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**METSOC NEWS**  
JULY 2008

### ROD GRANT RECEIVES THE AUSIMM "INSTITUTE SERVICE AWARD"

**C**ongratulations to MetSoc Committee Member Dr Rod Grant, FAusIMM (CP), who was recently presented with the 2007 Institute Service Award.

The Annual Awards Dinner of The Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (The AusIMM) was held in Adelaide on Saturday 14 June at the Stamford Plaza Hotel, and was a huge success.



AusIMM President Peter McCarthy (left) congratulates Rod Grant

The Dinner followed the Annual Congress of The AusIMM. South Australia was an appropriate setting for this prestigious event, given the spectacular growth in exploration of more than 400% in the last four years.

Rod Grant's long history of service to The AusIMM was recognised with the Institute Service Award. Dr Grant recently stepped down as Chairman of the Met Soc Committee after 8 years, during which the Society has developed its range of services and activities to members.

Rod Grant's AusIMM Award citation read:

*"For his long history of service to The AusIMM, including Melbourne Branch Chair and Committee member; involvement in the activities of the Combined AusIMM/IE Aust. Branch in Port Pirie, and in the organisation of conferences; development of young metallurgists; involvement in various committees, publications and task forces, and particularly his energy and time as Chair of the Metallurgical Society and his support for careers and education initiatives."*

For the full list of The AusIMM Award Winners, go to:

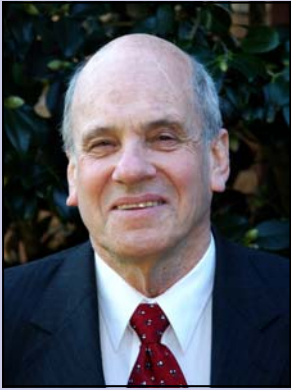
<http://www.ausimm.com.au/content/default.aspx?ID=258>



Recipients of The AusIMM Awards at the 2008 Dinner

## INTRODUCING THE LATEST ADDITIONS TO THE METALLURGICAL SOCIETY COMMITTEE

### PHILIP STEWART



Dr Philip Stewart has been part of the mining industry in Australia for over 40 years. His metallurgical experience has been focussed principally on research and development working at different times in the three distinct environments of University, CSIRO (13 years) and operating mining companies. His wide ranging experience has involved all the base metals, gold, silver and industrial minerals.

His major professional qualifications are an honours degree (part time) in Chemical Engineering at UNSW, leading to a PhD at Cambridge (also in Chem. Eng.), followed 10 years later by an MSc in Mineral Process Design at the Royal School of Mines.

In CSIRO he was for 13 years a member and eventually leader of the Mineral Processing Group which was a major pioneer in the early development of mathematical models of grinding, flotation and classification leading to the simulation of complete plants. The overall objective of this work was to improve the control and efficiency of concentrators. It involved study at many of the major mines active in Australia in the 60's and 70's including concentrators at Renison, Mt Isa, and several at Broken Hill. This group also introduced and developed the concept of 'diagnostic metallurgy' for identifying process shortcomings and finding ways of improving performance based on detailed surveys of operating plants and size and mineral based analysis of plant streams.

Subsequently he worked for a number of mining companies. A major project in industrial minerals was research and development for an innovative wet process for reprocessing tailings from a relatively inefficient dry process. This culminated in directing the design and eventual construction in Newfoundland, Canada of a 1.5 Mt/y operating plant. His last major position was at the Chatree Gold Mine in Thailand during the commissioning and first two years of operation. Throughout all this he has maintained his primary interest in practical applications of modelling and simulation and he has published over 70 papers in peer reviewed journals and conferences.

### ROGER JACKMAN

Roger qualified as a Metallurgist from the Ballarat College of Advanced Education in 1984. He has been involved with the Australian mining industry for over 25 years. In that time he has worked for four different mining companies (Aberfoyle, Pasminco, Denehurst, WMC), an executive search group, and a major engineering house. His roles have included technical projects, operations support, production management, project management and human resources (recruitment).

Roger's operational experience has been in Australia having been involved with mines like Hellyer in it's development, Elura (now Endeavour), Woodlawn and Leinster Nickel, all with their unique challenges. His experience has been predominantly with complex base metals operations but he has also worked at gold and tin mining operations. In recent years this experience has been used to service global mining clients for a variety of needs.

