

# The AusIMM Adelaide Branch Chair Report 2020

## 1. Introduction

2020 has been a challenging year for all - thanks to COVID-19. Lockdowns, social distancing and hand-sanitizers have become the norm. But with these new challenges have come many innovations and positive changes, with the rise of online meetings, webinars and working from home. AusIMM and the Adelaide Branch (Branch) met this challenge head-on - after a slight hiatus to recalibrate our events in April, we ended up having a highly active and successful year. The overall health of the industry continued to improve and provided the economic support for the country as borders closed, many lost their jobs, and the governments embarked on a major stimulus program to keep the lights on in the face of a challenging global economy. The Branch remains committed to its members and students, offering maximum value by providing an engaging technical and social program.

The Branch hosted six technical events in 2020 (four in person & two wholly online as webinars), plus the 46<sup>th</sup> Essington Lewis Memorial Lecture, and the Annual Dinner. The Branch also assisted in the delivery of AusIMM's first fully online digital International Uranium Conference 2020 in July which was a great success. The Branch continued its involvement as a founding partner of the South Australian Exploration and Mining Conference (SAEMC) in 2019, as well as the 2020 AusIMM International Women's Day Series Adelaide event in March. The AGM will be the last event for the Branch in 2020.

Adelaide also trialed live-streaming two technical lunches and the Essington Lewis Memorial Lecture following the easing of restrictions from July. We led the other COI's in this new approach to delivering technical content to a wider audience.

Despite several years in a challenging economic climate, the Branch's financial position remains sound and funding for our joint scholarships with the Playford Trust continues, along with our support for the Student Chapter, WIMNetSA and regional SA Branches.

## 2. Membership

The Branch currently has a membership of 590, up from 573 the last year. The membership comprises 11% Students, 20% Associates, 56% Members, and 13% Fellows. It is pleasing to note that membership has been steady across most grades of membership in recent years and has increased on an overall basis in the past year. However, it is disappointing to see a steady decline in Student members, in direct correlation to student intakes. A summary of the Branch membership is shown in Table 1 (Note: Graduate Grade was transferred to Associate from 2018 onward).

**Table 1 Membership by grade**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Associate</b>	4	5	71	112	116
<b>Fellow (inc Honorary)</b>	70	66	72	66	74
<b>Graduate</b>	60	57	-	-	-
<b>Member</b>	294	285	317	318	333
<b>Student</b>	122	103	94	77	67
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>590</b>

Much of the membership drive for 2020 focused on encouraging existing members to stay engaged through arranging interesting technical talks and online webinars and encouraging new members to join our Institute. Last year we introduced a "Loyalty Card" promotion for our Technical events, which are now starting to bear fruit with many members now taking advantage of their first complimentary ticket.

As a founding member, the Branch maintains a booth at the SAEMC. This conference provides a good opportunity to promote AusIMM membership as well as source potential technical speakers for the following year.

The core focus for the Branch remains on providing opportunities for professional development, supporting our members, and promoting the industry in collaboration with other communities in the region. Challenges for

the next year include encouraging students to pursue study and build careers in the minerals industry, maintaining the engagement of our members as the industry picks up and people become busier, and to maintain our relevance and build upon the “Trusted Voice” initiative.

### 3. Technical and Social Programme

The Branch maintains a strong and well-supported technical and social program, focusing on projects in the region and aims to provide interesting topics, value for money, and an opportunity to network.

The Branch will have hosted six technical events in 2020 with an average attendance of 81 for the face to face events, which is up significantly from the 2019 average of 50 per event, and 116 registrations for our wholly online webinars. The International Uranium Conference was also once again hosted by Adelaide in 2020, this time held as the AusIMM’s first fully online conference, with excellent delegate feedback and a record registration of 240 across 5 sessions. Planning has commenced for the 2021 technical program including the Uranium conference which will again be online (possibly a hybrid), International Women’s Day and Thought Leadership Series.

