

ACIGS Officer Nominations for 2023-2024

PRESIDENT

Graham Fairhead, Managing Director, Fabtech Australia



A qualified Engineer Graham has held executive positions in Manufacturing, Design, Engineering, Sales & Marketing and General Management in Europe, America, and Australia. Having joined Fabtech as its Managing Director in 2007 Graham has led Fabtech through the growth in the use of geosynthetics in Australia and increasingly complex designs and specifications. Staying at the forefront of industry developments Has enabled Fabtech to become a leader in the industry. Graham leads the technical group within Fabtech which is focused on new materials and applications, materials testing and residual life assessments, barrier system and floating cover system design. The foundations of the company's growth have remained consistent being technical leadership, customer retention, safety and quality.

Graham's previous roles in design and manufacturing have been the foundation for Fabtech's on-going focus on geosynthetic material manufacturing quality, quality control and quality assurance strategies. This expertise has been applied to over a range of projects developing innovate quality strategies and quality outcomes. Team working with suppliers in their facilities across Asia, China, USA, Middle East, Europe and Australia has provided a strong perspective on industry capabilities and best practice. Graham is a committee member and past President of the Australasian Chapter of IGS, has authored several geosynthetic technical papers and is regularly requested to speak as an industry expert.

VICE PRESIDENT

Jonathan Shamrock, Technical Director Landfill Engineering and Geosynthetics, Tonkin & Taylor

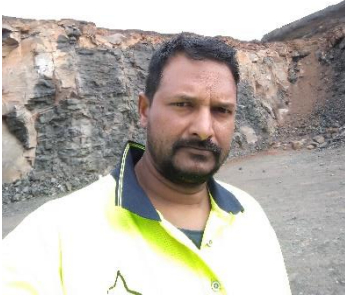


Jonathan is a senior civil and environmental engineer with over 25 years' experience, working exclusively in the field of solid waste engineering. Jonathan's experience encompasses design and construction supervision of general, industrial and hazardous waste landfill developments and barriers, design and construction supervision of waste facility capping barriers and stormwater management facilities, design incorporating geosynthetic materials including specifications and construction quality assurance and design and construction supervision of landfill gas extraction, conveyance and destruction systems.

Jonathan's experience up to 2017 has been in South Africa and Africa, where has been involved with numerous landfill projects until he immigrated to New Zealand in 2018. Since joining Tonkin & Taylor's Auckland office in January 2018 Jonathan has been involved with landfill expansion project designs, landfill rehabilitation designs and landfill gas extraction designs in New Zealand and Fiji, and has undertaken reviews of designs completed in the T+T Australian offices.

Jonathan has served as Secretary and is current Chair of the International Geosynthetics Society Technical Committee on Barriers and has served as New Zealand representative and is current Vice President of the Australasian Chapter of the International Geosynthetics Society.

Nilantha Herath, Geo-technician, Terra Firma



Nilantha is a Geo-technician with around 15 years of experience in construction quality assurance. He is currently working at Terra Firma Laboratories coordinating the laboratory testing of geosynthetics and earth materials. He is also involved in Electrical Leak Detection Surveys (ELDS) since 2018.

At Terra Firma, he has worked as a field technician looking after earth works projects providing construction quality assurance or as GITA overlooking construction, testing of soils and aggregate which led to working in Landfill and other containment structures.

With the changes to the quality assurance model of EPA Victoria around 2009, Nilantha got involved in quality assurance of the geosynthetic liner systems in landfills and other structures. He has worked in number of landfill construction projects in Victoria providing CQA services overlooking the QA of the full construction from selecting materials to final installation.

In 2016, Nilantha started working on testing of geosynthetic material and soon found himself exposed to geosynthetics and test methods of all types used in Landfills, Major earthworks projects, mines, and other containment facilities. With Terra Firma Labs he is currently working on laboratory testing of a wide range of geosynthetics.

By 2017 Terra Firma was providing quality assurance of multiple stages of the construction of containment structures which gave a good opportunity to understand how geosynthetics could make the overall quality better, efficient, practical, and cost effective.