Roger's experience provides a unique perspective of the Australian mining industry and in particular the human side giving an insight to attraction and retention of qualified Metallurgical personnel. Having recruited senior people for global clients he understands the key drivers that motivate professionals and also what causes some people to consider alternate careers.



## THE AUSIMM MINERAL PROCESSING TOOLBOX: UPDATE

The Mineral Processing Toolbox is an initiative of The AusIMM Metallurgical Society (Met Soc). Developed by the Met Soc, and led by the Vice-Chair of the Met Soc Committee, Peter Tilyard, the recent expansion of the content of the Toolbox has led to the formation of a sub-committee to assess incoming content.

The sub-committee comprises members of the MetSoc Committee. AusIMM member Geoff Richmond will also soon be involved in the Toolbox, as Editor of the proposed hydrometallurgy section. Some of the existing material of the Toolbox will be shifted to this new area as it develops and becomes readily available for access.

The Toolbox is a useful live and portable document, available online and also produced on CD. As such, other handbooks (e.g. Metso, Nordberg and Cyttec) are incorporated, along with spreadsheets. The Toolbox is revised on a regular basis, and is compiled on The AusIMM website to encourage participation and also to make the contained information progressively available.

This live format is available for AusIMM members to access via <http://www.ausimm.com.au/content/default.aspx?ID=232>.

The most recent additions to the Toolbox are under Chapter Two: Classifiers; and Slurry Pumping. See <http://www.ausimm.com.au/content/default.aspx?ID=85> for more.

Please contact Peter Tilyard ([peter.tilyard@oxiana.com.au](mailto:peter.tilyard@oxiana.com.au)) if you are able to contribute, or interested in finding out more about the Toolbox.

## MET SOC NEWS: MARCH 2008 COMPETITION WINNER

Well done to Dave Lauder (MAusIMM) of QLD, who correctly identified the ball mill - image at right - and its location.

The picture shows the first wrap around motor in a wet milling application, at Sydvaranger in Norway. The mill is now at Century Zinc, QLD.

Dave Lauder won an AusIMM Publication to the value of \$66.00 for being the first reader of *Met Soc News* to send through the right answer.

For those who missed out this time...keep a look out for more competitions in future editions of *Met Soc News*!



## THE AUSIMM PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS WORKSHOP

By Helen Drousas, Senior Coordinator, Education and Careers, The AusIMM

In April 2008 industry experts from within and external to the Metallurgical Society Committee, met in a one-day workshop to develop professional standards against which overseas qualifications of Extractive Metallurgists will be assessed when The AusIMM is granted Assessing Authority status.

Participants were Dr. John Canterford, Roger Jackman, Jerry Platt, David Pollard, John Rankin, Laurie Reemeyer, Alan Taylor, Peter Tilyard, Dr. Nick Welham. Tim Offor, an independent experienced mediator facilitated the process of developing the standards, Dr. John Canterford as Chair, guided the content of discussions and Helen Drousas acted as Secretary to the proceedings.

The workshop resulted in:

- an accurate and current definition for the occupation
- educational pathways expressed as qualifications that outline an appropriate level of education for entry into the profession
- professional standards which reflect a comparable, rather than equivalent, skills set to that gained by completing an appropriate Australian qualification; and can be assessed objectively rather than subjectively



The participants were mindful of providing standards which:

- encapsulate all possible areas of knowledge, skill and application across various work environments and industries within each occupation
- cover the essentials and allow for specializations
- allow technical terms which would be universally understood
- avoid terms which could mislead by prompting differing expectations in other cultures

Several issues were raised and delineated in thorough discussion. These included the variety of legitimate educational pathways into each profession, the adequacy of subject combinations, what is considered fundamental, core and non-core knowledge and breadth and depth of coverage of a topic.

Participants noted that skills and knowledge necessary for a profession could be covered under one subject or embedded across a number of subjects. Hence, the group recommended that the assessing officer would need to be an industry expert who could correctly interpret a syllabus description.

