

**MISG2007:
Mathematics and Statistics in Industry Study Group
Tim Marchant* and Maureen Edwards****

This year's ANZIAM Mathematics and Statistics in Industry Study Group (MISG2007) was held at the University of Wollongong, 5–9 February 2007. Associate Professor Tim Marchant was the Director, Dr Maureen Edwards the Associate Director while Ms Joell Hall and Ms Sue Denny acted as the Administrators.

The event attracted about 100 delegates, including 20 postgraduate students, who worked on six industry projects. Five of these projects were submitted by Australian companies and one from New Zealand. These projects covered diverse fields such as financial mathematics and statistics, operations research, solid mechanics and mathematical modelling.



From left: Dr Maureen Edwards, MISG Associate Director; Professor Robert McKibben, Invited Speaker; Associate Professor Tim Marchant, Director; and Mr Joe Maisano, Trading Technology Australia

MISG2007 was fortunate in attracting Professor Robert McKibben, from Massey University, as invited speaker. His wealth of experience in Industrial Mathematics resulted in him presenting two very entertaining and stimulating seminars. Thanks also to Dr Mike Camden, from Statistics NZ and Dr Jeff Dewynne, from Oxford University, for their seminars at the student workshop.

MISG2007 was opened by Mr Stephen Lowe, General Manager Trading, Integral Energy and Professor Margaret Sheil, DVC-Research at Wollongong (who is now CEO of the ARC). Thanks to both these individuals for their attendance and comments at the opening ceremony. MISG2007 attracted significant media publicity; an article appeared in the local newspaper, the *Illawarra Mercury*, and the director was interviewed twice on local ABC radio.

*School of Mathematics and Applied Statistics (SMAS), University of Wollongong, NSW 2522.
E-mail: tim@uow.edu.au

**School of Mathematics and Applied Statistics, University of Wollongong, NSW 2522.
E-mail: maureen_edwards@uow.edu.au

The conference dinner was held at the City Beach function centre, which enjoys spectacular views over Wollongong Harbour and the coastline. Other social events included a cocktail reception on the Monday evening, a student workshop followed by pizza on the Tuesday and of course, the annual volleyball grudge match, Australia vs The World.

Due to the broad range of skills required to tackle modern industrial mathematics problems many high-profile scientists from the Australian and NZ Statistics and Financial Mathematics communities attended MISG2007 as delegates or moderators. If the MISG meeting is to remain relevant and important in the coming years then this multi-disciplinary approach to industrial problem solving needs to continue, with participation at MISG from all the Mathematical Sciences.

Moderation of an MISG project is a challenging task involving problem solving, people management and a very tight deadline. So our thanks and gratitude go to the moderators of each of the MISG2007 projects. Following on the tradition from MISG2006 in NZ, each project also included a postgraduate student as moderator.



Delegates from MISG2007 working on the Tranpower NZ Industry Project

See our website <http://www.misg.math.uow.edu.au> for the industry project descriptions from MISG2007, the equation-free summaries of the projects and the outcomes, and also pdf files of the project reports, as they become available. The website also provides details of MISG2008, to be held 28 January–1 February 2008. We hope to see everybody at UOW for the 2008 event.