We were delighted to be supported by OZ Minerals to host an in-person AusIMM Awards event in their offices for Adelaide Members and friends in October. Almost 60 Members, partners and Students joined in the celebrations and watched the “live” action on the big screen.

Table 2 provides a list of the technical and social functions and conferences held in Adelaide in 2020.

**Table 2 Technical and Social functions held in 2020 (as of 19/11/20)**

Event	Topic	Speaker
Technical Lunch	Why understanding radionuclides in Olympic Dam concentrates is important	Dr Kathy Ehrig
Technical Webinar	Honeymoon Uranium Project	Bryn Jones
Joint GSA/Technical Webinar	Aus Lamp Project	Dr Graham Heinson
Technical Lunch	Geology and Tectonics of Australian Rare Earth Element deposits	Dr Carl Spandler
Technical Lunch	Carrapateena - Greenfield Construction Project to Operating Asset: A technical and personal reflection	Jack Dermody
Annual Dinner	A life in zinc; some quizzical thoughts on exploration risk	Dr Russell Penney
Technical Lunch	How Vertical Roller mills help lift traditional energy consumption constraints during metal production.	Mark Weidenbach
46th Essington Lewis Memorial Lecture	Critical Role of the Resource Sector	Hon Christopher Pyne
International Uranium Conference	Various	Various

### 4. Scholarships, Awards & Student Support

The Branch had several award recipients in 2020, including recipients of the AusIMM Education Endowment Fund Scholarships, the Sir Frank Espie / Rio Tinto Leadership Award, the AusIMM 2020 Awards, the joint AusIMM Adelaide Branch/Playford Trust Memorial Scholarships, and the AusIMM Auxiliary book prizes. Table 3 shows a list of these recipients.

**Table 3 Award recipients 2020**

Award	Recipient
EEF Premium Scholarship	Tristram Fyfe - Chem Eng (Metallurgy) and Finance
EEF Premium Scholarship	Samantha March – Bachelor Science Advanced (Geology)
EEF Premium Scholarship & Sir Frank Espie / Rio Tinto Leadership Award	Michael Phillips – Chemical Eng (Metallurgy) / Finance
EEF Premium Scholarship	Jack Walsh - Chem Eng (Metallurgy) and Finance
EEF Premium Scholarship	Tom Payne – PhD
AusIMM/Playford Trust Scholarship	Adam Freeling - Chem Eng (Metallurgy)
AusIMM/Playford Trust Scholarship	Kevin Grant - Chem Eng (Metallurgy)
Auxiliary Book Prize	Erica van der Wolff - Mineral Geoscience
Auxiliary Book Prize	Yi He - Mineral Geoscience
AusIMM Award – Honorary Fellow	Prof. John Ralston

This year the EEF Board of Trustees commissioned a formal mentoring program from an external provider for the EEF recipients, which was run in parallel to Adelaide Branch's own comprehensive local mentoring program for the Playford Trust and Auxiliary Book Prize recipients. We have also initiated in 2020 a face-to-face event for all mentors and mentees, to share experiences and stories in a social environment.

Traditionally the Branch supports the students to participate in the AusIMM Congress and the New Leaders Conference and Mining Games, however this year these events were either held online or cancelled. The Branch continued to hold or assist the Student Chapter to hold several functions during the year. These functions provided valuable opportunities for the students to network with professionals in the minerals industry and for professionals to meet the students. Table 4 shows a list of these events.

**Table 4 Student Functions 2020**

Event	Topic
"Students' Night" Joint GSA/AusIMM/Aux	Stories from recent graduates
Students Meet Industry Night	Various
Student Chapter – Honours Project Presentations	Various

## 5. Committee

The committee meets once a month, usually on the second Monday of the month initially at the offices of the DEM before COVID-19 restrictions, before moving online using the MS Teams platform provided by the AMT.

The dedicated and energetic committee has good depth and diversity, comprising a combination of more experienced and new committee members with succession planning remaining a high priority.

