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Introduction

The 13th Australia New Zealand Conference on Geomechanics was organised by the Australian Geomechanics Society (AGS) and held in Perth, Western Australia, at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre between 1 and 3 April 2019. The current ANZ series of conferences on geomechanics is held under the auspices of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE) and started in 1971 (noting that five ANZ conferences on soil mechanics and foundation engineering were held between 1952 and 1967). Previous events in the current series were held in Melbourne (1971), Brisbane (1975), Wellington (1980), Perth (1984), Sydney (1988), Christchurch (1992), Adelaide (1996), Hobart (1999), Auckland (2004), Brisbane (2007), Melbourne (2012) and Wellington (2015). The cooperation of the sister New Zealand Geotechnical Society (NZGS) is acknowledged.

Approximately 370 abstracts were submitted to the conference and resulted in 199 papers being accepted after peer review and that are included in this volume of proceedings. The papers were prepared by geotechnical researchers and practitioners from Australia, New Zealand and 20 other countries from Asia, Europe, North America and Africa. Seven keynote papers were presented by experts in the field, including the AGS Practitioner Award Lecture (2016) and the NZGS Geomechanics Award Lecture (2018). The general papers were grouped thematically into 14 subjects, namely: 1. Site investigation; 2. Soil mechanics; 3. Foundations; 4. Retaining structures; 5. Slope engineering; 6. Soft soils engineering; 7. Offshore and marine geotechnics; 8. Ground improvement; 9. Rock mechanics; 10. Mining geotechnics; 11. Earthworks and pavements; 12. Unsaturated soils; 13. Seismic engineering, and; 14. Case histories.

The editors would like to thank all the keynote lecturers and their efforts in preparing the keynote papers, general authors and voluntary experts involved in the peer-review of the papers. We would like to thank Michael Smith, Chair of the Organising Committee, for his support during preparation of the proceedings volume. We are most grateful for the financial support provided by the Australian Geomechanics Society.

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