



Australian Acoustical Society

A.C.N. 000 712 658

NEW SOUTH WALES DIVISION

NOTICE OF 2008 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 38th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the NSW Division of the Australian Acoustical Society will be held on **Tuesday 21 October 2008** commencing at 6:30pm sharp at National **Acoustics Laboratory, 126 Greville Street, Chatswood**. This will be followed by a technical talk.

Information about the technical talk, the minutes of the 37th AGM (2007), and the chairpersons report are attached. The audited accounts and auditor's report will be tabled at the meeting.

AGENDA

- 1 Opening
 - 2 Apologies
 - 3 Proxies
 - 4 Minutes of 2007 AGM
 - 5 Business
 - 5.1 Chairman's report
 - 5.2 Treasurer/Registrar's report
 - 5.3 Appointment of Auditor and Remuneration
 - 6 Election of five members to serve on NSW Division Committee
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1. VOTING RIGHTS

Persons holding the grade of Fellow or Member have full voting rights, except they are not permitted to vote at the election of Associate, Subscriber or Student members to the Division Committee.

Persons holding the grade of Associate, Subscriber or Student may only (except as hereinafter provided) vote to elect not more than two of their numbers to the Division Committee. Associates, Subscribers or Student members serving on the Division Committee shall be entitled to vote at any General Meeting of the Society or their Division. Votes may be submitted by Proxy and a Proxy Form is enclosed herewith. Please note the conditions of lodgement. Persons must be financial at the time of the AGM.

2. NOTICES OF MOTIONS OR BUSINESS

No motion or business other than the business brought forward by the Division shall come before the meeting unless notice thereof is received in writing at least 21 days beforehand.

3. NSW DIVISION COMMITTEE

Committee members who are up for retirement after serving two years are as follows:

Neil Gross**	Federal Councillor, Technical Subcommittee
Brian Marston**	Vice-Chair, Membership Grading
Rodney Stevens**	Treasurer
Nicole Kessissoglou**	(Co Opted)

Committee members whose term will expire in 2009 are as follows:

Tracy Gowen	Secretary
Larry Clarke	Technical Subcommittee
Warwick Williams	Technical Subcommittee

The members tagged *** have indicated that they are available for election.

Could you please complete the attached Nomination Form and returned it to our Secretary by **Monday, 20th October 2008**, if you wish to nominate somebody for election. Nominations may also be made at the AGM.

Tracy Gowen
Secretary, NSW Division
Australian Acoustical Society
91 Prince Alfred Parade
Newport NSW 2106
Fax: (02) 8218 0501
Email: tgowen@rtagroup.com.au

NOMINATION FORM 2008

I,.....of Grade.....
nominate.....of Grade.....
to stand for election as a Committee member for a two year period from October 2008.

The person I am nominating has agreed to stand for election.

Signed.....Date.....

PROXY FORM 2008

I,.....of.....
.....
being a Fellow/Member of the Australian Acoustical Society, hereby appoint
.....of.....
.....

as my Proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the NSW Division to be held on Tuesday 21 October 2008 at 6:30 pm and at any adjournment thereof.

SignedDate.....

To be valid, Proxy Forms must be forwarded to the Secretary, NSW Division AAS, c/- 91 Prince Alfred Parade, Newport NSW 2106 [Fax: (02) 8218 0501] by Monday, 20 October 2008. Proxy Forms can also be given to the Secretary or her representative at the meeting place before the commencement of the meeting.



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NEW SOUTH WALES DIVISION

TECHNICAL MEETING

Vibration Limits in Velocity and Acceleration:- Compared with Building Response Measured by Strain

- The Date:** Tuesday 21st October 2008
- The Venue:** National Acoustics Laboratories
126 Greville Street, Chatswood
- The Time:** 6.30 pm (Immediately following AGM)
- The Speaker:** Ray Tumney, Hunter Acoustics

In NSW the vibration limits that are assigned to protect structures from damage by ground vibration generated by construction and mining operations are sourced, generally, from either BS7385 for modern structures and / or from DIN 4150 for sensitive structures. Both the standards set limits in terms of peak velocity and have limits down to 3 mm/s for sensitive structures. The DECC currently apply 2mm/s for sensitive heritage structures irrespective of the condition of the building.

The standards acknowledge that the source data used to set these criteria is from a limited data set and is based on physical observations where no cosmetic damage is observed over an extended exposure period. It is clear that vibrations that are below the criteria will not cause damage to buildings, but in many cases it is either not possible to comply with the limits or compliance with the limits will adversely compromise a construction or mining operation or create unnecessary concern over the likelihood of damage to a building.

