

Welcome to the 11th edition of SESOC NEWS. For general information regarding the New Zealand Structural Engineering Society (SESOC) and for committee contact details refer www.sesoc.org.nz



Damage in Christchurch from the February earthquake.

SESOC
Structural Engineering Society
of New Zealand

For general information and for committee contact details refer www.sesoc.org.nz

Postal Address:
PO Box 6508
Auckland

ISSN 2230-3995

IN THIS ISSUE

[President's Comment](#)

[SESOC Management Committee – Election of Officers](#)

[SESOC – Soils Software Update](#)

[Royal Commission of Enquiry Joint SESOC/IPENZ Submission](#)

SESOC has submitted a joint registration of interest with IPENZ to provide written and oral submissions to the commission.

[IPENZ Fulton Downer Award](#)

[Website](#)

[Invercargill Stadium – Update](#)

[I.Struct.E – EEFIT Christchurch, New Zealand Mission](#)

A mission team was despatched on Friday 11 March to investigate the Christchurch earthquake of 22 February 2011.

[The World Conference in Timber Engineering - WCTE 2012](#)

[ASEC 2014 – in New Zealand?](#)

[Articles for SESOC Journal and Newsletter](#)



President's Comment



This year continues apace for the society. Since 22 February, there has been little let-up. However, there is a feeling, on my part at least, that we are making headway. There has been a significant number of structural engineering matters that have emerged in recent months, offering SESOC opportunities to provide leadership and direction to the industry.

We need to build on these opportunities to promote membership and participation in the society where possible.

Some of the important issues in recent months regarding the Christchurch earthquakes include:

- Media interest has died off a little, but makes a comeback whenever something of possible interest comes to light
- The Royal Commission is underway, with a target of mid-October for an interim report
- CERA is still settling in. The relationship with Christchurch City Council is still developing and processes and policies in support of engineering activities are still to be confirmed
- There are a lot of organisations and groups that have a role to play in the recovery, including SESOC. The need for better collaboration between groups has been discussed, with a number of meetings between parties including SESOC, the New Zealand Society for Earthquake Engineering, the New Zealand Geotechnical Society, IPENZ and the New Zealand Institute of Architects. The difficulty has been in determining who needs to be involved, and when
- The EAG continues to work under the Department of Building and Housing (DBH), with nominal representation from SESOC in the form of John Hare, Barry Brown and John Snook in particular. The immediate target is the production of revised guidelines for residential housing, and detailed engineering evaluation procedures for commercial buildings
- The *Building Code* reforms are being discussed, although in a different context. However, SESOC must not lose the opportunity to participate. The trend towards self-certification and reduction of BCA participation may be something we should discuss as a society
- I met with Andrew Cleland and Nicki Crauford from IPENZ recently to discuss ways in which IPENZ can assist with quake related matters
- One of the purposes of Andrew and Nicki's trip to Christchurch was to be at the re-presentation of the Fulton Downer Award to the engineers who participated in the post-earthquake recovery process – a point worth noting as a lot of our members were recipients of the award.



[Contents](#)

John Hare – SESOC President

SESOC Management Committee – Election of Officers

The most recent meeting of the management committee was held on Thursday 10 June 2011, from 10.00am to 4.30pm in Christchurch at the School of Engineering, University of Canterbury.

Prior to this meeting SESOC members were entitled to vote for those nominated to the Executive and Management Committee. Voting was available online.

Election of officers

The management committee unanimously voted the following positions

President	John Hare – Holmes Consulting Group, Christchurch
Secretary	John Dale – JD Consulting Ltd, Hamilton
Treasurer	John Snook – John Snook Ltd Consulting Engineers, Christchurch



[Contents](#)



The management committee would like to make a special mention of the extraordinary services to SESOC the outgoing treasurer Geoff Bird of Beca Auckland, has made and whose tireless dedication to the position has left the society's finances in good stead. Geoff has filled the position of treasurer and worked on the management committee since 1993. Thank you Geoff.

New committee members

The committee welcomed newly-elected committee member Yogesh Kumar from Beca Christchurch and acknowledged retiring members from the committee for their services.

Two additional members of the society were co-opted by the management committee. These were Paul Campbell, of Opus, currently based in Christchurch, and Andrew McMenamin, of AECOM in Auckland. Both of these engineers will be valuable contributors to our Management Committee and we thank them for their generous offer of services.

The profiles and contact details of the current Management Committee can be found on the [SESOC website](#)



[Contents](#)

SESOC –Soils Software Update

SESOC is currently in the process of upgrading the soils programme, in particular the programme interface, as well as reviewing alternative registration systems.

We are seeking member input on two fronts.

