

Kaytech pays tribute to a geosynthetic genius

Kaytech has dedicated its technical library to Colin Cleaver, the nationally and internationally respected geosynthetic engineer who died last year. A commemorative plaque was unveiled by Colin's mother, Maureen, at a get-together of his family, friends and colleagues at Kaytech's head office in Pinetown earlier this year.

Colin Cleaver (Sci. Nat., D.Sc. (Hons), M.Sc (Eng. Geol.), MBL, MSAIEG, MAEG, FGS, and MGSSA) joined Kaytech (then Noel Hunt Geofabrics) in February, 1981, as a technical sales representative. He was subsequently promoted to technical manager and later national technical director.

During his time with Kaytech, Colin created a world-class geosynthetic applications laboratory and designed many of the highly specialised testing devices which were used in the laboratory. He also developed a practical and highly efficient division, which



included the establishment of the library that is today regarded as one of the most comprehensive and up-to-date libraries in the geosynthetic field.

Colin was a regular delegate at many international geosynthetic conferences and frequently delivered papers at these conferences. He was

a member of a number of international committees and organisations related to the geosynthetic industry. These included the ISSMFE Subcommittee on Filters, the ASTM Committee on Geotextiles, the International Geotextiles Society, and, nearer home, the SABS Committee on Geotextile Standard Test Methods.

A man wishes to emigrate!

The following story was told by Allyson Lawless, president of the South African Institution of Civil Engineering during SAICE's recent congress in Pretoria.

A young man, exposed to violent crime and an unsatisfactory education system for his children, has decided that he should emigrate. He can see no future in the country and is gravely concerned about the poverty he is forced to live in, which is exacerbated by a dismal economy.

He announces his intentions to leave the

country. His employers have other plans however. They manage to convince him to accept one last challenge. He is asked to improve the logistics of moving coal from the depths of a mine to its surface. Reluctantly the man accepts this one last challenge.

The year was not 2000, but 1815. The country was not South Africa, but in fact

England. The man was George Stephenson who became the inventor and father of railways. He produced the first travelling steam engine. As a result of his ingenuity the first locomotive-drawn goods and passenger line was opened in September 1825 from Stockton to Darlington.

It makes you think doesn't it!

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