



Issue 20 – March 2015

Welcome to the 20th 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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The 2015 AGM and SGM

On 26 February the SESOC AGM was held at the University of Auckland Faculty of Engineering with a good turnout of over 50 attending. The election of the Management Committee for 2015 was the main order of business and the following were announced as the elected representatives.

Geoff Bird
Gregory MacRae
Paul Campbell
Trevor Roberston
Stephen Hicks
Yogesh Kumar
Gordon Hughes

Following the AGM a brief SGM was held to confirm some changes to the SESOC rules. These changes include clarifying the composition of the Management Committee, the roles of its members, the committee's duties and the quorum needed for a meeting. The term "Chair" is now used instead of "Chairman".

With the business out of the way the attendees were then treated to a presentation "Proposed amendments to NZS 3101 – Concrete Structures Standard" by Rick Henry from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Auckland. The presentation was followed by an open Q&A session with members of the NZS 3101 technical committee.



IPENZ Code of Ethics

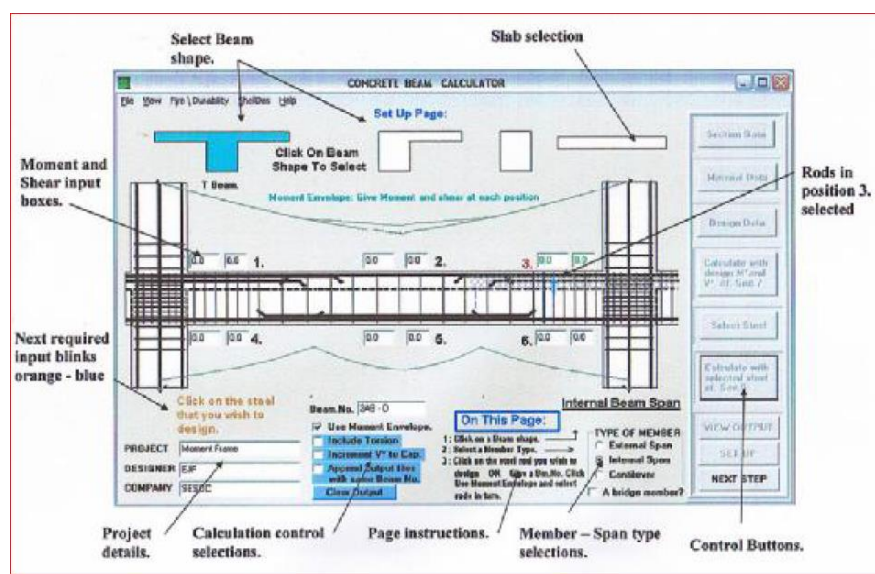
Trevor Robertson is working with IPENZ on the current revision of the IPENZ Code of Ethics. Trevor reports that the final period of consultation has now finished and it is expected that the final version of the Code of Ethics will be released very soon. IPENZ plans an education programme based on the new Code and this will be announced shortly.

SESOC BeamDes software: Notification & feedback opportunity

It is believed that, in light of changes to codes as well as industry practices, BeamDes is now of limited use to members. On this basis, SESOC is intending to withdraw this program.

If however, you are an active user of this program, we would welcome your feedback to the contrary, to software@sesoc.org.nz please.

Please note: this comment does not apply to the standalone beam design program, Basic BeamDes. As a utility program, we believe this latter program is much more versatile, with a correspondingly enhanced shelf-life.



Competence assessment

A priority for any profession is the management of the competence of its members. SESOC, represented by Derek Bradley and Gordon Hughes have been working with IPENZ in a Competence Assessment Working group. Gordon has reported back on his. Last year SESOC, through the Higher Qualifications and Improved Practice Study, identified that there are a concerning number of CPEng Qualified Structural Engineers who it is believed are undertaking sub-standard practice. The working group is addressing this concern and seeks to achieve greater consistency in competence assessments of structural engineers working within the existing CPEng Rules, having regard to

- The adequacy of the CPEng rules.
- Interpretation of required knowledge
- Application of Required Knowledge
- Assessor variability
- Assessor availability
- Assessor Workload
- Assessor Training & Assessment Tools
- Moderation
- Resourcing
- Ethical obligations
- Candidate portfolio selection
- Panel processes and scheduling
- Communication and guidance

The working group is well on the way to formulating recommendations to the IPENZ Competency Assessment Board and Standards and Accreditation Board that will work towards the design and construction of better and safer structures. As an example of the findings of the working group to date, the following are some of the recommendations currently formulated:

- Candidates submitting an assessment for admission undertake a mandatory preparation course
- Candidates submitting for a continued registration assessment are strongly encouraged to attend a preparation course
- Panels are required to be rigorous in reviewing the adequacy of the submitted documentation during the preliminary evaluation of evidence
- Panels are encouraged to reject documentation that is not well prepared or inadequate and that they are strongly encouraged to request that a candidate attends a preparation course

Standards under review

The table following shows progress on the review of standards that may be of interest to Members.

