

## **Editorial**

As the editor-in-chief, this is my first issue of the Bulletin, and I could not have asked for a better start. Given our experience with unreinforced masonry (URM) buildings in the Canterbury earthquakes, this URM focussed issue is very timely and topical. The papers included in this issue cover key aspects of seismic performance of URM buildings, and I am sure these will be of great interest and value to practitioners and researchers. I hereby thank the authors of all papers for their contribution to this important issue of the Bulletin. I would also like to extend my special gratitude to Prof Jason Ingham of University of Auckland; without his initiation and support this URM focussed issue would not have eventuated.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the preceding editor Les Megget for efficiently looking after the Bulletin for nearly two decades. In this period, the Bulletin faced some challenging phases, and Les's visionary leadership enabled the Bulletin to thwart all challenges and maintain its steady progress. Well done Les! Please accept my heartfelt appreciation on behalf of all members of NZSEE.

Many thanks Les, the Bulletin has been handed to me in a healthy state. For the next few years, my focus will be to enhance the Bulletin's international reputation and reach. As the first step towards this goal, we have recently established an international Editorial Board including leading earthquake engineers and earthquake engineering researchers. In addition, a new online submission system is coming soon that will strengthen and support the publication process. Together, these two measures will provide a more robust and speedy review process.

Coincidentally, this issue is also the first to have used the newly established Editorial Board. Parting away from our practice of a single review, all papers in this issue have undergone peer-review by at least two reviewers. For all papers to be published in the Bulletin from hereon, it is my intention to obtain at least 2 positive or negative reviews before making the final decision to publish (or not) a submitted paper. To implement this, I will need to frequently engage the editorial board members in reviewing (or finding reviewers for) papers submitted in their area of expertise. I hope to get the full support of my fellow editorial board members in this quest of mine despite their busy schedule. I intend to keep the inaugural Editorial Board unchanged for the first two years; thereafter changes will have be made to the editorial team from time-to-time in order to meet the changing needs.

The uniqueness of the Bulletin in comparison to other journals has been its great balance between practical project papers and scientific research papers. Throughout my editorial tenure, I will try to preserve this uniqueness. To help me achieve this, I expect cooperation from all NZSEE members by submitting their key research/project outcomes to the Bulletin. In order to facilitate a timely and fair processing of the submitted papers, my editorial team has decided to adopt the following policy:

1. All submitted research papers will be peer reviewed by at least 2 reviewers (third review to be sought in case of a split recommendation from the first two reviewers).
2. Although the Editor is not required to use the nominated reviewers, authors are encouraged to suggest a couple of possible reviewers for their papers. The Editor will ensure that all papers are reviewed by researchers and practitioners with expertise in the topic of the

paper; they may be the nominated reviewers, the Editorial Board members or other researchers/practitioners.

3. Authors of practice papers can choose to submit their paper in any format. Once accepted, the Society will arrange for the paper to be formatted to the Bulletin requirements.
4. Reviewers of practice papers will include at least one practitioner.
5. Short project reports and research papers (less than 8 pages) can be submitted as Technical Notes, which will be reviewed by only a single reviewer.
6. The Editor will try to get the first round of review comments back to the authors within two months of submission. If a paper does not require a second round of review, every effort will be made to publish the paper within six months after its first submission.
7. Authors of selected papers from the annual NZSEE conference will be provided with an opportunity to amend/expand it for possible publication in the Bulletin. These papers will also be subjected to a normal review by two reviewers.
8. From 2015, the annual Otto Glogau Award conferred by the Society will be awarded only to papers published in the Bulletin. It is hoped that this will provide extra incentive for researchers/practitioners to submit their high quality papers to the Bulletin.

Finally, I would like to thank the Society for entrusting me with this valuable responsibility. I will try my best to perform my editorial duties in a fair, transparent and professional manner.

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Professor of Structural Earthquake Engineering  
University of Canterbury