



# **BOHOGS – 2014 in review**

**Ali McQuillan Dec 2014**

So where better to find the time to recap the BOHOGS events of 2014 than on a plane back to Brisbane (for the 34<sup>th</sup> time this year!). I'll have to be quick though as we are actually on time (for now!). As Mr T once said *"I got no time for the jibba jabba"...*

## **TWO BECOME ONE**

So very on in the year it was generally with overwhelming support that "BBOCGS" and "HOGS" amalgamated into "BOHOGS". The primary purpose of this union was to give both groups' members closer collaboration with their technical compatriots north/south of the border, reduce the potential for clashes in events and to provide a stronger industry voice (where one group was representing all east coast open cut coal geotech engineers). The downside to amalgamating was where the current (and foreseeable) coal price has placed travel restrictions on many site-based engineers, the number of events members may be able to attend each year could be halved (where technical meetings were reduced from 4 to a minimum of 2 per state per year with the amalgamation). However to promote as much cross-border collaboration as possible and fulfilling the group's ethos of providing a forum for technical development and establishment of national links, as of next year the Committee will provide the opportunity for members to travel interstate to attend BOHOGS meetings, they may otherwise not have the opportunity to, with all reasonable costs being covered by BOHOGS. Details to follow in early 2015.

## **TECHNICAL MEETINGS**

The first technical meeting of the year was held in March at BHP's Mt Arthur Mine in the Hunter Valley. Presentations were given by Kim Peckett (Overview of MAC mine), Leonie Bradfield (Shear Strength Estimation of Very High Dumps), Dale Chaychuck and Roland Bucher (Retaining Structures and Slope Stabilisation Systems for Mining Applications) and Keith Stewart (Overview of Galena). Keith's presentation prompted a lot of discussion and from this widespread interest, instigated the arrangement of Galena Training for BOHOGS members in H2 (more on this later). Following the technical presentations, members progressed to the pit, however soon after thunderstorms literally rained on the parade, but we were at least able to view the main pit prior to the skies unleashing.

After the success of last year's joint BBOCGS-AGS Brisbane meeting, the collaborative event was replicated in June 2014. At this event members of both BOHOGS and the AGS convened at the Rio Tinto Brisbane headquarters to hear from John Simmons (Measuring the Implementation of Slope Designs: Risk Management Lessons for Geotechnical Engineers) and Kirk Henderson (Implementation of Geotechnical Risk Management Practices in Open Cut Mines), then enjoyed some valuable networking time over drinks and canapés. The joint event again received a great turn out despite being scheduled on the same night as Origin Game II. I'm thinking that as the majority of audience members were QLD'ers, most were tired of seeing QLD beat NSW and thought that their time was better invested in professional development hours than watching the Blues cheat their way to victory...

The third event of the year was a 2-day event in Moranbah in September. On day 1 members participated in BOHOGS-sponsored Galena training under the expert guidance of Keith Stewart and

John Simmons. This training was the realisation of discussions held at the Eatons Hill Hotel back in March over a few cold ales once we had all dried out. The training was put on at no cost to attendees, which was considered extremely generous of both Keith and John and also indicated the committee's commitment to supporting the long term technical development of practicing geotechnical engineers as a not for profit organisation. Feedback from the attendees of the training course was generally very positive and suggestions were carried forward into the NSW-based training session held in November. On the second day members met for a technical meeting and pit tour at BMA's Caval Ridge Mine. Technical presentations were given by Jody Todd (Caval Ridge Overview), David Williams (Moving Towards No Tailings Dams), Nicole Tucker (Mixed Plant Rejects Journey), and John Simmons and Alex Duran (Modelling Phreatic Surfaces).

Two months later members congregated at Mt Owen Mine for the NSW-based Galena training, again led by Keith Stewart and John Simmons. The simulation and back-analysis of a real-world problem allowed participants to see for themselves the power and functionality of Galena to ensure designs we as geotechnical engineers output are robust and representative of actual pit conditions. Again feedback from attendees was overall positive with further discussions now in place for running Advanced Galena training in 2015. The following day members met at Rio Tinto's Hunter Valley Operations for a technical meeting and pit tour. No rain this time, just several presentations and discussions on water, by Miles Thompson (Overview of HVO & Groundwater in Cheshunt Endwall), Kai Koosmen (Slope Optimisation Adjacent to the Hunter River) and a group discussion on how groundwater can affect slope stability (led by John Simmons).

