



Issue 18 – September 2014

Welcome to the 18th edition of SESOC NEWS. For general information regarding the New Zealand Structural Engineering Society (SESOC) and for committee contact details please visit www.sesoc.org.nz

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Otago Group Kicks off with the Road Show

The SESOC Roadshow was also the first Otago Structural Group meeting and was held at the Opus Dunedin Office on Thursday July 31st. 17 attended. The presentation by Paul and Neil was well received with some good debate, but most generally agreed with the recommendations. The group was split roughly 60/40 – For/Against on whether to adopt the RSE quality mark.

For future meetings, a Central Otago member suggested a video link could be set up. Given the large geographical spread of engineers in Otago/Southland this is a great idea and Simon plans to organise a Skype Group call that caters for up to 25 people for a future meeting. The next event however will hopefully be a site visit in October. Chris Ellis from Dunedin and Matt Williams from Wanaka have volunteered to help with the organisation of the group which is great.

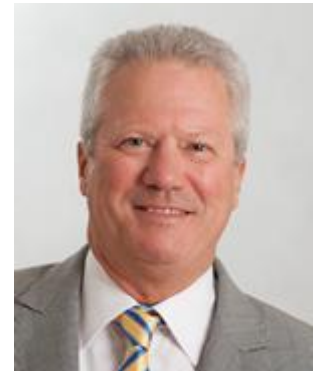
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 (Otago Regional Structural Group coordinator).
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Australasian Structural Engineering Conference wrap-up

ASEC 2014 was held 9–11 July 2014 at the Sky City Auckland. General reports have been that the conference went off well with speakers, Robert Bird, Timothy Ibell and Nick Smith well received. Australian visitors in particular expressed appreciation at the opportunity to be introduced first-hand to the challenges of The Canterbury rebuild during the site visit.



Robert Bird – Keynote speaker

The Road Show

Over the last few months SESOC President, Paul Campbell, Management Committee Members, Gordon Hughes & Neil Horsfield together with Working Group Members Derek Bradley & Dale Turkington have been traveling NZ visiting the branches to consult with Members on issues raised in the discussion paper “SESOC Higher Qualification & Improved Practice Working Group”. This focuses on raising professional standards in the structural engineering profession in New Zealand and has been prepared in response to the Canterbury Earthquakes Royal Commission report on Training and Qualifications for Structural Engineers.

Reporting back on this experience Paul comments that out of the 27 recommendations made in the paper there was generally agreement expressed, however two emerged as controversial. These were:

- A two tier system as compared to a single tier.
- The introduction of an examination

Paul is keen to hear the views of any members that have not expressed an opinion on the SESOC Higher Qualification & Improved Practice Working Group.

Much of the subject matter of the roadshow has been included in the MBIE “Proposals to change the occupational regulation of engineers in New Zealand”. Paul and the working group would also be keen to hear your opinion on anything in the proposal document that was not covered by the roadshow.

Proposed Occupational Regulation

MBIE have published a proposals document “Proposals to change the occupational regulation of engineers in New Zealand” which can be downloaded from the MBIE website [here](#)

The SESOC Working Group have drafted a response which will be sent out to members for comment. Consultations have been held with IPENZ, NZSEE & Geotech society. It is envisaged that SESOC will make a submission in addition to that by IPENZ and possibly other Technical Groups (Along the lines of action taken with the Earthquake Prone Building Proposals (This will enable us to make presentations to the Select Committee when legislation is going to Parliament

Any comment on the MBIE proposal that members would like to make can be sent to Paul Campbell

Design Features Report

A draft template for a SESOC Design Features Report has been assembled. This is a work in progress and is based largely on best practice amongst established practices. New elements will include identifying load paths and describing any “unusual” feature in the design.

The Simplified Steel Design Guide

Hard copies of this document are no longer available. Members can now download the guide free from the SESOC website [Simplified Design of Steel Structures](#)

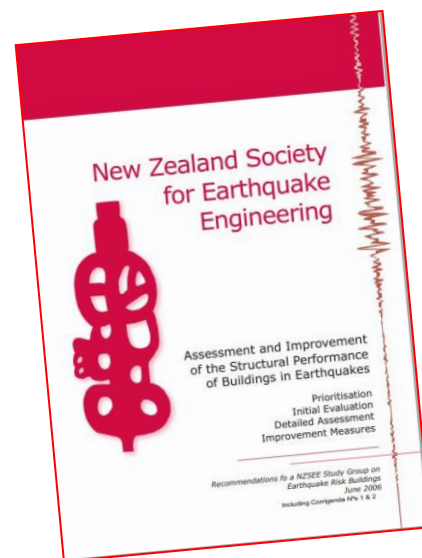


Standards review update

- **NZS3603 (timber structure)** - Now scheduled for release in mid-2015
- **NZS3101 (concrete structures)** - Proposed changes are expected to come out as an addendum later this year.
- **AS/NZS 2327 (Composite Structures)** - A draft to be available later in the year.
- **AS/NZS 5100 part 6 (Composite Bridge Standard)** - The draft for public comment expected this year is currently on hold.
- **NZS1170.5 (Earthquake actions)** - Now out for comment.

Updating the Red Book

An update of the NZSEE Seismic Assessment Guidelines is in progress. An updated version of Section 3 (Initial Evaluation Procedure) is expected very soon. A draft revision of the section on unreinforced masonry has been prepared and is currently out for comment. This is expected to be released later this year. Work on the revision of other sections is ongoing.



Briefly round the regions

Auckland Structural Group : Events were held:

- August 2014- Presentation by Victor Zayas in conjunction with Aurecon on **Earthquake resilient structures and friction pendulum bearings**
- July 2014 – Presentation by Professor Michael Collins in conjunction with NZCS on **Shear design and evaluation of concrete structures.**
- The Road Show on Higher Qualifications met with local members.

Waikato/BoP Regional Structural Group: Events were held:

- Professor Michael Collins from The University of Toronto gave a presentation on **Shear design and evaluation of concrete structures.**
- The Road Show on Higher Qualifications met with local members.

Nelson Marlborough Branch : Events were held:

- A seminar on **Earthquake initial assessment procedure** was held.
- The Road Show on Higher Qualifications met with local members.

Canterbury Structural Group: Events were held:

- July 2014- Professor Michael Collins from The University of Toronto gave a presentation on **Shear design and evaluation of concrete structures.**
- August 2014 – Victor Zayas, president of Earthquake Protection Systems, California gave a presentation on **Earthquake resilient structures and friction pendulum bearings**
- The Road Show on Higher Qualifications met with local members.

Otago Structural Group: Events were held:

- The Road Show on Higher Qualifications met with local members.

IstructE News

Tim Ibell who spoke at the ASEC 2014 conference as guest speaker will take over as the IStructE president in January for the 2015 presidential year.

Tim Ibell



The annual **IStructE Awards** have shortlisted Lower Hatea River Crossing (Te Matau a Pohe), Whangarei, in the Small Practices category. The winners will be announced at a ceremony on 14th November in London. All projects shortlisted can be viewed on the IstructE website at <http://www.istructe.org/awards/2014/the-shortlist>