Committee members are all volunteers and we had one member, Matthew De Gennaro, resign from the committee due to work and other commitments. We also welcomed two new members, Marie Sexton & Patrick Enright, to the committee early in the year.

Many of our committee work outside Adelaide, we have committee members based in Brisbane, Sydney and Western Australia at times. Since the last AGM, the committee has held eleven meetings, with 155 individual committee member attendances, (27 in person and 128 via MS Teams) and 57 apologies.

The Branch committee for 2020 currently has 20 members and 2 co-opted members, as follows:

	Chair	Vice Chair	Hon. Treasurer	Hon. Secretary	T&S Chair	T&S Team	Media Coord	MAP / Membership	Media (News Items, FB)	SAEMC	Uranium Conference	New Professionals	WIMNetSA	Scholarship Panel	Mentor Coordinator	Min Mentor Coord	Geo Mentor Coord	Met Mentor Coord	Geo Representative	Chem Representative	Min Representative	Heritage	Sponsorship	Roxby Branch Liaise	Social & Community reg	Eyre Pen Liaise	Industry Liaison
Chris Sykes	X					X		X						X													
Janine Herzig						X					S																X
Diana Tran						X												X									
Jason Hodge				X		X			S			S															
Johann van Wijk						X										X							X				
Marc Twining		X				X				X				X			S										
Mark McGeough					X	X					X																
Richard Lilly						X											X		X								
Sanaz Orandi						X							X	X		X					X						
Stuart Emery			X			X												X					X				
Viv Naidu				S		X	X					X											X				
Diane Djotaroeno						X			X					X	X		X										
Jake Gallina						X			X					X											S		
Keryn Wolff					S	X																					
Geoff Deans						X																			X		X
John Forsyth			S			X	S		X						S									X			
Richmond Asamoah						X												X		X							
Marie Sexton						X																					
Patrick Enright						X	S		X																		

X - main role, S - support position

- Adelaide Women's Auxiliary representative – Kathy Horn (co-opted)
- Student Chapter President – Max Donaldson (First half of 2020)/Elyse Bosch (second half of 2020) (co-opted)

The committee appoints several portfolio holders and sub-committees to support management of various aspects of the Branch activities. These committees and their functions are outlined below.

- Technical & Social (T&S) – Mark McGeough chairs this sub-committee and is supported by Keryn Wolff. This committee is tasked with identifying and securing speakers for the technical and social events and ensuring that all arrangements for the events are in place, including catering, venue hire, speaker introductions, votes of thanks, and other logistics.
- Sponsorship – Viv Naidu continues to liaise with our Branch sponsors, providing that point of contact for the Branch.
- Media / Newsletter – Under the watchful eye of Viv Naidu, we have increased our social media presence (eg Facebook, LinkedIn), and the Newsletter is collaboratively collated, compiled, edited and published by Diane, John, Jake, and Patrick.
- Scholarships & Student Awards – Marc Twining, supported by Chris, Jake & Diane (plus Keith Yates). This sub-committee is responsible for all scholarships and awards in which the Branch is involved. This includes the local joint AusIMM Adelaide Branch Playford Trust scholarships and the national Education Endowment Fund scholarships.
- Mentoring program – Diane Djotaroeno, joined with John Forsyth, to coordinate the student / mentor programme, with assistance from the committee as required.
- Student liaison (Mining Engineering) – Sanaz Orandi. Sanaz serves as liaison between the mining engineering students and the committee.
- Student liaison (Geology) – Richard Lilly. Richard serves as liaison between the geology students and the committee.
- Student liaison (Chemical Engineering) – Diana Tran. Diana serves as liaison between the chemical engineering students and the committee.
- South Australian Exploration and Mining Conference (SAEMC). SAEMC is held in collaboration with AIG, ASEG, DPC, and the GSA, with each organization having a representative on the organizing committee. Marc Twining is the appointed representative from the AusIMM Adelaide Branch committee.
- International Uranium Conference. This conference will be held by Adelaide in an online version in 2021 and Mark McGeough will be joined by Sanaz Orandi representing the Branch on the organizing committee. Janine Herzig also serves on this committee as an industry representative.
- AusIMM Heritage Committee – Johann van Wijk. This portfolio is responsible for liaison with the AusIMM Heritage Committee and to bring relevant matters to the committee's attention when required.
- Industry liaison and promotion – Johann van Wijk. This portfolio is tasked with promoting the mining industry through involvement in industry forums and related associations.
- New Professionals Network representative – Viv Naidu with support from Jason Hodge.
- Other committees: Stuart Emery serves on the MetSoc committee, Diane Djotaroeno on the GeoSoc committee and Viv Naidu is Chair/Vice Chair of the NPN committee. Janine Herzig serves as Chair of the AusIMM Board and President.

