Movie Night: What lies beneath...
Report on the OSIGp Evening Event
Parmelia Hilton Hotel, Perth, 29 June 2016
By Chris Haykin, OSIGp Committee Member

OSIGp Movie Night: What lies beneath... presenters Brian, Dave, Andrew, Conleth, Glen, Boudewijn, Terry and Mark (left to right).

The Perth branch of the Offshore Site Investigation and Geotechnics group (OSIGp) held its inaugural movie night event at the Parmelia Hilton Hotel, Perth on 29 June 2016. The theme for the event was “What lies beneath.....” and featured short movies on geo-related aspects of industry projects, technology and research, complimented by unique insights from the presenters.

OSIGp Committee Chair Fiona Chow opened the event by welcoming the 110 attendees and presenters and thanking the evening’s sponsors; CSIRO, Fugro, Jan De Nul, Subsea 7 and The University of Western Australia.

Andrew Ross from CSIRO kicked off the proceedings with “Exploring the Deep Water Great Australian Bight” which recorded a recent scientific voyage on the Marine National Facility’s research vessel, Investigator. Andrew provided insights into mapped channels and mass transport complexes; basin heat flow measurements; the origins of soil, rock and water samples in this frontier basin; and the marine habitat revealed from video surveys of the seafloor.

Mark Roberts from Fugro Survey then relocated us to the remote and inhospitable southern Indian Ocean with “The Search for MH370”. Mark showcased the survey technology and methodology employed in the search for the missing aircraft and revealed some of the seabed features that had been mapped for the first time, as well as the operational challenges of working in this ultra deep water environment.

Boudewijn van de Veire from Jan De Nul transferred us to Europe for the design, build and installation of the “Kârehamn Offshore Wind Farm” in Sweden. Boudewijn presented the construction of the concrete gravity base foundations, seabed preparation for the gravel bed and the installation of the foundations and their ballast and scour protection.

Glen Dixon from Subsea 7 then moved us to West Africa and a deep water development with “Installation of Hybrid Subsea Foundations”. Glen introduced a Hybrid Subsea Foundation (HSF) comprising skirted shallow mudmat and anchor piles selected as the mitigation concept for pipeline walking. Glen explained the technical case for anchoring at midline positions, the HSF design and its in-line installation by the pipelay vessel and subsequent installation of the anchor piles using clump weights from a light construction vessel.

Brian Lamb from Shell E&P returned us to Australia with “Prelude Takes Shape Beneath the Sea”. Brian presented the latest milestone achieved by the Prelude Floating Liquefied Natural Gas (FLNG) Project with the installation of the subsea trees, manifolds, flow lines and anchor piles at the remote Prelude gas field in the Browse Basin, offshore Western Australia.

Conleth O’Loughlin, Terry Griffiths and Dave White from The University of Western Australia rounded out the evening with “Physical Modelling of the Subsea”. Conleth, Terry and Dave showcased simulations of the subsea environment and the behaviour of seabed infrastructure in UWA’s centrifuge and O-tube facilities and encouraged the audience to leverage off the technical advances in other industries and to challenge some current industry norms.

The evening event attracted a diverse audience of industry practitioners, academics and students. The presentations were all well received by the attendees, with enthusiastic inquiries from the audience and engaging discussions with the presenters. With high attendance and positive feedback from attendees, presenters and sponsors the OSIGp committee has tentatively scheduled the next movie night event for March 2017.