*Article continues, PTO...*

## THE AUSIMM PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS WORKSHOP: CONTINUED

By Helen Drousas, Senior Coordinator, Education and Careers, The AusIMM

A similar workshop was conducted with Geoscience representatives for the occupations Geologist and Geophysicist a few days later. The workshop participants raised various scenarios where applicants do not conform to an academic assessment route and requested that The AusIMM seek advice from DEEWR on alternative routes, namely membership of Recognised Overseas Professional Organisations (ROPO), competency-based assessment for applicants who cannot provide sufficient evidence of qualifications, or exams for those who do not have sufficient evidence of qualifications and/or work experience. The workshop participants recommended that pending favourable response from DEEWR, The AusIMM should investigate these alternate assessment pathways in the future.

Advisory panels were recommended as backup support to assessing officers and a source of feedback and information on international education standards. Participants also confirmed that a regular review of the professional standards is highly desirable particularly as higher education standards in Australia fluctuate and industry requirements change.

DEEWR was pleased to receive the report compiled by Helen Drousas outlining the process, discussions and outcomes of the Professional Standards workshop, commenting:

"It's very interesting and helpful for us to have this insight into the process for developing the professional standards."

The AusIMM is expecting DEEWR's feedback on the actual standards later in July 2008.

*All images: Workshop participants on the day*



## 21ST CENTURY GOLD RUSH

*Media release: Parker Cooperative Research Centre for Integrated Hydrometallurgy Solutions*



Dr Silvia Black (right) receives a Parker Centre Award for Best PhD Submitted in 2006-2007. *Image courtesy Parker Centre.*

As mankind's gold fever continues to burn, Dr Silvia Black's PhD research at the Parker CRC for Integrated Hydrometallurgy Solutions has laid solid foundations for the development of a viable gold extraction process to replace cyanide in controversial areas of the world.

Back in the late 19th century, man's quest for gold led to the cyanide process which revolutionised gold extraction. Today in the 21st century, gold production using cyanide creates jobs, develops infrastructure and is an economic powerhouse, contributing billions of dollars to the Australian economy every year.

But cyanide has got a bad rap in recent times, thanks to cyanide spills from gold mines such as the infamous spill in Baia Mare, Romania. This has instigated a rush, a "21st Century Gold Rush", to develop a more environmentally friendly process to replace cyanide, particularly in environmentally sensitive areas or densely populated regions.

The most promising alternative is the thiosulfate process, but its complex chemistry has delayed its potential application in industry. Silvia's research has advanced the understanding of this knotty chemistry.

"The lack of crucial fundamental chemical information has been a stumbling block on the road to an industrially useful thiosulfate process," she explained. "My PhD project aimed to unravel some of this complexity."

The thiosulfate process uses thiosulfate in combination with copper and ammonia. These three chemicals work as a team to leach gold, but they also interact with each other, which makes for much more complex chemistry than in cyanide leaching.

So, Silvia undertook an extensive study of the complicated solution chemistry of the copper (I)-ammonia-thiosulfate and the copper(II)-ammonia systems.

"I identified various, previously unknown, chemical species in solutions that mimicked the thiosulfate leaching process and included highly saline conditions such as found on many Western Australian gold mines," said Silvia.

This new information was used to construct more accurate speciation diagrams of the solution chemical species, which will be valuable tools to apply to further development of the thiosulfate process.

Silvia's work has taken gold mining companies and environmental regulators one step closer to a new future for today's gold industry.

## NEW RESOURCE FOR TEACHERS WINS AWARD



*Cooperative  
research centres  
(CRC) awards*

Science in the classroom has traditionally been concerned with textbooks and the periodic table as opposed to the real world of work. However, a new program launched by the Centre for Sustainable Resource Processing (CSRP) and Murdoch University Extractive Metallurgy is changing that perception with an education outreach program to show physical science teachers employment possibilities for their students.

Currently 600 teachers have elected to be part of the initiative, and it has been so successful that it has been awarded a major prize for Innovation in Education and Training by the Cooperative Research Centres Association of Australia (CRCA).

