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EDITORIAL

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I hope by now you have managed to read the three papers in the previous issue [1-3]. These three papers exemplify the wide range of topics covered by the Bulletin in true sense. The first paper by Van Dissen et al. [1] presented a case study of eight residential buildings directly impacted by the complex and unique surface fault rupture during the 2016 Kaikōura earthquake. The second paper by Khakurel et al. [2] presented results of building cladding surveys conducted on residential buildings in Christchurch to quantify the proportion of different types of claddings used in residential buildings. Combining fragility functions of different cladding types obtained from literature with repair/replacement cost functions obtained from a builders questionnaire survey, seismic loss contribution functions were developed for use in rapid loss estimation. Noticeably different from the topics of the first two papers, the third paper by Au et al. [3] analysed the seismic response of single storey torsionally sensitive structures, and developed a design methodology for this class of structures.

The previous issue also marked the beginning of the tenure of the new Editorial Board (EB). As the Editor of the Bulletin, I would like to sincerely thank the discontinuing members of the previous EB and welcome the new members joining the EB. The current EB will continue until the end of 2021, after which the board will be revised based on the need to cover the evolving range of topics covered by the submissions.

I feel privileged to be communicating with you with four very diverse papers in this issue and hope the readers will find this issue very informative and valuable. Two papers [4,5] in this issue are related to seismic performance of partition walls and ceiling diaphragms made of plasterboard. Together with other recent papers [2, 6-8] on seismic performance of non-structural elements (SPONSE), these papers provide further evidence that New Zealand researchers have been increasingly active in this topic since the Canterbury earthquake sequence, which highlights the importance of building contents and non-structural elements in the continued functionality of buildings.

The paper by Ballagh and Cattanach [9] provides a practitioner's impression based on the observed performance of Wellington waterfront buildings on soft reclaimed soils during the 2016 Kaikōura earthquake. The amplification of ground shaking due to the *basin effect* and its potential consequence on seismic design of buildings are discussed. This thought provoking paper from two practicing engineers adds to the recent trend of opinion papers [10-12] authored by front-line NZ structural and earthquake engineers. The fourth paper in this issue [13] falls within the fundamentals of seismic design of structures, where the authors propose and verify a simple method for spectral analysis and design of structures based on ductility demand.

Over the last five years as the Editor of the Bulletin, I have focussed on timely releasing the Bulletin issues with high quality research and practice papers that have been robustly reviewed. Of course, this would not have been possible without your contribution (as authors, reviewers and editorial board members), and I look forward to your continued support in the days to come.

Before signing off, I would like to thank all researchers who have submitted papers to the Bulletin. It is because of you that this Bulletin continues its success and I cannot thank you enough for your valuable contribution. Needless to say, I am counting on you and your team to keep submitting your research and project findings for possible publication in future Bulletin issues.

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