have passed since that day and Queensland Geotechnical Services still service the construction industry in South-East Queensland with Paul's role within the company being that of Director/Laboratory Supervisor.

Since the advent of AGTA, Paul has been heavily involved in the association serving as Treasurer for two years before taking on the challenging role of Chairman this year. Paul is passionate about the cause and believes that through the growth and recognition of the Association within the construction industry, it will serve the Geotechnicians of today and the future well.

Paul Thompson has been involved in our industry for the past 28 years, and by his own admission hopes to be involved for many more. In years to come when AGTA is an established voice for our industry it will be because people such as Paul Thompson devoted their time and effort to the cause.

Terry Ferguson

INDUSTRY EVENTS

Inaugural Graduation Ceremony for Certificate III in Construction Materials

On October the 10th this year KASE Enterprises held a function at the Newnham Hotel in Mt Gravatt for the presentation of the Qualification, Certificate III in Construction Material (Soil) Testing.

The night started with drinks and savouries, followed by the awarding of Certificates to the Graduates after which the night became a forum for the renewal of old acquaintances and industry gossip.

The function was attended by the graduates, their partners and invited guests who included Mr Geoff Wilson the Member for Ferny Grove and Mr Phil Reeves the Member for Mansfield, Mr Bevan O'Shea from CTQ and Mr Paul Thompson Chairman of AGTA.

People travelled from as far away as Toowoomba to receive their qualification, which is the first in this country designed specifically for soil testers.

The recipients were from various areas of testing, both private and government bodies, including Main Roads, the Department of Natural Resources and Theiss Contractors.

The Certificate III in Construction Material Testing is available to new industry entrants through a traineeship, which attracts government support for the employer.

The qualification is also available to existing and experienced testers through the recognition of the skill and knowledge they already possess.

The night was a resounding success and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

A list of the graduates (shown above) presented with Certificates on the night were:

Sam Marsh	Graham Kent	Lloyd Davies
Gary Morrison	Steve Hobbs	Geoff McCracken
Justin Williamson	Lee Kitchings	Mark Hallett
Justin Schafer	Terry Ferguson	Bill McPhail

Ross Hunter Paul Thompson

Current Membership Roll Call – as at November 2000

Membership No.	Name
001	Thomas McCabe
002	Ullman & Nolan Geotechnical
003	Civil Quality Assurance (Qld) Pty Ltd
004	Tony McDonald
005	GJ Brandon & Associates Pty Ltd
006	Amanda Macfarlane
007	South Qld Soils Pty Ltd
008	Wide Bay Geotechnical Services P/L
009	Brisbane City Council
010	Geo-Tech Temp Pty Ltd
011	Geotest Engineering Services Pty Ltd
012	Bowler Geotechnical Pty Ltd (Browns Plains)
014	Queensland Geotechnical Pty Ltd
015	Noel Thomas
016	Paul Thompson
017	Lloyd R Davies
018	Roadtest
019	Vimbury Pty Ltd trading as Earthtech Laboratories
020	John V Simmons
021	Soiltech Pty Ltd
022	Boral Construction Materials Country (Qld) Raw Materials Laboratory
024	Golder Associates Pty Ltd
025	Soiltest Australia Consulting Engineers P/L
026	Peter Murphy
027	H&M Testing Pty Ltd
028	Department of Natural Resources
029	Ron Richards & Partners Pty Ltd
030	Geotech (SC) Pty Ltd trading as Soil Surveys Technical Services
031	CSE (Aust) Pty Ltd
032	Gold Coast City Council
033	Strata Test Pty Ltd
034	Will V Aus
035	Kase Enterprises
038	Soil Engineering Services
039	Civil Tech Pty Ltd
040	Karreman Group
041	Anthony J. McKenna
043	Border Tech
044	Tiaro Shire Council
045	Geo-Investigations Pty Ltd
046	Alan Bartlett
047	Chris Brincat
048	Graeme Sheppard
049	Stephen Vlatko-Rulo trading as Duke Contracting Services
050	Mark Hallett
051	Crows Nest Shire Council
052	Dennis Edwards
053	Doug Faithfull
054	Bit of a Byte
055	John Kippen
056	Col Fulcher
057	Terry Blackburn
058	Ross Battisson
059	Redlands Soil Testing
060	APOD Soil Testing
061	Carl Conran
062	The Dirt Professionals
063	Qualtest Laboratory Pty Ltd
064	James Perry
065*	Shane Hicks
066*	Gary Bruyeres

* Denotes: Pending

Invention of Everyday Objects

1908 – Geiger Counter

The earliest form of the Geiger counter, a device for measuring radiation, was built by German-born Hans Geiger while he was working as a research assistant for Professor Ernest Rutherford at the Manchester University physical laboratories in England. The prototype counter consisted of little more than a wire contained in a sealed metal tube with a mica window at one end, but connected to a power source, it enabled Geiger and Rutherford to locate and count alpha particles, a constituent of the rays emitted by radioactive decay.

Coming Event

2000 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

All members are invited to attend the 2000 AGTA Annual General Meeting.

DATE: 12 December 2000

TIME: 7pm.

VENUE: The Boardwalk
Paddington Tavern
Given Terrace
PADDINGTON QLD 4064

Finger foods will be provided and a cash bar is available to us.

The AGM provides a great opportunity to meet and socialise with other members of your industry and all members are encouraged to make the effort to attend.

All committee positions will be declared vacant and all members are asked to consider nominating for a position. It is vital to the future of AGTA that all committee positions are filled on the night. Potential nominees should however be prepared to accept the commitment required of any committee position. If all members contributed at least one term on the committee, the work load would be shared and the association would benefit from new ideas.

Further information regarding the AGM will be sent to members towards the end of November.

Hope to see you all there.