This scheme, known as "Sustainable Researchers: CSRP School Teacher Professional Development Program", recognises teachers' influence over their students. Through professional development workshops, after-school programs and technical site tours, it shows where science students might work in the future. There is widespread recognition that fewer young Australians choose careers in the minerals sector despite it being the country's largest export earner. However, through the CSRP Teacher Program, students, through their teachers, can be shown the relevance of the enabling sciences.

A review of existing programs around Australia reveals that while many universities and companies have education outreach programs, most of these are aimed at students. This new approach is different because it targets teachers, and as it is delivered through a CRC, there is no suspicion of unwanted influences from industry. To date, it is estimated that 100,000 students are

benefiting from this improved teacher training program.

The program began in the Perth metropolitan area five years ago with full-day "Chemistry and Physics of Extractive Metallurgy" workshops offered for school science teachers on the Murdoch campus during term breaks. A follow-up "advanced" course was offered. Additionally, a series of one-hour talks for school students were developed and offered along with several 90-minute after school workshops to schools and teachers in regional areas including Geraldton and Bunbury.

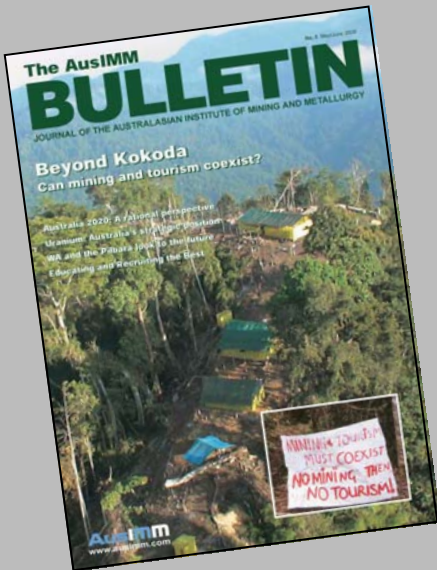
In 2005 the program was extended to regional Queensland (Gladstone, Townsville, Cairns, Toowoomba and Charters Towers) and in 2008 to Victoria (Geelong and Ballarat).

An ongoing doctoral study shows this program has led to an increase in teachers' overall knowledge of the industry and provided a framework in which they can effectively network with scientists. Other results showed teachers' willingness to provide career information to students and to use the mining and mineral industry as examples in class. It is anticipated that by year end, more than 750 teachers will have attended one or more CSRP Teacher Program events.

CRCA represents 58 Cooperative Research Centres (CRCs) which specialise in a broad range of sciences, technologies and industries. The hub of applied research in Australia, CRCs aim to increase collaboration between researchers and industry and better promote the uptake and use of research. Since its establishment in 1990s the CRC Program has led the world in cooperative innovation.

For information regarding the CSRP Teacher Program contact Dan Churach, Education Manager of the Centre for Sustainable Resource Processing on 08 6436 8735 or [dan.churach@csrp.com.au](mailto:dan.churach@csrp.com.au)

## The AusIMM Bulletin: update



The bumper May/June edition is out now and contains the following articles:

- Cover Story: Beyond Kokoda: Can Mining and Tourism Coexist?
- Australia 2020 – Peter Coates, FAusIMM, on the Climate Discussion Group

Features include:

- Uranium
- WA and the Pilbara
- Education and Recruitment

*The May/June edition also includes a Preview of The AusIMM MetPlant 2008 Conference, written by Met Soc Committee Chairman David Pollard. The MetPlant Conference is soon to be held in Perth (18-19 August. See pg 6 of Met Soc News for more Event details).*

The July/August edition of the Bulletin will be published on July 28. Features to look forward to reading all about:

- Workforce Planning and Development
- South Australia
- Conveyors and Components
- Exploration
- Drilling and Blasting

For upcoming features for the remainder of the 2008 issues of the Bulletin; and/or to be considered for publication, please send an outline of your article idea of no more than 250 words to the Editor at [msarder@ausimm.com.au](mailto:msarder@ausimm.com.au).

