

MINERAL DRILLING ASSOCIATION of AUSTRALIA INC

Current Directors are –

Peter Wright – President
James Colby, Wayne Clohessy, Kenneth Macleay, Tim James, Paul Mander, (Steve Shine), Greg Stagbouer, Brenton Wallace, Graeme Wallis

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Secretary – Tel 9497 1031, techdril@bigpond.com

INFORMATION BOX

Contractor Members	21
Supplier Members	21
Company Members	12
Individuals	8
Other Members	6
Honorary Life Members	2
Total	70

FROM THE BOARD

Our membership continues to grow, and this month we welcome cdu drilling, DDH 1 (Murray Pollock's new venture) John Nitschke Drilling, Nudrill and Swick Mining Services as contractor members, and Samcore as a supplier member.

At our April Board Meeting, Paul Mander was in town, so we had a full complement of Directors, with the exception of Kenneth Macleay who was unable to attend due to work commitments.

Grimwood Davies have completed moving their base of operations to Perth, and are now located in the old Ausdrill premises in Kewdale Road.

Layne Drilling have moved into the premises previously occupied by Grimwood Davies, at 26 – 28 Leviathan Street Boulder.

Ausdrill has completed consolidation of their various entities into the one premises in Uppsala Place in Canning Vale.

Peter Wright, the MDAA President, discussed the issue of video conferencing of RIISC Sectoral Committee meetings with Lee Jackson, the RIISC representative in WA, and it is considered possible that, in future, Brenton Wallace, the MDAA representative on the Sectoral Committee, will be able to participate in the meeting of this committee, by video link.

Central TAFE, as our nominated RTO has been advised of the changed requirements for MDAA approved Workplace Assessors, and, following a query from TRACMIN, they too have been advised of the new requirements.

As reported in the February Newsletter, these new requirements are these six essential units -

TAADEL301A Provide training through instruction and demonstration of work skills
TAADEL404A Facilitate work based learning
TAAASS401A Plan and organize assessment
TAAASS402A Assess competence
TAAASS403A Develop assessment tools - basics

TAAASS404A Participate in assessment validation

We will shortly be holding a special Board meeting designated "Roadmap for the MDAA" at which future direction of the MDAA will be discussed.

Well, our Second Technical Symposium is now over and has been judged by most as a resounding success. However, after thirteen consecutive weeks of constant sunshine, there were three days of inclement weather on the three days of our symposium and this did put a bit of a dampener on the tours / golf programme.

As for our Inaugural Symposium, having everyone accommodated at the one location is thought to have contributed significantly to the success of the symposium, as this allowed a great deal of social interaction after the technical sessions and before and after the social functions.

In all, seventeen papers were presented and the quality of the papers and speakers were rated, in the post symposium questionnaire, to be 77 % and 75 % respectively.

Ed Briener, President of Schramm Inc, who presented the keynote speech, and Cory Redwood, Area Manager for Major Drilling in the Northwest Territories of Canada, who presented a paper on the very real difficulties of operating in an environment very different to Australia, added an international flavour to proceedings.

There was some criticism of the quality of papers and speakers, but it must be said that we were not exactly inundated with offers to present papers and many people are very reluctant to put their hand up to present a paper.

There was also some criticism of the mix of "technical" and "safety" papers, and the same comment holds true – we are very much reliant on who offers to present a paper, and their chosen topic.

Bear in mind too, that while it was requested that authors should have copies of their papers to the Hon Sec no later than the end of December, some papers were

not received until the week before the symposium and some PP presentations were not received until the day of the presentation.

This is not criticism of the comments made, as we value these and take note of them, and it is well appreciated how busy most people are, but obtaining speakers is not easy.

We ended up with 171 delegates, which is up from 138 in 2004, but the number of partners attending was significantly lower than in 2004 and this meant that one tour had to be cancelled altogether, and several others went out with fewer than the optimum number.

This is a pity, as much thought went into providing tours that were different to those in 2004 and, as reported in the article by Joanne Miller, and by reports to the Hon Sec, those who did go on tours enjoyed them immensely.

Graeme (Scrummy) Lightfoot is to be congratulated on the fine job he did in organising the Golf Day, and Greg Stagbouer put in a great deal of time and effort to come up with the questions for, and organisation of, the Quiz night, which was voted a great success.

Our sincere thanks to those who provided prizes for the golf and quiz night.

The "Fun Day" in between the two days of technical sessions provided a mixed reaction, with 76 % of respondents to the questionnaire indicating that they thought it was a good idea, but comments seemed to favour a fun day after the two days of technical sessions, rather than between them.