- Reviewers: we are seeking volunteers to review the new interface, and provide feedback. While we do not expect a significant time requirement, there is an expectation that those who do volunteer will in fact put in some time, as well as providing feedback. Designers with substantial experience with the current programme are preferred, but participants with lesser experience are also sought.
- Suggestions: we are seeking membership input on aspects of the programme that have caused frustration, along with suggestions for improvement. This may also include alternative registration system suggestions used on other software that you consider may be suitable for the SESOC software.

If you are able to assist with this important work please provide email responses to software@sesoc.org.nz along with an assessment of your use and experience level, ie. from 1 to 5, where 1 = [rarely use], through 5 = [regular use, and understand it pretty well].

Royal Commission of Enquiry Joint SESOC/IPENZ Submission

The closing date for expressions of interest for submissions to the Royal Commission of enquiry into building failure caused by the Canterbury Earthquakes was July 22 2011.

SESOC has submitted a joint registration of interest with IPENZ to provide written and oral submissions to the Commission.

This is an opportunity for the engineering fraternity to provide leadership and direction to the industry and positive contribution towards shaping the future direction of earthquake engineering in New Zealand.

The commission panel is made up of the Hon. Justice Mark Cooper (Chair), Sir Ron Carter and Professor Richard Fenwick.

It is significant to note that one of the panel members, Professor Richard Fenwick, is a Life Member of SESOC and other technical societies.

The Royal Commission is to report back on the following dates:

- Interim Report – 11 October 2011
- Final Report – 11 April 2012

More information on the terms of reference and details of the Royal Commission can be found on the [website](#)



[Contents](#)



IPENZ Fulton Downer Award



Christchurch Mayor Bob Parker presents the Fulton-Downer Gold Medal to Mark Christison, who along with Des Bull accepted the award on behalf of the hundreds of engineers involved in the Christchurch earthquake response.

The IPENZ Members who were active in the response phase following the 2010 and 2011 Canterbury earthquakes have been recognised for their outstanding contribution to public service. The award recognises engineers involved in building safety evaluation, urban search and rescue and restoration of infrastructural utility services.

There were over 450 recipients, the majority of whom were structural engineers. Of these over 220 were members of SESOC.

The list of recipients is compiled from nominations made by Members and can be found on the [IPENZ website](#)



[Contents](#)

Website

A forum section is available on the SESOC website, for members to discuss technical issues of interest. The procedure for accessing the forum site is detailed below:

Log on to the website as you would normally, using your IPENZ login. Under the “Events” section on the front page are the links to the various forums – or you can go directly there from [here](#).

Members are invited to share their observations and reflection on aspects of building performance in the recent earthquake, along with any other topical issues that may emerge. Further, members can start their own threads on items of interest.

Invercargill Stadium – Update

SESOC offered assistance, through IPENZ, to provide an independent investigation of the Stadium Southland roof collapse during a period of heavy snowfall on 18 September 2010.

An initial draft report has been prepared, however the report is still with the DBH, pending review and final sign-off.

We will keep you posted on progress.



[Contents](#)



I.Struct.E – EEFIT Christchurch, New Zealand Mission



A mission team of nine led by the I.Struct.E Earthquake Engineering Field Investigation Team (EEFIT) Chairman Matthew Free was despatched on Friday 11 March to investigate the Christchurch earthquake of 22 February 2011. The EEFIT mission team presented their findings at a technical meeting on 10 May. The video recording from the event is well worth watching and is available from the I.Struct.E [webinars page](#)



[Contents](#)

The World Conference in Timber Engineering – WCTE 2012

The next World Conference on Timber Engineering (WCTE) will be in Auckland in July 2012. SESOC is proud to support the WCTE 2012.

The objective of the WCTE 2012 is to provide a forum for the exchange of the latest technological advances, research results and design innovations. This conference will be of interest to practising engineers and architects, researchers, educators and manufacturers in the field of timber engineering.

Visit the [WCTE 2012](#) website for continually updated information on this conference.

ASEC 2014 – in New Zealand?

SESOC has had recent correspondence from ASEC, agreeing in principle to the hosting the 2014 ASEC conference in New Zealand. The president of the society, John Hare, has sent a response confirming our interest, and we will be advancing this over time.

We will keep you posted on progress.

Articles for SESOC Journal and Newsletter

We are looking for technical papers for the next journal. The journal covers items of interest to structural engineers, including but not limited to: technical papers, project reports, materials information and code reviews.

If you would like to submit a paper for the SESOC Journal please contact the editor Stewart Hobbs at editor@sesoc.org.nz

Or if you have any other news, articles of interest or would like to contribute to the SESOC newsletter please contact Carl Ashby at cva@spencerholmes.co.nz



[Contents](#)