Mill Operator’s Conference Report

The Ninth Mill Operator’s Conference was held in Fremantle, 19 – 21 March, 2007, and was a great success. Delegate attendance totalled 317, a number that pushed the limits of the venue at the Esplanade Hotel. There were fourteen corporate sponsors at different levels, headed by the Gold Sponsors—Cytec and Outokumpu Technology. Morning and afternoon breaks and the lunches were held in the Exhibit area where some fifteen exhibitors drew a lot of interest.

Highlights were the daily keynote addresses by Dr Richard Bearman of Rio Tinto, Greg Lane of Ausence, and Walter Valery of Metso Mineral Process Technology. Of special interest for the AusIMM was the presentation by Peter Gaylard from the University of Cape Town, South Africa, A code of practice for metal accounting in the mineral industry, based on AMIRA project P754. The Met Soc and the AusIMM are to examine the possibility of adopting this as an AusIMM Code.

The Conference Dinner was held in Fremantle Jail, where some 300 ‘prisoners’ were held captive seated at two very long tables lined up along the floor of the four-level cell block. The excellent meal was followed by a most irreverent and hilarious talk by former Australian test cricketer and spin bowler, Kerry O’Keefe. Even CEO Don Larkin and conference organiser Alison McKenzie were caught behind by his jibes.

Special thanks are due to the Conference Committee, headed by Co-chairmen, Mike Nelson of Barrick Gold who came from Toronto, and Rod Smith of AMMTEC, and strongly supported by their committee of John Fleay of Ausenco, Roy Francis of Consolidated Minerals, Paul Staples of GRD Minproc, and Leigh Wardell-Johnson of Donhad.

The next Mill Operator’s Conference—the Tenth—will be held in 2009 at a location yet to be decided.

The Institute has agreed to a recommendation from the Met Soc that Mill Operators conferences should move to a two year cycle, and Mill Operators and MetPlant will be held in alternate years.

Mawby Volumes Update

The Met Soc is currently working on gaining a higher profile within the industry for the Mawby Volume updates. Activities planned to date are: article in The AUSIMM Bulletin, letters to the head of companies from the AUSIMM CEO, access to a Mawby volume Tool kit and example papers on The AUSIMM website.

We also already have a number of volunteers in place to review and co-ordinate the publication of papers. If you have any suggestion on ways that The AUSIMM could assist you in writing or updating a paper for the next edition of the Mawby volumes, please contact Helen Stanton: mailto:Stanton.solutions@bigpond.com
Online Technical Libraries

Online databases for technical papers can be enormously useful. Don’t have one of those at your operation? Then this is where you can turn for help (with thanks to Kim Windsor at Rio Tinto for this information).

Papers can be sourced using a company called Infotrieve. They are international, but have an office in Melbourne and are very helpful. The contact details are below. Australian customers pay a lot less than others for copyright cleared papers (single user). The website http://www.infotrieve.com allows you to place orders. However it is recommended that you phone them first (ask for Tim Burke) as there is an easier way of doing business than through the US based website.

Infotrieve Australia Pty Ltd
Suite 3, 1st Floor
344 Ferntree Gully Road,
Notting Hill, Victoria, 3168 Australia
Phone: 61(0)3 –9544-4911
Fax: 61(0)3-9544-3277

There is also IMMAGE from the IMM. IMMAGE is a reference database covering hundreds of international minerals industry publications. The CD-ROM version now contains over 95,000 references from 1979 onwards and comes with easy-to-use Windows-based software. NOW £400 for a corporate twelve month subscription (£365 for academic organisations).