The final event of the year was the joint BOHOGS-BBUGS Suppliers Day held in Moranbah in November. Due to last minute unforeseen circumstances it was unfortunate that many of the committee members could not attend this event, much to our disappointment! Many thanks to the members who were able to attend this event and fly the BOHOGS flag. Hopefully the event provided attendees a valuable networking opportunity and allowed suppliers to show case their current and future products/services to practicing geotechnical engineers.

## **AWARDS**

Supplier's Day was also used as a platform to recognise members' achievements and support throughout 2014. Awards for highest attendance were presented to John Simmons and Rachel Metcalf acknowledging their continued support of BOHOGS with attendance records at 80% or higher for all BOHOGS events in 2014. Members voted Leonie's "Shear Strength Estimation for Very High Dumps" as the NSW Presentation of the Year, while John's "Measuring the Implementation of Slope Designs: Risk Management Lessons for Geotechnical Engineers" was voted as the QLD Presentation of the Year. Congratulations to you both!

Well-deservingly, John Simmons was awarded the 2014 BOHOGS Geotechnical Practitioner of the Year for his significant contribution to the field of Open Cut Geotechnical Engineering through the following endeavours:

- Founding member of BBOCGS / HOGS + key driver of the amalgamation into *BOHOGS*
- Presenting at and attending BOHOGS events since the groups inception
- Leading Galena training in QLD & NSW (with Keith Stewart)
- Committee member for BOHOGS, BBGG

- Key note presentation at Slope Stability 2013 conference in Brisbane (+ on conference organising committee)
- Supervisor of 2x ACARP PhD open cut coal geotechnical projects + Supervisor of UQ Masters open cut coal geotechnical project
- Conjunct Fellow – University of Newcastle, and
- Ongoing and ever passionate mentor to young geotechnical engineers where one nominee summed up perfectly ***“John personifies what many of us aspire to become in our careers, and is an inspiration to us all”***. Congratulations Dr Simmons!

## FINAL MUSINGS

So with the close of BOHOGS events for 2014, so does my tenure as Chair. As such I must give thanks to the following:

1. To the members. Thank you for your attendance at the various events throughout the year. The committee works hard to provide as much opportunity for technical development and networking for members as possible. Feedback is always welcome on how to continue to grow and enhance the group going forward. Please continue to support the group in 2015 with your attendance at BOHOGS events. Volunteers for presentations always welcome!
2. To our sponsors (Gold: Sherwood Geotechnical & Research Services, Clover Technology, Specialised Geo, Maptek; Silver: Geofabrics, GroundProbe; and Bronze: E-Precision Laboratory, Geobrugg, AMC Consultants and Trilab). Thank you for your continuous support of the group. Without it we would not be able to support our members as much as we do. Let us continue the collaboration between suppliers, consultants and site-based geotechnical engineers into 2015.
3. To the host mines. Thank you for your effort into providing various venues for technical meetings throughout the year. It is great we are able to rotate meeting locations between companies/sites to allow members to see and experience new conditions each site visit.
4. Finally to the committee. Many committee members have been on either the BBOCGS or HOGS board's for the last two years and without their enthusiasm, support and commitment over this time BOHOGS could have just been an idea discussed at the pub and left at that. Special mention to Chris Hanson for his tireless efforts as Treasurer, ensuring the group always has money in the bank! To Kim, Gareth, Kai and Adrienna, thanks for your efforts in getting HOGS up and running and ensuring a smooth transition into BOHOGS. It's great we are all be one big herd now...(pun intended...poor taste I know)! And to Dan Payne, John Simmons, John Latilla, Alex Hossack, Nicole Tucker and Chris Strawson, thank you for your support of BBOCGS from the get go way back in September 2012. Look what the group has morphed into now...

And that's me out. I trust you all have a safe and festive Christmas break, and that the rain does not play too much havoc on your plans (social or mine!).

Best of luck to the oncoming committee. Members can be assured with Nicole at the helm, BOHOGS is in good hands for the next two years.

2015-2016 Committee: Mr T thanks you for answering his call...! It's great to have a cross-section of site-based geotechnical engineers, suppliers and consultants on the committee.

Position	BOHOGS Member
Chair	Nicole Tucker (BMA)
Vice Chair	Kim Peckett (BHP)
Immediate Past Chair	Ali McQuillan (AAC)
Treasurer	Chris Hanson (Adani)
Secretary	Morteza Ghamgosar (UQ)
Webmaster	Gareth Johnson (Thiess)
Membership Co-ordinator	John Latilla (AMC)
QLD representatives	Gavin Lowing (Peabody) Steve Walsh (Geofabrics)
NSW representatives	Adrienna Brown (Thiess) Chris Strawson (Rock Doctors)
BOHOGS-BBGG Liaison	John Simmons (SGRS)