Hunter Acoustics has undertaken a series of studies where structural response to construction and blasting vibration has been measured using the strain response of the structure to the vibration inputs. The studies suggest that there is considerable scope for increasing the vibration limits that are applied to protect from structural damage in cases where conservative limits may compromise construction or mining.

For catering purposes please RSVP

Monday 20th October 2008 to Neil Gross by email neilg@wilkinsonmurray.com.au

Chairpersons Report

2007 - 2008

This report is presented for consideration at the NSW Division Annual General Meeting -21st October 2008. I am pleased to report on our condition and activities since the 2007 Annual General Meeting.

1. Division Committee

The Divisional Committee (10 person) has had 2 changes this year with the resignation of David Luck, who has been replaced with Nicole Kessissoglou who was co-opted during the year. After 15 years on the NSW Divisional Committee Donald Woolford has resigned and returned to Adelaide. That takes the committee back to 7 persons.

At present the committee is structured as follows:

- Tracy Gowen Federal Councillor, Chair, Secretary
- Brian Marston Vice-Chair, Membership Grading
- Neil Gross Federal Councillor, Technical Subcommittee
- Rodney Stevens Treasurer
- Donald Woolford Minutes Secretary (resigned)
- Larry Clarke Technical Subcommittee
- Warwick Williams Technical Subcommittee
- Nicole Kessissoglou (Co Opted)

Thanks to all for their contribution. It is ever more difficult to find time for things outside of work and family. This year we are looking for up to three volunteers to help bring the Committee back to full strength – many hands make light work. We are always looking for ideas/ topics for technical seminars and presenters.

The major work of the committee during this year has been:

- Organising and running the technical program, thanks to Neil Gross and Larry Clarke for an excellent program over the last 12 months.
- Regular membership/administration issues
- Letter prepared for distribution to Councils regarding rejection by some City councils of the services of AAS acousticians who are not members of the AAAC.
- Introduction of a Student Travel Award Grant (NSW Division is sponsoring 5 students to attend the AAS conference in Geelong and present their papers), and thanks must go to Nicole Kessissoglou and Marion Burgess for their contribution and ideas on this.

2. Technical / Social Activities

There were seven technical meetings held in Sydney.

- 9 November 2007 **Expert Witness Workshop.** This full day workshop was held at the Stamford Plaza Sydney Airport Hotel in conjunction with the National AGM. The workshop, was led by Hugh Selby, a teacher in the Law Faculty at ANU and was well attended by NSW Division members as well as those from interstate. The workshop outlined the role of the expert in the court system and prepared attendees to succeed in the role of expert. Particular thanks to Neil Gross for organizing the Workshop. Those who attended will agree it was eye opening.
- 1 February 2008 **Major Planning Assessment in NSW – A Dept of Planning Perspective.** This breakfast seminar replaced the traditional Christmas breakfast held in December. David Kitto, Director of Major Development Assessment (DoP). David gave an overview of the current environmental assessment process in NSW, focusing on the relatively new Part 3A planning process and on the Independent Hearing and Assessment Panel (IHAP). While numbers were lower compared to evening sessions, there was 100% attendance from those who responded.
- 18 March 2008 **Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation (TIDC) Construction Noise Strategy – Rail Projects.** Steve Fermio, Director of Planning and Environment (TIDC) gave an overview of the guideline that TIDC has developed to manage construction noise and vibration impacts. The strategy has evolved through experiences on the Epping to Chatswood Rail Line and Clearways Projects and provides some good management techniques for the reduction of impacts from major construction sites.
- 11 June 2008 **Effects of Hearing Impairment on Selective and Divided Listening in Speech Mixtures.** Dr Virginia Best, Dept. Physiology University of Sydney, provided an interesting presentation on her research into hearing impairment and understanding speech. She overviewed two psychophysical studies conducted at Boston University aimed at exploring the difficulty listeners with sensorineural hearing loss have in understanding speech in attentionally demanding listening environments.
- 9 July 2008 **Reducing Railway Noise and Vibration – The good, the bad and the ugly.** Brian Hemsworth, Partner with Brian Hemsworth Noise Consultant, gave an informative talk on his early research into designing quieter wheels and rails . His talk was highlighted by examples of examples of notable successes and failures along the way.
- 19 August 2008 **Low Frequency Noise from Pubs and Clubs.** Peter Knowland and Ray Turney discussed the difficulties associated with the measurement, prediction and management of low frequency noise from pubs and clubs . Their talk was pertinent in light of recent changes to planning legislation to remove the requirement for a Place of Public

Entertainment (POPE) license and the progressive transfer of the regulation of noise from pubs and clubs from LAB to local Council.

10 September 2008 **DECC - Presentation on Draft Construction Noise Guideline.** Roger Treagus, Manager Noise Strategies Unit, DECC provided a run down of the new draft Construction Noise Guideline, which has been released for public comment. The draft guideline has been developed after consultation with building industry groups, infrastructure providers and councils.