## **6. Finance**

The Branch remains in a strong financial position. The funds under management have increased slightly over the past year. We continued to seek opportunities to ensure that our members benefit from the funds with many events held during the year subsidized by the Branch (particularly for Students).

The Branch continues to offer partnership opportunities for companies at the various technical and social events and in media. The Branch enjoyed great support from sponsors over the past year, including Bureau Veritas, OZ Minerals, ThermoFisher, Heathgate Resources, BHP, Mining Plus and Byrnecut.

Details on the financial status of the branch are contained in the financial report submitted by the Honorary Treasurer.

## **7. Student Chapter**

The Student Chapter, led by Presidents Max Donaldson (first half of 2020) & Elyse Bosch (second half), remained active throughout the year. The Student Chapter arranged several technical and social events and maintains strong engagement with the Branch.

The current membership of 67 is a decrease from last year's student membership of 77 which reflects the decrease in university intakes over the past few years and something we are working to turn around. The main aim of the Student Chapter is to provide networking and development opportunities for university students and to bridge the gap for students transferring from university and into the mining workforce. The committee of the Student Chapter for 2021 will be led by Elyse Bosch.

## **8. Auxiliary**

Sadly, 2020 marks the final year for the Auxiliary as an official group, but happily they will continue in an unofficial capacity. After almost 62 years, the Auxiliary has fulfilled an important function for their members and guests, supporting the objectives of the Branch and maintaining an active program of their own right up until the end. On behalf of the Branch, I would like to thank all the current and past members of the Auxiliary for their energy, enthusiasm, and support. The 2020 committee comprised:

- President – Kathy Horn
- Immediate Past President & Secretary - Chris Lake
- Vice President – Aggie Bampton
- Treasurer – Carolyn Ireland
- Welfare Officer – Barbara Thomas
- Assistant Treasurer – Marina Muller
- Committee Members - Beth Grant & Susie Yates

## **9. Communication**

The Branch's communication to its members is well supported by regular local online newsletters and social media postings via Facebook and now LinkedIn. Contributions are also received from the Student Chapter, WIMnetSA, the Auxiliary, and regional branches. Upcoming events are advertised at technical events.

With the need to reach out and involve members faced with restrictions due to COVID, the AMT rolled out new digital platforms to host technical presentations online. The Branch had already been exploring ways to record its events in 2019, so the introduction of this new digital platform was quickly adopted by the Branch to reach members beyond its traditional base of Adelaide. As SA COVID restrictions eased and events returned to being face-to-face, the Branch was keen to see if these digital platforms could allow a simple live streaming (& recording for later viewing) opportunity or a "hybrid" environment. The Branch has therefore been conducting trials with AMT on live-streaming and video recording of our Technical Events with some promising results and will continue these trials into 2021. Copies of the video recording are available for viewing by any member across the world from the AusIMM website.

## **10. Congress 2020**

The annual AusIMM Congress will take place on the 8<sup>th</sup> December and will be online this year. There will be several South Australian representatives in attendance.

Chris Sykes  
Chair, AusIMM Adelaide Branch 2020