ABOUT THE PRESENTERS

David Beck - BE (Mining) PhD Rock Mechanics CPENG NPER  
Principal, Beck Arndt Engineering
David is a mining engineer and has a PhD in rock mechanics. His expertise is in underground rock mechanics, particularly with respect to mine design and scheduling in high stress, high displacement or seismically active conditions. David has extensive experience analysing the causes and mechanisms of rock failure and induced seismicity and interpreting the results of instrumentation programs, including blast monitoring. He has provided advice to a large number of caving, open stoping and open pit mines. David is a principal engineer of Beck Arndt Engineering Pty Ltd, a company that specialises in mining, mechanical and aerospace engineering. Recent mining engineering projects managed by David include: mine design for deep block caves, optimisation of large SLC designs, open stope sequencing, large complex open pit design, subsidence prediction and seismic hazard forecasting.

Richard Butcher - CEng, MScEng., FAusIMM, MIMM, MIExpE, MSAIMM  
Associate, Dempers & Seymour
Richard Butcher holds an MSc (Eng) in Mining Engineering from the University of the Witwatersrand and is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Mining & Metallurgy. Richard is also a member of the MIMM, AusIMM, Institution of Explosives Engineers and SAIMM. Richard has 25 years of experience in the mining industry. He has been involved with caving projects in Africa, Australia and Asia. His experience ranges from caving project initiation to detailed study, implementation and cave closure stages. He has been involved in 20 caving projects internationally. Richard was involved with the international caving study between 2001 and 2003 and was a contributor and reviewer of the ICS “Block Caving Geomechanics Monograph”. From 2003 to 2005 he was alternate registered manager for Lightning Nickel, Long Victor Mine. Richard is currently the principal reviewer for the BHP Billiton PDP Caving Study.

Geoffrey Bull - CEng, BSc(Eng)  
Technical Director, Principal Mining Engineer, SRK Consulting
Geoff has over 30 years of experience and his primary area of specialisation is in the design and operation of mines employing caving methods. His international experience includes underground rock mechanics, mine design, operational management and consulting. He has taken mines from exploration stage through to fully designed, constructed and successfully commissioned operations. Geoff has designed new mines, helped operating mines improve efficiencies or expand production levels, rehabilitated old defunct mines getting them back into production and provided mining plans for remnant extraction under high stress conditions. He has consulted on projects in
Australia, Bulgaria, Philippines, Mongolia, South Africa, South America, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

**Geoff Capes**  
*Research Assistant, University of Saskatchewan, Canada*  
*Rock Mechanics Engineer, Xstrata Zinc*

Geoff is working as a Research Assistant in the Department of Geological and Civil Engineering at the University of Saskatchewan, Canada and as a Rock Mechanics Engineer with Xstrata Zinc. He is currently undertaking his PhD “Hangingwall Dilution in Poor Quality Rock Masses”. He has spent significant time collecting and analysing geotechnical data in Canada and Australia focusing on the understanding, control, and reduction of hangingwall overbreak.

**Philip Dight - BE, MEngSc, PhD**  
*Senior Principal Engineer, Coffey Mining*

Phil Dight has degrees from the University of Melbourne and Monash University. He was awarded the ISRM Manuel Rocha Medal for his doctoral thesis on Improvements to the Stability of Rock Walls in Open Pit Mines in 1985. He has worked with GHD Pty Ltd, CSIRO Division of Geomechanics, BHP and since 1985 has been with BFP Consultants. Since 1975 he has been involved in a wide variety of mining problems in both open pit and underground environments. Phil is a Fellow of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and a Member of the Institution of Engineers Australia. Projects have been undertaken throughout Australasia, Thailand, Namibia, Senegal, Canada, Mexico, Colombia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

**Andy Fourie - BSc(Eng), MSc(Eng) – University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. PhD Imperial College, London**  
*Principal, Environmental Geomechanics, Australian Centre for Geomechanics*

In early 2005, Andy joined the Australian Centre for Geomechanics to develop the field of environmental geomechanics. Andy brings to the ACG more than 25 years industry and research experience in the management, transportation and disposal of mining waste. Andy was previously the Professor of Construction Materials at the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and Leader of the Waste Impact Minimisation Programme, at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. He is a past President of the Geosynthetics Interest Group of South Africa and Chairman of the Environmental Engineering Division of the South African Institution of Civil Engineers. His research interests are the management and disposal of mining, industrial and solid wastes and he serves on the Editorial Board of four international journals in fields related to waste disposal.