Four discs are issued each year. IMMAGE ON CD is supported by an excellent photocopy / document delivery service. IMMAGE ON CD is produced by the Institute of Materials, Minerals & Mining and is available to members for their personal use at £100.00 for an annual subscription. http://www.iom3.org/esales/iindex.htm

Ninth Mill Operators’ Conference Proceedings

Following the success of our recent conference, The AusIMM is pleased to announce that the Ninth Mill Operators’ Conference Proceedings CD ROM and individual papers are now available for sale. For further information please visit our online shop: http://www.shop.ausimm.com.au/bookdetails.php?BookID=313
Or contact our Publications Sales Officer, Stephanie Finlay on 03 9662 3166 or via email: mailto:publications@ausimm.com.au

Metallurgical Engineering at UQ—Latest Developments

Following recent university and minerals industry initiatives enrolments in Metallurgical Engineering programs at the University of Queensland have dramatically increased in 2006 and 2007. Find out more about Metallurgical Engineering at UQ at: http://www.ausimm.com/societies/metengatUQ.pdf

Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Metallurgical Engineering (Hydrometallurgy) at UQ

The School of Engineering is seeking applications for the position of Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Metallurgical Engineering. The successful candidate will undertake teaching and research in the field of hydrometallurgy. To obtain the position description contact Prof. Peter Hayes tel (+617) 3365 3551 mailto:p.hayes@minmet.uq.edu.au or go to:

Mineral Processing Toolbox—Latest Update and Invitation to Contribute

The SAIMM kindly gave us permission to put the paper Design for Sampling Preliminary Exploration by Rob Morrison and Malcolm Powell in the Toolbox. The authors are to be congratulated for the forthright way they have expressed their opinions and laid out their case. This should be read by all metallurgists as well as everyone involved in the design of a mineral processing plant. The Minerals Processing Toolbox can be accessed from the members only section of The AusIMM website. http://www.ausimm.com

Most of us have a number of special papers which we consider to be standouts in one area or another of mineral processing. One of these is referred to above and there are a number of them already in the Toolbox. It is not always possible to get hold of an electronic version with permission to publish (and scanned copies tend to be too large). However a listing of such papers would be useful. Individuals can then source them through a technical library. You are invited to send details of your favourite papers to mailto:Peter.Tilyard@Oxiana.com.au. A listing will be compiled in the toolbox and updated monthly.

What is required is the title, author(s), date and the publication in which the article appears.
The 24th International Mineral Processing Congress (IMPC) in Beijing is one of the most important academic conferences in the global mining and metallurgy industry. This is a special call for papers to those interested contributors, who are kindly asked to submit their papers electronically in the scope of applied mineralogy, applied mineralogy, comminution and classification, physical separation, flotation chemistry, sulphide flotation, non-sulphide flotation, reagent in mineral industry, processing of complex ores, processing of industrial minerals and coal, solid-liquid separation, dispersion and aggregation, process simulation, expert system and control of mineral processing, bio hydrometallurgy, mineral chemical processing, powder technology, mineral materials, treatment and recycling for solid waste, waste water treatment, secondary resource recovery, soil remediation, concentrator engineering and process design and application of mineral processing in related industry. The deadline for abstract submission is 31 May 2007. Call for papers: http://www.ausimm.com/whatsnew/magazine_advertisement.pdf


CSIRO Process Magazine

The latest issue of Process Magazine includes the following articles:

- **Anode coating is reducing air burn.** An innovative anode coating has the potential to deliver substantial cost and environmental savings to aluminium smelters.
- **Bioanode beginnings.** Researchers investigating alternatives to petroleum coke and coal tar pitch believe alternatives such as wood char could play a role in improving supply and quality issues for Australia's aluminium industry and benefit the environment by offsetting carbon.
- **Water shows its worth.** Life cycle assessment (LCA) methodologies have been used to analyse the economic value of water used within the minerals industry with interesting results.
- **In situ understanding.** Australia's synchrotron is helping to give researchers an in situ understanding of how inert anodes perform in the electro-winning of titanium.
- **Parker Centre: Unearthing microbial secrets.** Researchers from three groups are exploring ways to harness the power of microbes to unlock the value from low-grade ores in small or remote deposits. Go to: http://www.csiro.au/resources/pfpu.html

Webferret: Project Management in Minerals Processing

Project management in the minerals processing industry has undergone a remarkable transformation over the past 15 to 20 years. This used to be the domain of engineering oriented professionals drawn from a multiplicity of backgrounds—fabrication shops, plant and process engineering, drawing and drafting departments.