Marion Burgess (Convenor, ACT Group of NSW Division) reported that the ACT Group had three meetings though the year. In view of the small membership base in the ACT the meetings are either discussions on relevant ACT Government policies or held jointly with other organisations.

- The 78th meeting, was held on 18 March as a forum to discuss "Outdoor concerts and environmental noise - keeping the sound in the venue". The panel comprised: Rodney Dix, Environment Regulation, TAMS ACT comments from the regulators; Tony Lonergan from University Canberra with comments from venue management and Tim Kuschel from GUZ BOX Design+Audio with comments on install design options. While the total attendance was small the opportunity to bring together the people involved in a neutral venue was appreciated and there was a lively discussion.
- The 79th meeting, "Some of the Techniques used in Contemporary Computer Music" was held on 13 May jointly with the ACT Branch of the AIP. Around 20 attended which was disappointing but those who did come were keen. Dr. Alistair Riddell Lecturer in Sound and Installation Art Photography and Media Arts School of Art discussed and gave examples of modern computer generated music sensors controlled by the person create a 'virtual' instrument from the body motions.
- The 80th meeting, was "Discussion on Draft ACT Noise Environment Protection Policy" and held on 10 September. Rodney Dix and Jacqui Arthur from Environment ACT first introduced the basis for the revised draft and then it was open for discussion of points of concern. Around 10 attended - including representatives from the three consultancies with offices in the ACT. Comments were recorded during the meeting, agreed to at the conclusion and forwarded to Environment ACT. In addition to this consolidated comment, members were encouraged to submit individual comments.

I would like to say a big thank you to all that presented during the year. In our busy lives it is often hard to find the time to prepare and attend a presentation, but it is usually a rewarding experience. I hope those who attended enjoyed themselves and learnt something. If you have any feedback on the technical talks, or any ideas for new topics and more importantly presenters then the committee know.

3. Membership

The NSW Division Membership has continued to increase.

	September 2008	September 2007
Fellows	9	9
Members	159	151
Graduates	6	6
Associates	11	13
Subscribers	9	10
Students	4	3

Please try and help your colleagues see the value of membership and encourage them to join at an appropriate grade. In particular, it would be terrific to see an increase in younger members to ensure the long term future of the Society.

4. Acoustics Australia

The editors of Acoustics Australia continue to be the team of Marion Burgess, Emery Schubert, John Smith and Joe Wolf. These members contribute an enormous amount of time to pull together each issue and their efforts are to be applauded.

It is noted that Acoustics Australia have requested more Technical Notes and Opinion Pieces to be submitted by the membership for inclusion in our Journal. If you have had an interesting professional problem, or heard of one, or have some other interesting information to share, please forward to AA.

5. Where to Now?

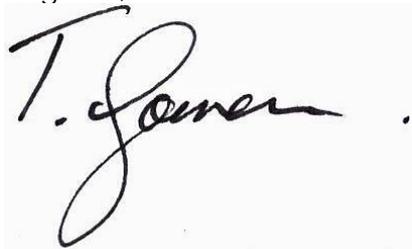
This year the NSW Division was very pleased to be able to award grants to five students to attend the Acoustics 2008 conference in Geelong in November. It had been highlighted by the membership that we should be using our divisional funds to put something back into the acoustics community. After some consideration of various types of grants it was agreed that supporting conference travel for research students in acoustics / vibrations would be a great way to use the funds available. A grant of \$1000 was awarded to the students to cover registration fees, return airfares and accommodation. We received five applications this year and decided to award the grant to all five students to hopefully increase awareness of the grant for next year.

Technical Meetings are still one of the most important benefits of membership. This year we have had some fantastic presenters on a wide range of topics. We have been lucky to have some presenters from outside of the Society, which has provided a good balance in the style of presentations given. It is important however to note that the best source of presenters is our membership, even if it is just the idea. To keep our technical evenings successful we all need to contribute. Don't be embarrassed if you feel your work may not be innovative enough to warrant a technical talk or might not fill a whole evening. Let the committee know and we will be able to combine speakers if necessary.

In the next 12 months I would like to see a genuine encouragement of young engineers/ scientists/ consultants to attend our technical evenings, join the Society and participate in its running. It is important to keep injecting the Society with new members, to keep it fresh and to ensure its longevity. It is difficult to attract younger members who have so many other extra curricular activities. If you have any ideas please contact the committee.

Look forward to seeing ALL of you on the 21st October. Please bring your enthusiasm for your chosen career, an offer to help with the committee, ideas for our technical program and the names of colleagues who aren't members.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light grey background. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "T. Gowen".

Tracy Gowen

Chairperson

NSW Division - Australian Acoustical Society