



Australasian Hydrographer

Re-Birth Of Your Association

Hello and welcome to the first Newsletter of the "new era".

As many of you will be aware, there has been a growing interest in resurrecting the Association. This gathered some momentum at a meeting of Members at the HYDRO 2000 Conference in Perth in November 2000, where a host of issues was discussed.

From this a general meeting hosted by the New South Wales and ACT Branches was held in Sydney on the 17th February.

The meeting was preceded the day before by a Committee Meeting, attended by two of the previous Office Bearers of the Association. Several recommendations were made for discussion on the following day.

The minutes of the General Meeting are very comprehensive, running to many pages and will be posted to our web site. I don't intend to duplicate them in a Newsletter, except to discuss several relevant points, which will form some of the articles in this issue.

The Office Bearers and State, Territory and New Zealand Representatives are listed on Page 4 of this Newsletter. The composition of various sub-committees, postal and e-mail addresses are also printed. The astute Members will notice a continuation of the representation by the so-called "old brigade", but there are also several others who have "put their hands up". However, believe me, we urgently need input from our younger Members, and I'm pleased to say that we have a couple in the form of Kieren Bennetts and Scott Walker who have resolved to become involved. An interview with Kieren appears on Page 3.

Inside this issue:

Re-Birth Of Your Association	1
Australasian Institute of Hydrographers Proposal	2
Newsletter	2
Subscriptions	2
20 Questions With Kieren Bennetts	3
Office Bearers and Contact Information	4

I invite you to read on, then to seriously consider your input and commitment to your Association. As you read on inside, there is a proposal to re-name and to re-focus the activities of the Association. Please think about these issues, and let us have your ideas.

I should also point out that our Newsletters are no longer being produced on a "voluntary" basis. At the aforementioned general meeting, it was decided that an honorarium of \$400 per month be paid to the Publicity Officer (me). So now, you really have someone to get up!

As I always seem to be saying..this is your Association. Have an input. The only way is up!

Australasian Institute of Hydrographers

One of the recommendations coming from the Hydrographers' meeting at HYDRO 2000 was to change the name of the Association to the Australasian Institute of Hydrographers. There are several positives in this recommendation, and surprisingly the most commonly mentioned is that we would no longer be seen as synonymous with the hotel industry.

This could also imply that we would need to limit our membership to "qualified" Hydrographers, which, of course leads us to define what is now a "qualified" Hydrographer. Indeed, is "Hydrographer" the right name in these times, where "Hydrographers" do lots more than hydrography.

At our General Meeting, a sub-committee comprising Scott Walker (NSW), John Skinner (ACT) and myself (Tas.) was set up to investigate/pursue this option. We need your input to this fairly radical proposal.

Newsletters

Future Newsletters will be different to previously. We will produce a monthly Newsletter to be distributed in electronic form. A quarterly "traditional" Newsletter will be published and posted. It is planned to change this to A4 format. At this stage, a full-colour type publication seems to be out of the question because of the costs of producing a small run.

The monthly Newsletter will be published to our web site, as well as e-mailed to you. This will of course necessitate you giving me your e-mail address. I know that some Members will not have access to e-mail, and if that's the case, I'm willing to send the monthlies by snail mail. Please indicate your preference on the attached form.

This Newsletter is being distributed to as many people as we can find. If you know of any Member, past or present who is interested, and hasn't received one, please put them in touch with me, and I'll rectify the situation.

Subscriptions

Ah, you thought I'd get around to this! The Committee recommended, and the General Meeting approved an increase in subscriptions to a realistic level. As our Financial Year coincides with the Calendar Year, the subscription, if paid by April 30th this year will be:

Members \$60, Retired Members/Cadets \$40, and Corporate Members \$300.

I know that some will be shocked, however I should point out that the previous subscription of \$10 was set in 1978, so in comparative terms it is not an exorbitant increase.

The new rate also reflects the need to finance various activities the Association wishes to pursue. Some of these are:

- To become involved in educational and qualification issues.
- To conduct workshops and seminars in our own right.
- To fund the attendance of one of our younger Members to future workshops.
- To fund the Newsletters, other publications, and web site, which presently is a freebie.

We have also considered the fact that we are now unsure of our Membership base, and therefore what our future budgets might be. There is also room to manoeuvre depending on what our Membership wants us to become more involved with. In this regard, we, as usual, need your input.

20 Questions With Kieren Bennetts

This is the first in a "get to know you" segment which we hope will introduce, in particular, our younger and or newer Members. Be prepared... you could be next.

Kieren Bennetts has been working with ECOWISE Environmental, Canberra office for the past 8 months as a Field Hydrologist. Kieren is mainly responsible for a number of gauging and rainfall stations around the region. Before joining ECOWISE Environmental he studied at Canberra Institute of Technology and the University of Canberra specializing in Fresh Water Ecology and Environmental Chemistry investigating heavy metal uptake in estuarine food webs.

What was your first job?

Milk runner

Why did you pick it?

Because my mates worked on it and it seemed like good money at the time.

What drew you to your present position?

The outdoors work and the possibility of travel, and it relates to my degree.

What is the favourite part of your current job?

Going to places that others don't get the opportunity to go to. Getting paid to sit in the sun on the bank of a river.

What is the strangest thing you have been asked to do?

Is this a work related question? If this is work related, nothing too weird. If not, no comment.

Pastimes and hobbies?

Surfing, football, snowboarding.

What are you reading?

Occumentary - Documentary on Mark Occhilupo.

Favourite music?

Gomez, Powderfinger, that kind of stuff.

Favourite web site?

I don't really spend all that much time on the web.

Where do you see our industry in say 5 years from now?

In a similar situation to what is starting to occur now with improved telemetry on site, therefore increasing the period between site visits and increasing the amount of work which can be undertaken by any one individual. Should be great.

How can participation of younger members be encouraged in our Association?

By getting them to understand that they are going to be the driving force behind the industry in years to come, so their participation within the Association could have a shaping influence on the industry for the future. But then again I am only young, I would like to see bikini clad women at the meetings.

If you could achieve one thing in your lifetime what would it be?

World peace, or maybe just enormous personal wealth.

Name three people you would like to invite to dinner.

Cameron Diaz, Britney Spears and Bert Newton...have to have a chance with him at the table.

Your favourite beverage?

Water, but it depends on the situation.

Your ideal weekend consists of..

Going down the coast and having a surf with my mates, the rest will take care of itself.

How do you balance your work and private lives?

I don't know, I just seem to mingle the two together. They're not a bad bunch of people I work for.

Your greatest asset?

Relaxed attitude.

Your greatest liability?

Probably my relaxed attitude.

What is the best thing about your job?

The outdoors work.

What is the worst thing about your job?

Paper work, 4 degree water and needle ridden storm water drains.

Give Away

Our old faithful Mac. LC. Black and White Steam Vintage. You pay the freight, you can have it!

Office Bearers and Contact Information

Chairman	Alex Miller	ajmiller@hinet.net.au
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Sub-Committees:

Institute of Australasian Hydrographers:

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Web Site

Our Web Site is <http://hydrographers.50megs.com>

This site is a freebie at the moment. Your comments and suggested enhancements are eagerly sought. When we have a product that we are happy with, we will then transfer it over to a "bought" one, minus the obscure advertising.