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MEI Conferences in Brisbane, Australia

August 27 - 29
**Discrete Element Methods (DEM) '07**

September 1 - 2
**Automated Mineralogy '07**

September 3 - 4
**Precious Metals '07**

It is not too late to submit an abstract for the two September conferences. Full details of these, and the 2008 conferences, can be found at http://www.min-eng.com/conferences

IV International Copper Hydrometallurgy Workshop 16 - 18 May, 2007, Viña del Mar, Chile

The Mining Engineering Department of the University of Chile and the Organising Committee invites you to participate in the IV International Copper Hydrometallurgy Workshop—HydroCopper 2007, to take place from 16 - 18 May, 2007 in Viña del Mar, Chile. Go to: http://www.hydrocopper.cl/joomla/

Top 10 Materials Moments in History Announced

More than 4,200 materials science and engineering professionals from 68 countries attended the TMS 2007 Annual Meeting & Exhibition in Orlando, Florida, 25 Feb - 1 March, as the results of voting among the scientific community and the public at large revealed the Greatest Materials Moments in History. Go to: http://www.physorg.com/news92586399.html
Announcing METPLANT 2008  
Perth, 18 - 19 August, 2008

MetPlant conferences focus on metallurgical plant design and operating strategies. The 6th MetPlant Conference will seek papers on advances in processing ores, (mineral processing, hydrometallurgy, pyrometallurgy, environmental and social responsibilities), promoting developments in:

- plant design, from ore characterisation and geometallurgy to testwork, process and equipment selection,
- financial analysis,
- design and construction of greenfield and brownfield plants, expansions and retrofits,
- new technologies for processing, plant control and instrumentation,
- whole of life maintenance through to closure, and
- environmental management for sustainability, energy efficiencies and rehabilitation.

A key session will focus on Water Management in Metallurgical Processing:
Technologies which minimize water use, Water recovery and treatment for re-use, Improved dewatering and drying for tailings and concentrates, minimization of water use for cooling, evaporation, environmental, OH&S etc.

Find out more at: [http://www.ausimm.com/societies/metplant08_announcement.pdf](http://www.ausimm.com/societies/metplant08_announcement.pdf)

Or contact Conference Convenor and Met Soc member, David Pollard at: [mailto:david.pollard@internode.on.net](mailto:david.pollard@internode.on.net)

European Metallurgical Conference (EMC 2007), Düsseldorf, Germany  
11 - 14 June 2007

For the fourth time, the GDMB—Society for Mining, Metallurgy, Resource and Environmental Technology, under the patronage of EUROMETAUX, is organizing the European Metallurgy Conference—EMC 2007. It will be held from 11 - 14 June, 2007 in Düsseldorf. the European Metallurgical Conference (EMC) is one of the most important specialist conferences for metallurgists and is held every two years at alternating venues. The AusIMM is a co sponsor of this event. Find out more at: [http://www.emc.gdmb.de/](http://www.emc.gdmb.de/)

The AusIMM Bulletin—Call for Book Reviews!

We are currently seeking book reviews for upcoming editions of The AusIMM Bulletin. If you have just read a recently published book of significant metallurgical interest, let us know what you thought of it.

Book reviews should be approximately 400 words. Please send them through to The AusIMM Bulletin Editor at [mailto:editor@ausimm.com.au](mailto:editor@ausimm.com.au)

CONTACT US!

If you have any feedback, would like to make a suggestion or contribute to the AusIMM Met Soc on ways of promoting professional development and technical excellence, email Monika Sarder at [mailto:policy@ausimm.com.au](mailto:policy@ausimm.com.au) or any of the Met Soc Committee members.

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