**David Gaudreau**  
*Geomechanics Superintendent, BHP Billiton Nickel West*
David holds degrees in mining engineering and rock mechanics from École Polytechnique de Montréal. His professional work experience spans eight years with Noranda Inc. where he held different positions in the field of rock mechanics and paste backfill engineering. David is mostly known in Canada for the development of tunnel repair techniques, rockburst support strategies, innovative methods for tunnelling in rock fill and mining methods for highly stressed ground. He supervised the ground control group at Brunswick Mine for three years and recently joined WMC Resources Ltd as geomechanics superintendent.

Allan Haines - BSc (Hons) Applied Geology, Strathclyde; Diploma Business Management, Cape Town; MIMM; Sci Nat (South Africa); CEng (UK); EurIng (Paris)

Corporate Consultant, SRK Consulting
Allan has 29 years experience in the civil and mining engineering industries. For the past 24 years he has been a leading consultant in the fields of engineering geology, geotechnical engineering, hydrogeology and rock and soil mechanics. His experience has been gained worldwide in Africa, South America and Australasia with specific emphasis on the evaluation of new and existing mining operations both for open pit and underground extraction. Allan specialises in the integration of geological, structural, hydrogeological and geotechnical data and interpretations during all phases of a project. Allan has been a Director of SRK since 1986, a Managing Director (1986–1989 and 1999-2002) with SRK in Cape Town, and General Manager (1994–1997) in Santiago.

Tao Li - BE (Mining), PhD (Mining Geomechanics)

Principal Geotechnical Engineer, Newcrest Mining Ltd
After two years laboring around rice paddocks, Tao went to work in an open cut iron ore mine for three years. He then spent four years studying mining engineering, followed by a few years D&B, rock mechanics R&D, teaching and consulting. Tao came to Australia in the mid 1980s and undertook research in rock mechanics at JKMRC, UQ and obtained a PhD in mining geomechanics. He then worked at Mount Isa Mines for 4.5 years. He came to WA and joined WMC at St Ives Gold (later Gold Fields) late 1997 as a Geotechnical Manager. He joined Newcrest Mining and based at east coast since late 2002. He has initiated and involved with a number of R&D projects with applicable and implemented outcomes in the areas of mine design and ground support systems for rock burst conditions; backfill using dry tailings; crown pillar recovery; and pit design for large pits.

Peter L McCarthy - BE (Mining), BE (Mineral Economics)
Managing Director, AMC Consultants
Peter is Managing Director of AMC Mining Consultants, a firm committed to improving the business and practice of mining. Peter has degrees in Mining Engineering and Mineral Economics and is a certificated Mine Manager. He has worked on feasibility studies and other projects throughout Australia and New Zealand, PNG, Central Asia, Turkey and Africa.
Peter’s background includes nine years in underground operations at Broken Hill and subsequent management of several underground exploration and development projects. He spent a period in academia before becoming a consultant in 1985. As a consultant,
Peter has combined feasibility study, valuation and review work with a series of hands-on management roles and advisory relationships. He is a past non-executive director of three public companies and has published more than twenty papers and articles in his field of interest.

T. R. (Dick) Stacey  
**Centennial Professor, University of the Witwatersrand**

T. R. (Dick) Stacey graduated originally as a mechanical engineer, subsequently moving into the rock mechanics field. He was a research engineer at the CSIR in South Africa for seven years before spending a year at Imperial College as an academic visitor. He returned to South Africa and was with SRK Consulting for 25 years, becoming a principal. He is now Centennial Professor of Rock Engineering in the School of Mining Engineering, University of the Witwatersrand.

Iain Thin - B.Eng Hons (Mining Engineering), PhD (Geomechanics)  
**Principal Geotechnical Engineer, BHP Billiton Nickel West**

Iain graduated from the Camborne School of Mines with a degree in Mining Engineering in 1990 and a PhD in Geomechanics in 1994. After graduating in 1994, Iain was employed as a Geotechnical Engineer with a consultancy company in the UK. In early 1998, Iain took up the position as the Rock Mechanics Engineer at Mount Isa Mines Lead Mine. Since then, he has worked at Mount Isa Mines X41 Copper Mine, Hilton and George Fisher Mines as a Rock Mechanics Engineer, Senior Rock Mechanics Engineer and then as the Rock Mechanics Superintendent for the Isa mining lease. In August 2003, Iain accepted the position as the Copper Mines Planning Superintendent for X41 and Enterprise Mines. In September 2004 he moved into the position as Rock Mechanics Superintendent for the Mount Isa Zinc Lead Operations, with responsibilities for the George Fisher Mine, Lead Mine and Black Star Open Cut. In February 2005, Iain accepted the position as Principal Geotechnical Engineer for WMC Resources.