While we had a couple of last minute "drop outs" among the exhibitors, it is commendable that 20 of the 23 inside booths were occupied and all of the 5 outside areas were taken. 94 % of respondents indicated they were happy with the number of exhibitors and the quality of the exhibitor presentation achieved a 82 % approval rating.

The MDAA would like to thank all exhibitors for taking the time and trouble to attend –

we are very aware of how much is involved in putting together an exhibition.

Special mention should probably be made of Tarleton Drilling Supplies which is a Hong Kong based company and not only exhibited but provided a number of very worthwhile prizes.

ADVANS Exhibition Services who, once again, provided an excellent service in putting together the Exhibition booths deserves a special vote of thanks and special mention should be made of Edward Schimmel, Director of ADVANS, who provided assistance and service above and beyond the norm.

Totally Sound, too provided their usual excellent service in providing the audio visual presentations.

These answers to questions in the post symposium questionnaire probably best sum up the success we enjoyed –

Do you think the symposium good value for money ? YES 95.5 %

Did you enjoy the symposium overall ? YES 100 %

Would you attend another MDAA symposium in the future ? YES 100 %

How often should we aim to hold a symposium ?

Every year 26 %

Every 18 months 7 %

Every 2 years 57 %

See you at the next one !

Sponsorship was very generous and we offer our very sincere thanks to –

ACE Drilling Supplies

Atlas Copco Construction and Mining Australia

Aon Risk Services

Ausdrill Group

Australian Mud Company

BHP Billiton Iron Ore

BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance

BHP Billiton Nickelwest

Boart Longyear

Grimwood Davies

Interlink Insurance Brokers

North West Drilling

Surtron Technologies

Rio Tinto Iron Ore

The support of all our sponsors, exhibitors and delegates, many of whom travelled considerable distances to attend, is very much appreciated by the MDAA and we thank you for this support, without which the symposium would not have been the success that it was.

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An Expose: The MDAA Ladies of Leisure as told by Joanne Miller

As our beloved drilling cohorts diligently filed two by two into the Symposium conference room, their much more attractive 'other halves' boarded Bushtucker Tours bus with Brian, resident guide and sensitive new age guy for a few days of fun, frivolity and general 'chook' shenanigans.

With a gruelling schedule to adhere to, we eagerly set off at 9am each day on Brian's bus, complete with Australiana tunes and hits from the swinging sixties, to explore the sights and delights of the local area including partaking in bush tucker and lighthouse walks, gallery visits, wine tasting, ice cream sampling, retail therapy and of course, those languid lunches dahhhhhing!

Whilst visiting the area's one hundred and three year old lighthouse, discovering its history and debunking the life of a lighthouse keeper as one of romance; we also found that the prevailing and brisk Aeolian winds atop the lighthouse served as soothing and welcomed relief for 'chook hot flushes'.

With some of the group feeling slightly shattered, we then ventured into Ngilgi Cave to escape the inclement weather and were guided by Mark, the didgeridoo toting larrikin to explore its 37 metre depths, acquainting ourselves with each and every one of the 750 steps of the journey at the same time as yearning for a soft comfortable chair and icy cold drink. We noted the likeness that each of the cave formations bore to every day objects and international land marks, and proposed fresh observations for old formations with new eyes; going that one step further by suggesting a new name for a 'shawl' of rock bearing an uncanny resemblance to the female form. ☺

We savoured epicurean and viticultural delights at every juncture, acquainted ourselves with new (and old) friends and had a thoroughly enjoyable experience in the process. I could definitely become accustomed to the lady of leisure existence.

On behalf of the ladies of leisure experience, we wish to thank the 2006 MDAA Symposium Committee for their consideration and organisational efforts to ensure we ladies enjoyed ourselves immensely. Each tour was a success and we're already looking forward to the next programme of events.

Until the next symposium, stay safe and keep on having fun.



Brian – Tour Guide extraordinaire



Wine Tasting



Must have been a "Good Drop"



Pleasant Surroundings for Lunch

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FROM THE QUIZ NIGHT



Quizmaster Greg Stagbouer



Keen Contestants



A Good Time was had by all



What a performance !

FROM OTHER SESSIONS



Good one mate !



Visiting the Boart Longyear Stand



Greg and Lorraine Stagbouer



Peter Jacobs and Ed Breiner



John and Tina Quayle



Our Visitors from HKG and China



A good drop Mike ?



Do you remember when ?



A Happy Group

Once again we are indebted to our intrepid photographer, Travis Macleay and, of course, to Joanne Miller for the photographs on the "Chook Run"

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A great Symposium – we hope all who attended enjoyed themselves and found the papers interesting – we hope to see you at the next one !