

Nomination for Syd Peng Ground Control in Mining Award

Nominee : **Dr Winton James Gale**

Nominated by : Dr Ken Mills, SME Membership No 2223884

I would like to nominate Dr Winton Gale for the Syd Peng Ground Control in Mining Award. I have known Winton since 1986 and believe he would be a most worthy recipient of this award. He has made significant contributions to understanding ground coal issues in the underground coal industry all over the world. His ability to recognise the critical mechanics and then use observation, field measurement and numerical modelling to develop an understanding of these issues is, in my experience, unrivalled.

Winton has more than 20 years experience in the international underground coal mining industry. He has a strong background in geomechanics research and development and this experience has been expanded into the field of commercial consulting. He has been personally involved in the development and introduction of leading underground coal mining technology and has an extensive international experience in the application and transfer of the technology throughout a wide range of mining environments. Countries of work experience include Australia, Indonesia, India, China, Japan, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Canada, USA, South Africa and Mexico.

Winton has specialised in consulting engineering design, research and training services for strata control and mine design in underground coal mines, including:

- Application of numerical modelling for design of:
 - coal mine layout
 - longwall panel layout
 - longwall support requirements
 - roadway support and pillars
- Longwall face support performance and monitoring.
- Rock bolt, cable bolt reinforcement for support of underground mine roadways.
- Underground stress and methods of control.
- Pillar design for longwall chain pillars and pillar extraction.

In 1989, Winton established Strata Control Technology Pty Ltd (SCT), a mining consulting and research group. This organisation has established an international reputation as a leader in the development, introduction and application of advanced strata control design techniques and rock bolting technology for underground coal mines, with a proven capability to effectively adapt the technology to various international mining environments.

Winton played a key role in the introduction of Australian underground roadway support technology into the UK coal mining industry. From 1988-1994, he was Project Consultant/Adviser to British Coal for the introduction of rock bolting technology. The successful and widespread application of this technology throughout the UK industry, resulted in the establishment of a UK based joint venture operation in 1994. Winton was instrumental in the establishment of this company and currently holds the position of Director (Technical).

Winton was the Technical Specialist (coal mining) of the AusAID (Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) Project to India: Directorate General of Mines Safety Training Program. This project was commenced in July 1997 and ran for three years. He was responsible for the management and delivery of specialised training services to officers from the Indian Directorate General of Mines Safety.

Winton is a Fellow of Institute of Mining Engineers, a Member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, and a Member of the International Society of Rock Mechanics. He has been the recipient of the Webster Medal, awarded by the Midlands Institute of Mining Engineers (UK) for the best paper presented in 1989/90 on strata control design for underground coal mining, the Futers Medal, awarded by the UK Institution of Mining Engineers for a Joint Paper with Mr. R.G. Siddall "Strata Control – A New Science for an Old Problem" in 1992, an award for Excellence in Coal Geology, awarded by the Coalfield Geology Council of NSW for contribution to the science of coal geology and for services to the mining industry in 1997 and the Excellence in Research Award, awarded by the Australian Coal Association for the best underground research project "Improved Assessment of Ground Behaviour Around Longwall Faces" in 1998.

Employment Record

1989 – Present

SCT Group - Strata Control Technology Pty Ltd

Dr Gale is responsible for the foundation and management of Strata Control Technology Pty Ltd and the on-going development and management of SCT Group operations in Australia, China and the United Kingdom.

1986 – 1989

ACIRL Ltd (Australian Coal Industry Research Laboratories)

Dr Gale was the manager of the ACIRL Geotechnical Division and was responsible for supervision and study of ACIRL's strata control investigations within Australia and U.K.

1981 – 1986

CSIRO Division of Geomechanics – Wollongong, Australia

During this time Dr Gale was the Research Scientist and Officer in Charge for the CSIRO Division of Geomechanics (Wollongong) and was responsible for CSIRO research within the field of underground coal mining geomechanics.

1980 – 1981

CSIRO Division of Mineral Physics/Fuel Geoscience

Dr Gale held the position of Research Scientist responsible for the study of exploration tools for mine planning and the performance of coals for benefaction.