## CSIRO Process Magazine: June 2008

The June issue of CSIRO's Process magazine is available now. Key stories include:

- Sulfidic waste offers hidden mineral wealth: research is mapping the way for mining companies to exploit hidden mineral wealth in tailings using simple separation processes.
- Direct route solves metallurgical challenge: international company Baja Mining is planning to use a direct solvent extraction system developed through the Perth-based Parker Centre to help recover copper and zinc from its El Boleo deposit in Mexico.
- Bell rings on coal congestion: a proto-

type on-line alarm system that uses acoustic emissions to monitor the performance of dense medium cyclones has been successfully trialled at a Hunter Valley coal plant and is now ready to move to the commercial stage.

- On-the-spot analysis offers fast results: a recently developed technique that uses lasers to provide an on-the-spot analysis of elemental composition has the potential to save mining companies both time and money.

...and more. View the full online version at <http://www.csiro.au/resources/ProcessJune08.html>

## **Review of Australian Higher Education Discussion Paper: Call for Member Input**

The Higher Education Review Expert Panel has released a Discussion Paper. The paper has been structured around nine key challenges and issues for higher education in Australia, and is available from:

[http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/higher\\_education/policy\\_issues\\_reviews/reviews/highered\\_review/default.htm](http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/higher_education/policy_issues_reviews/reviews/highered_review/default.htm)

According to the Discussion Paper, the Higher Education Sector must have the capacity to:

1. Meet the needs of the labour market and industry for high level skills
2. Provide opportunities for all capable students to participate
3. Provide students with a stimulating and rewarding higher education experience
4. Connect effectively with the other education and training sectors
5. Play a vital role in the national research and innovation system
6. Operate internationally
7. Contribute effectively to the development of Australia's social and cultural structures and its national and regional economies

AND, in order to develop and sustain these capacities, Australia's higher education system needs to be:

8. Appropriately, effectively and efficiently resourced to perform its functions
9. Appropriately, effectively and efficiently governed and regulated

The AusIMM will be making a submission to the Review to ensure that future structure and resourcing supports quality minerals higher education programs. We are calling for your input and feedback from the Committees on current challenges facing minerals higher education for the disciplines of Mining Engineering, Metallurgy and Geoscience, and how these could be best addressed.

The deadline for submissions is 31 July 2008. Therefore please email your comments to Monika Sarder, Senior Policy and Research Coordinator at [msarder@ausimm.com.au](mailto:msarder@ausimm.com.au), before **Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> July**.



**DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR**

MetPlant, Perth – 18-19 August 2008  
[\(http://www.ausimm.com.au/metplant2008/\)](http://www.ausimm.com.au/metplant2008/)

International Conference of Applied Mineralogy, Brisbane – 8-10 September 2008  
[\(http://www.icam2008.com/\)](http://www.icam2008.com/)

The XXIV International Mineral Processing Congress, Beijing CHINA – 24-28 September 2008 (Contact [impc2008@impc2008.org](mailto:impc2008@impc2008.org))

**For the full list of AusIMM Events and to view the Industry Calendar of Events, go to**

<http://www.ausimm.com.au/sections/MEvents.aspx> (AusIMM Events)  
 and  
<http://www.ausimm.com.au/content/default.aspx?ID=242> (Industry Calendar)

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES 2008 — Hydrometallurgy****WA Courses:**

**Fundamentals of Hydrometallurgy:**

August 4-6

**Principles and Practice of Leaching:**

September 1-2

**Separation Practices in Hydrometallurgy:**

September 30-October 1

**Metal Reduction Processes:**

October 27-28

Details are at:

[http://www.ausimm.com.au/content/wir/wir\\_murdoch\\_flyer2008\\_180208.pdf](http://www.ausimm.com.au/content/wir/wir_murdoch_flyer2008_180208.pdf)

*“Supporting our industry  
 Enhancing your career”*

**Conferences Snapshot!**

By David Pollard, Chair, Met Soc Committee

**CONGRESS 2008**

It is pleasing to see that the Met Soc is no longer the only active Society in AusIMM. The Geoscience Committee and the Mining Society both reported at Congress, as did WIMNet (Women in Mining Network). We expect a fuller account of Congress in the Bulletin.

Congratulations to Rod Grant who was awarded an Institute Service Award at the annual Awards Dinner for his history of service to the Institute, which included 8 years as Chair of the Met Soc (see cover page of *Met Soc News*)

**SAMPLING 08 CONFERENCE REPORT**

Sampling 08 was held in Perth in May with a number of excellent papers and many international delegates. Many of the papers were relevant to processing and plant control, in particular Phil Guerney's paper on difficult sampling in mineral processing and Dick Minnitt's paper on a chronostatistical approach to hydrometallurgical plant process control. The Proceedings are available from the AusIMM Bookshop.

