



AusIMM New Leaders' Conference 2013

11-14 September, Brisbane, Queensland

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The AusIMM New Leader's Conference was an unforgettable four day adventure that took us from the bustling metropolis of Brisbane CBD to the world class National Collegiate Mining Games held at the University of Queensland's experimental mine in Indooroopilly. First up was two days of conference held at Traders Hotel in Brisbane CBD, during which we had the opportunity to attend first class presentations with some of the worlds leading mining companies.

These presentations were focused on helping students and graduates develop the necessary skills to make a smooth transition into the mining industry. There was a strong emphasis on the current downturn in the industry and the opportunities that may arise for students and graduates in particular during this period.

One of the more noteworthy seminars was a panel session run by Xanthus Weber focusing on professional standards, in particular the AusIMM Chartered Professional Accreditation. This panel covered some of the ethical problems we can expect to encounter as professionals in this industry. The speakers were open and engaging, and the frank honesty of their responses was very enlightening from the viewpoint of a young professional entering the industry.

There were ample opportunities at break times to mix with other students and representatives of mining companies. The Networking Night at the riverside Friday's Bar was an excellent opportunity to do just that. It was a great night and the relaxed atmosphere helped us to break the ice and start forming relationships with industry professionals and conference attendees.

Sami was invited to attend the Chapter Presidents' annual meeting immediately following the conclusion of the conference. At this, current and incoming presidents discussed the events their chapters ran, such as the Students Meet Industry nights

(SML), the problems they faced over the year and how they approached these, and briefly covered next year's New Leaders' Conference in Perth.

Following the conference, we attended the National Collegiate Mining Games hosted at the University of Queensland Experimental Mine. The Games consisted of six different events, each with a mining focus, which were the air-leg drill, swede saw, rock identification, gold panning, track stand and blast face tie-in.

Although we were not officially competing, we were encouraged to participate in the events with the highlight being able to use the air-leg drill and mucking. As we had not encountered any of these activities before, we found the tasks exciting and challenging, and didn't envy the stiff competition between teams. The games also gave us the opportunity to get to know other students, some of whom we had met at conference, better in a more relaxed environment.

Finally, we would like to thank New Zealand Branch of AusIMM for this unique and rewarding opportunity. Without their sponsorship and support none of us would have been able to attend the conference. The relationships and professional advice we took away from this experience will give us a good foundation for our future growth and development as young professional in the mining and metallurgy industry. The AusIMM will certainly continue to be a key part of our professional development in the coming years. Furthermore, we hope to be able to contribute to the betterment of the institute, so that it remains able to provide these valuable experiences to future students.



Having a go at mucking and air-leg drilling at the Mining Games held at the University of Queensland Experimental Mine.



All dressed up for the AusIMM Black Tie Ball at Royal on the Park (L-R Ryan Lee, Holly Bredin-Grey, Sami Hutchings).