Standard	Status	SESOC rep
NZS3603 (timber structure)	Agreement has been reached with Standards Australia to adopt AS 1720.1 Timber Structures. Part 1: Design methods with modifications to replace NZS 3603. The expert committee has been established and are preparing the modifications to the standard. Public comment is planned for June / July 2015.	Mark Batchelar
NZS3101 (concrete structures)	The committee has reviewed the public submissions received and are working through the changes to the amendment as a result of the feedback. NZS 3101 is due for publication in June 2015.	Richard Fenwick
AS/NZS 2327 (Composite Structures)	Draft for public comment available December 2015	Stephen Hicks
AS/NZS 5100.6 (Composite Bridge Standard)	Draft for public comment available September 2015	Stephen Hicks (Chair)
NZS1170.5 (Earthquake actions)	The committee has reviewed the public submissions received and are working through the changes to the amendment as a result of the feedback. NZS 1170.5 is due for publication in June 2015.	

Mentor training

Mentor training for young structural engineers, an initiative by John Scarry, has begun. SESOC believes that mentoring and training of structural engineers is fundamental to a self-governing profession such as ours. Members are encouraged to take all opportunities to improve their ability to practice the art and science of structural engineering. Please feel free to contact any of the SESOC Management Committee if you have any suggestions in this important area

Upcoming timber design conference in May

The Timber design Society are holding their **sapWOOD** conference in Christchurch 13 – 15 May 2015. This three day event focuses on the recent timber design development and innovations and identifies the directions the industry will be taking in the future.



Day three includes a tour of significant timber engineering projects in the Christchurch area.

[Click here to go to the TDS webpage for this event](#)

Request for assistance with survey

This is a repeat request for members to assist Johnson with his research project. Johnson Adafin is a PhD Student in Construction Management at the University of Auckland, and requests the contributions of SESOC members with his PhD research on "A Survey of Risk Factors Involved in the Variation between Elemental Cost Plan and Final Tender Sum in building procurement". This survey is based on your experience as Professional Structural Engineers on Elemental cost plan and Final Tender sum in building project development in NZ generally. The research aims to develop a predictive model that will assist the construction industry practitioners in NZ to have a better and reliable prediction of final tender sum from the cost plan. The research purpose has indicated that such a model will be beneficial to the NZ construction industry practitioners including SESOC members. Participants will have the right to access a summary of the key findings when the research is concluded. This project has been given an ethics approval by the University Ethics Committee.

This survey has been modified at our request to be completed within 10 minutes.

To participate, please click on the link below to begin the questionnaire. You may also register to receive a summary of the research findings when it is concluded.

To start the survey please click on this link: [Cost variation survey](#)

Management Committee meetings

The following are the dates for the next 12 months.

- Wednesday 3 June in Wellington - Strategy Session
- Thursday 4 June 2015 in Wellington
- Thursday 27 August 2015 in Christchurch
- Thursday 19 November 2015 in Auckland
- Thursday 25 February 2015 in Wellington with AGM

Regional reports

The Auckland Structural Group

In November last year the ASG had a site visit to view the new University of Auckland Structures Test Hall. Designed by Jasmax Architects and BGT Structures, the new facility is the first new build on the recently acquired Newmarket Campus and has been pegged as Australasia's largest test hall facility. On 26 February at the SESOC AGM, the ASG received a presentation by Rick Henry on the proposed amendments to NZS 3101 – Concrete Structures Standard"

The Otago Structural Group

The Otago Structural Group's first meeting for the year will be a presentation by Professor Jason Ingham from the University of Auckland. Jason has kindly offered to visit us and talk about the Napa Valley EQ reconnaissance trip. This will be on the evening of the 14th April.



Auckland office space available

This may be of interest to Auckland based consultants, or someone planning to open up in Auckland. Mark McLeay of Creative Architecture is looking for a new tenant for office space in their premises at 26 Monmouth Street, Grey Lynn, Auckland. Mark says it's a character space with diamond grind polished concrete floor, sand blasted blockwork, high ceilings and plenty of natural light. Fit-out is due for completion by the 27th March. They have one tenant who is a Quantity Surveyor, their architectural practice will occupy the basement floor and they are looking at trying to find another tenant being a structural engineering company that would complement the other businesses in the building. If you know of anyone who may be interested please suggest they contact Mark directly at Mark@creativearch.co.nz .

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