With the emerging requirement for the Liner Integrity assessments from the industry, in 2017 Nilantha was fortunate to join a small team of techs at Terra Firma to learn the basics of Leak detection surveys from Dr Ian Pegs who needs no introduction to the geosynthetics community.

From 2018, Nilantha's newfound passion was travelling around Australia to organise, and carryout Leak Detection surveys of the geomembrane liners installed in all different containment structures.

Nilantha has been a member of ACIGS representing Terra Firma Labs for and has been participating in programs learning and networking with the industry to date.

Su Jong Hao, Technical Sales Manager Australia/Asia, Solmax Geosynthetics Sdn. Bhd.



Su Jong Hao graduated from Universiti Tenaga Nasional (UNITEN), Malaysia with a first-class honour's degree in Civil Engineering with focus on geotechnical engineering. He joined the geosynthetic industry since 2012 and has gained about 10 years of experience, exposed to wide range of materials and working mainly on technical design and support. Su is currently a member of Australasian Chapter of IGS and is a member of the technical task force. He also served as a committee member for Malaysian chapter of IGS in 2017-2018.

He has experience in various design with geosynthetic materials in infrastructure applications, hydraulic applications and environmental applications dealing with projects in the APAC region. Su joined Solmax back in 2019 and has been responsible for technical support and development of value-added products in the region with focus in Oceania, Malaysia & Vietnam. He has authored several papers for both local and international conferences on various geosynthetics applications (i.e., environmental & hydraulic containment, erosion control and infrastructure).

Andy Warwick, National Product Manager, Global Synthetics



Andy's Geosynthetics carrier commenced in early 2000's with the manufacturing company Geofabrics UK who are specialists in very heavy weight nonwoven geotextile and geocomposite production, Servicing UK, Europe, CIS countries and Middle Eastern Countries.

Following this to widen his experience and development he moved to Formally Fiberweb, now owned by Barry Global. This was a very diverse company and the largest nonwoven producer in the world today. We expended into Aerospace, Automotive, Hygiene, Medical and Geosynthetic materials.

Andy also headed up the relocation and commissioning of nonwoven manufacturing operations from the UK to India to service the Middle East, Asian India and African markets.

After a decade plus of international travel the opportunity came to relocate to Australia back in 2015 and transition into technical sales and solution provider, and no longer a manufacture.

Andy took over the running of Polyfabrics until its acquisition in late 2020. He transitioned the company into a more technical operation working alongside consultant and asset owners, while maintaining the foundations.

In early 2021 Andy moved to Global Synthetics to further enhance his technical knowledge, and continue to build his work with consultants, owners and contractors, working on projects right from conception through to completion.

Throughout the carrier Andy has been part of the UK IGS, BSI, CEN Committee and helped launch the Pakistan IGS chapter. Finally, was part of the team that developed Landfill standards LFE which are still operating in the UK today. Today Andy is currently involved in a range of research programmes involving university and independent research centres to enhance the use of geosynthetics in road, rail, and range of other applications.

Ryan Hackney, Technical and R&D Laboratory Manager, Geofabrics Australasia



Ryan is the Technical and R&D Laboratory Manager at the Geofabrics centre for Geosynthetic Research Innovation and Development (GRID). His current areas of research and development include chemical compatibility, containment of emerging contaminants, durability and lifetime prediction, and robust coastal geosynthetics. He has 15 years of international experience specialising in physical, mechanical, hydraulic and durability analysis of all geosynthetic materials.

Following the completion of a Bachelors degree in Geological Sciences and a Masters in Engineering Geology obtained at the University of Leeds, he became the Laboratory and Quality Manager for an independent geosynthetics test laboratory. There he worked closely with contractors, consultants and government agencies on national and international projects, in addition to supporting a wide range of manufacturers with product qualification and certification. Ryan has written, implemented and maintained efficient ISO 9001 and ISO/IEC 17025 quality systems.

He has participated in numerous IGS conferences including EuroGeo4 Edinburgh 2008, EuroGeo5 Valencia 2012 and 10ICG Berlin 2014. He has served as the ACIGS Secretary for the 2020–2022 term, lead the Communication Taskforce, and formed part of the organising committee for the inaugural GEOANZ#1 conference.

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