

Issue 17 – December 2016

Welcome to the 17th 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

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President's Message

It's been another busy, productive year for the society and our industry. I want to take this opportunity to thank all those that have contributed to the success of the society. A special thanks to the Management Committee and the Executive Committee, you each give so generously of your time and I have enjoyed and appreciated your efforts.

Early in the New Year we will be calling for nominations for the Management Committee. I urge you all to think about this – it is a fantastic way to contribute to our profession.

This newsletter mentions the IPENZ own enquiry initiative into the Masterton buildings. While it is not nice to have any negative publicity pointed at our profession it is important that we are open and honest and that any issues that are uncovered are responded to in a professional way. Also below we talk about the Kaikoura earthquake. I want to pass on a message that I received from the Hon Dr Nick Smith, who congratulated and thanked engineers on behalf of him and the PM for their proactive response.

On a personal note, this is the last Christmas newsletter I will write as your President. It has been a rewarding three years and I want to acknowledge my understanding wife and colleagues who have shown incredible patience and allowed me the time to carry out my duties. SESOC has achieved much success over the last few years and I am proud all that we have achieved. The Management Committee will elect a new President in the New Year and I wish that person all the best, I will support them in my role as immediate past President.

Lastly; I'd like to wish you all a safe; relaxing (earthquake free) break. Take the time to recharge your batteries as 2017 is looking like yet another busy year.

Paul Campbell

Kaikoura Earthquake

The last month has been dedicated to the response of the Kaikoura earthquakes. It is at times like this that we, as a profession, shine. The engineering response has been a joint effort between the technical societies, IPENZ and local government. It is important that we remember that our response is about people as much as the built environment, so to all those effected, rest assured that SESOC will continue to do all it can to support you in your recovery efforts. To all those that are assisting in the recovery thank you. One of the ways that SESOC can and will contribute is by learning lessons for future preparedness and being a source of information and support for follow engineers.

You will have noticed considerable media interest in the Kaikoura earthquake – and rightly so with wide ranging ramifications. IPENZ, SESOC and NZSEE have been regularly quoted in the media and this has been an excellent effort on the part of our professional organizations to provide up-to-date high quality information to the public.

The effect in Wellington was a peaking at a slightly longer period, at about 1.3 – 1.5s, than the Canterbury earthquakes, resulting in medium rise building damage. We expect to print findings in our April 2017 SESOC Journal.



SESOC Conference 2017: Securing the Future

2 & 3 November 2017

Shed 6 Wellington

In line with our theme, Securing the Future, you will have the opportunity to learn from, and share knowledge with leading practitioners in the field of structural engineering in New Zealand and from overseas.

The conference will provide an environment for you to meet your fellow colleagues and in which to facilitate some stimulating debate. The conference will be of interest to experienced and graduate engineers alike, with several streams of papers running concurrently so as to provide choice and variety.

SPECIAL SESSIONS

The conference will include a small number of Special Sessions. Special sessions are expected to include workshops on topical issues.

INVITED SPEAKERS

The conference committee will be including invited speakers to ensure the technical content is of a high standard.

<http://www.sesoc2017.org.nz/>

Several Lands Trust Masterton

On 11 December 2016 the New Zealand Herald published an article advising that IPENZ will be launching an investigation into potential design flaws for six buildings in Masterton.

The CEO IPENZ, Susan Freeman-Green stated, "IPENZ cares deeply about public trust and confidence in our engineers and we need to get to the bottom of what has happened here. The best way to do this is to investigate." Naturally this inquiry will take some months in the making.

Ethics

The new IPENZ Code of Ethics is now officially in place (effective 1 July 2016) and can be found on the IPENZ website <https://www.ipenz.nz/home/professional-standards/ethical-conduct/code-of-ethical-conduct>.

SESOC Software Soils

Programme and Retaining Walls

Geoff Bird has put an inordinate amount of time into the development of software for SESOC members. To this end the SESOC Soils programme is getting a complete revamp and there is ongoing discussion with the Geotechnical Society so that agreement can be arrived at in terms of agreeing to applied and resisting forces. To this end Barry Brown has been assisting in order that the correct procedures can be established top down.

Gencol

Gencol is currently undergoing a verification process. The GenCol programme was developed at the University of Auckland during the late 1990's, within the department of Civil and Natural Resource Engineering. Pacific Steel provided the programme on their website, which was used extensively by the industry through the following years.

Around October 2014, Pacific Steel made the decision to transfer ownership of the programme to SESOC. SESOC inherited the source code and ported the programme to its registration system. However, there is no record of formal verification of the analysis program itself. This verification process is therefore necessary to provide formal verification of the program.

Executive role at SESOC

John Snook continues to hold the executive officer and assists the committee with development initiatives such as website development, seeking members' opinions regarding design guides/exemplars, structural engineering practice standards, insurance matters and to manage the IPENZ services agreement.

Proposed Earthquake Prone Building Legislation Consultation

The consultation on the Earthquake-prone building regulations and methodology has been extended until 10 February 2017. If any members have any comments they would like included in the SESOC submission please e-mail Paul.Campbell@opus.co.nz