An interactive Workshop "Sampling Errors and Creative Accounting" attracted over 50 delegates including the leading international experts, and engaged them in constructive discussion and debate across a number of common sampling situations which present problems. Also following the conference Francis Pitard presented a new 1-day short course on the theory, predictability and economic consequences of the Nugget Effect, with examples from iron ore, bauxite, diamonds, lateritic nickel and gold.

*“Snapshot” continues, PTO...*

## Conferences Snapshot! : CONTINUED

By David Pollard, Chair, Met Soc Committee

### MetPlant 08 CONFERENCE – REGISTER NOW

MetPlant 08 will be in Perth, 18 – 19 August. The complete Abstracts are posted on the website <http://www.ausimm.com.au/metplant2008/>.

The Exhibition was fully sold in January, and has since been moved to a larger space to accommodate more booths. The program covers design, comminution, flotation, gravity, hydrometallurgy, pyrometallurgy, instrumentation modelling and control. Keynote papers are from Outotec, Hatch, Xstrata and JKMRC.

### MetPlant WORKSHOPS

- **Heap Leaching** will be led by Graeme Miller. It will cover chemistry, ore characterisation and physical characteristics, effect of particle size, fines and clays, world operating data analysis, and agglomeration. A final session will bring in a number of guest presenters with experience in areas such as heap leach design, lab and pilot testing, agglomeration and operating practice, with opportunity for a forum discussion.
- **Advances in Flotation** will be led by Chris Greet, and will be based on the monograph he is editing for AusIMM. The workshop will examine developments which can improve flotation performance and discuss implementation and consequences.
- **The Draft Code for Metal Accounting** has been developed by an AMIRA project sponsored by companies in South Africa and the South African offices of some global companies. This workshop will be led by Rob Morison (JKMRC, and AMIRA Project Leader) and Peter Gaylard (University of Cape Town).

The Code was first discussed in Australia at the 2007 Mill Operators conference in Fremantle. The current Draft will be released for discussion and feedback in South Africa in July, and will be introduced to Australia in this workshop. The workshop outline is:

Introduction and Overview, Reporting – first pass, Identifying Custody Transfer point, Mass measurement and stocktaking, Sampling, Analysis and Sample Management, Check in-Check out, Mass Balancing, Reconciliation, Case Study, Reporting Requirements – revisited. Discussion sessions will cover Spreadsheets vs. Databases, Identifying a suitable expert, Change management issues.

The AusIMM through the MetSoc is closely following this project, and your comments and feedback will be important in determining its suitability for Australia. Many in Australia who have seen it so far believe that it should be broadened to cover commodities such as coal, bauxite, iron ore etc, that it should be a best practice guide rather than mandatory, and that it should have AusIMM approval (the present situation is that the Code is owned by AMIRA, which will make it freely available). Your input will be important.

### CALL FOR PAPERS – MillOPS 09

The 10th Mill Operators Conference will be held in Adelaide 12 - 14 October 2009. The Call for Papers is being prepared, so please start thinking about your possible contribution.

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*Interested in more information about upcoming AusIMM Conferences? Contact The AusIMM Conferences & Events Department via [events@ausimm.com.au](mailto:events@ausimm.com.au)*

## CONTACT US

If you have any feedback, would like to make a suggestion or contribute to the MetSoc Newsletter, please e-mail the Secretariat Stephanie Omizzolo at [somizzolo@ausimm.com.au](mailto:somizzolo@ausimm.com.au) or email any of the MetSoc Committee members:

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Peter Tilyard (Vice Chair): [Peter.Tilyard@Oxiana.com.au](mailto:Peter.Tilyard@Oxiana.com.au)

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Or you can find out more about the Metallurgical Society by visiting our website! : <http://www.ausimm.com.au/content/default.aspx?ID=232>

*We hope you enjoyed this edition of MetSoc News! Stay tuned...next newsletter due for release in September*