21st International Seminar on Paste and Thickened Tailings Report

The 21st International Seminar on Paste and Thickened Tailings (Paste 2018) was held 11-13 April 2018, at the Rendezvous Hotel Scarborough, in Perth, Western Australia. The seminar was attended by close to 240 delegates. Paste 2018 was a fantastic forum for industry professionals to discuss and share ideas, outcomes and best practice, as well as enjoy the beachside location of the seminar venue.

Prior to the seminar, on Monday 9 April 2018, the Rheology Fundamentals for Slurries and Pastes Workshop was held and facilitated by Dr Fiona Sofra, Co-founder and Managing Director of Rheological Consulting Services and Professor Peter Scales, The University of Melbourne. The objectives of the workshop were to outline how to apply rheology and surface chemistry for pipeline transport and thickening equipment selection for optimal control and operation. It also focussed on identifying what information is required, how to interpret measured data and how to apply this to new system design and existing operations.

On Tuesday 10 April 2018, the Is the Future Filtered? Paste and Thickened Tailings Short Course was facilitated by Professor Andy Fourie, The University of Western Australia. This was a new workshop, and garnering much industry interest for this new topic area, attracting over 55 attendees. Presenters were well respected leaders in their field, including: Dr Angus Paterson, Paterson & Cooke Consulting; Dr David Cooling, Alcoa Corporation; Todd Wisdom, FLSmidth; Dr Nelson Amoah, Karara Mining Ltd; Colleen Crystal, SRK Consulting; and Scott O’Brien, McLanahan Corporation.

Over the three days of the Paste 2018 Seminar, 46 presentations were made (including three posters) by presenters from 13 countries globally. The presentations covered topics in the paste and tailings arena including thickening and filtration; depositional practices and experiences; transportation; beach profiles; geotechnical aspects; backfill; operational experiences; and new developments.

The keynote speaker on day one was Dr David Cooling from Alcoa Corporation, speaking on 'Improving the sustainability of residue management practices'. Day two brought with it a keynote presentation from Dr Gordon McPhail of Water, Waste and Land, who spoke on 'Beach prediction experience to date: further development and review of the stream power-entropy approach'. The final keynote speaker on day three was Dr Michael Davies from Teck Resources whose presentation was on 'International tailings management guidelines: recent developments'. All of the keynote speakers gave excellent presentations which set the bar high for each day of the seminar.

The seminar was generously supported by the highly valued sponsors and exhibitors. BASF was the Principal Sponsor,
and the Major Sponsors were Active Minerals, Armormipe Technologies, FLSmidth, Outotec and Weir Minerals. All of the papers from the Paste 2018 Seminar are openly accessible on the ACG’s Online Repository, with thanks to the open access sponsors, ATC Williams, Feluwa, McLanahan and Paterson & Cooke. The online repository aims to provide the mining geomechanics fraternity with open access to peer-reviewed conference proceedings that may assist readers to maintain and develop their skills, knowledge and capabilities. After its first year in operation, the number of papers available has grown considerably, and continues to grow with each new ACG international event. It was announced at the close of the Paste 2018 seminar that the 22nd International Conference on Paste, Thickened and Filtered Tailings will be held in 2019, in Cape Town, South Africa. The ACG will be collaborating with Paterson & Cooke on the organisation of this event. A seminar site visit was held the day following the close of the Paste 2018 Seminar, on which delegates travelled to Alcoa’s bauxite residue storage facility at Kwinana. The site visit was very well received and the ACG thanks Alcoa of Australia for freely donating their time and resources to host the visit. The ACG team extends warm thanks to all of the delegates, presenters, sponsors and exhibitors who contributed to making Paste 2018 a success.

**PASTE 2019**

**22ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON**

**PASTE, THICKENED AND FILTERED TAILINGS**

**MAY 2019 | CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA**

The Australian Centre for Geomechanics is pleased to announce that the 22nd International Conference on Paste, Thickened and Filtered Tailings will be held in Cape Town, South Africa in May 2019, in collaboration with Paterson & Cooke. Conference co-chairs are Professor Andy Fourie, The University of Western Australia and Dr Angus Paterson, Paterson & Cooke.

**ABSTRACTS DUE**

**13 AUGUST 2018**