



Australasian Hydrographer

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Welcome to the April Newsletter

Hello once again. My how time flies when we have to get the Newsletters out once a month.

The previous issue was sent to around 250 people by snail mail, and another 110 by e-mail. Obviously there were several "double-ups". To date, we have twenty five Members who have paid up. I don't know that this is a really good sign-up rate, but it's a start. As I seem to keep saying, please remember that this is *your* organization, and I think this is probably the last roll of the dice for it!

I haven't really had much feed-back about our web site. I guess I can take that as meaning that the format is OK. The minutes for the February meeting haven't been posted there, as promised, as I still don't have them yet. At last sight, they were over 10 pages, and growing.

Thanks to Jim Tilley and Colin Beard, who have been feeding me lots of web sites that are interesting, and relevant to us. I've included a couple of them below for your interest. Thanks also to Dennis Burt for his contribution.

The next Newsletter is due to be a "biggie", so please give me some ideas for articles. The final format still hasn't been established, so, again, here's your chance. Until then...

From the AWA Water News (25 March 2001)

The Board of SYDNEY WATER has decided to re-integrate its AWT business back into the core Corporation. A team from both organisations is working with MD ALEX WALKER to develop an implementation plan. *Maybe our AWT Members can give us some more information?*

To subscribe to AWA News, send an e-mail with "SUBSCRIBE - MEMBER" or "SUBSCRIBE - NON-MEMBER", as the case may be in the Subject line to news@awa.asn.au.

Interesting websites

Ecowise Newsletters <http://www.ecowise.com.au/econews.htm>

Streamstats <http://ma.water.usgs.gov/streamstats>

Give Away

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

State Forests of N.S.W. Project

This article from Dennis Burt was held over from last month.

State Forests of N.S.W in conjunction with the E.P.A will, by the end of March this year have twenty one water quality monitoring sites operating in five State Forests from Eden to Coffs Harbour.

The last 5 of these I am building in Kangaroo State Forest one hour drive north west from Coffs Harbour. One is on the Kangaroo River, three are on tributaries of that river, and one is on a tributary of the Little Nimboytia River.

All have natural bed rock controls below pools of varying sizes and depths. Each site has a steel framed, zincalume covered prefabricated shed with a polycarbonate clear panel in the roof. The shed is bolted to a 1.2m x 2.1m x 20mm thick compressed Hardie Panel floor.

The instrumentation consists of 0 to 1 metre gauge plate, Hawk Pressure Transducer , Greenspan Turbidity Probe and Isco sampler suction line, a tipping bucket rain gauge and a 30 watt solar panel and regulator. The probe and sampler lines are fed through two 38mm black poly pipes held to bedrock by several galvanised clamps and 6mm diameter stainless steel Dyna Bolts.

The sheds contain the Isco sampler, a DT50 logger, 2 x 24ah 12volt lead acid gel batteries (1 for the Isco), a relay box that switches the two probes on just before each 6 min log and off after the log (to save on power). The relay box also controls the sampler return pulse to the logger.

Access to the sites required opening up old logging tracks covered in lantana and fallen trees over 3 days with a four wheel drive tractor and blade.

We will sample for suspended sediment and measure turbidity continuously for a pre determined number of storms in an attempt to establish a relationship between suspended sediment and turbidity for all 5 catchments over the next 12 to 24 months. After this, three of the five catchments will be harvested (logged) in accordance with standard practice and E.P.A conditions, and the remaining two catchments will be used as controls.

All 5 catchments will be monitored for approximately three years after logging and reports will be routinely produced for the E.P.A.

A stand alone pluvio with backup manual rain gauge will sit in a clearing above the five catchments. Other manual rain gauges may be added later as I get a better understanding of the rainfall patterns in these forests.

Vegetation is dry eucalypt type forest with riparian rain forest and patches of rain forest along the ridges.

The stream beds contain some of the best natural bedrock bars I have ever seen and there is little evidence of sediment concentration until the stream reaches flatter country.

If any one is in the area when I am and would like to have a look just give me a ring. Home=49921179, mobile=0429441233.

Dennis Burt, Research Hydrographer, Dungog.

Returned Mail

The following Members/Previous Members' last (printed) Newsletter was returned, mostly with the comment "Left Address". If you are still in contact with anybody here, could you please get them to get in touch with me?

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| William Fowlie (WA) | Paul Buttsworth (NSW) | Alan Hooper (QLD) | Ian Johns (ACT) |
| John Coulson (Vic) | Marc Schmidt (NSW) | George Truman (NSW) | Rodney Kerr (NSW) |
| Craig Hagenmaier (QLD) | Glen Torr (ACT) | Penny Cowie(Vic) | Rodney Cox (Vic) |
| Hari Prasad (NSW) | Glenn Biggins (WA) | Jeff Psaila (NSW) | Alf Wojcik (NSW) |
| Monitor Sensors (QLD) | Aqualab Scientific (NSW) | Brian Preston (Vic) | Leon Tepper (Vic) |
| Gary Drake (QLD) | John Buchanan (Vic) | Alex Springall (NSW) | Bob Masters (NT) |

20 Questions With Ray Alford

Ray is Instrument Officer with the Queensland Department of Natural Resources. His job is supply instrumentation and equipment to the forty hydrographers who service the state's five hundred gauging stations.

He heads a unit of eight staff called Hydrographic Support which is based in Brisbane and has the responsibility of developing new instrumentation as well as maintaining equipment supplies. The group has 9002 certification and the main activities are purchasing, calibration, instrument repair and manufacturing.

Ray has been with the department since 1973 and has been stationed in Mackay and Townsville. His last field position was party leader servicing 30 gauging stations in the Burdekin catchment.

Ray's qualifications are a Certificate in Hydrography, a Bachelor of Technology (Industrial Instrumentation) and a Bachelor of Science (Applied Physics). He is married with two daughters and lives on the Gold Coast.

What was your first job?

Cadet Hydrographer with the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission.

Why did you pick it?

I had a friend who finished school the year before I did. He had a cadetship with the IWS and told me that he got paid to stay in pubs. When I applied for my cadetship I figured (from the brochure) that he must have been a hydrographer so that was what I picked. My friend was actually a stream advisor and quit the following year.

What drew you to your present position?

I always had an interest in electronics and began repairing instruments when I was stationed in Townsville. Because of this interest, the Department picked me for an exchange with the (then) Sydney Water Board to have a look at solid state logging as an option to paper traces. After the exchange, I was transferred to Brisbane for a year to implement the new system. That was seventeen years ago and I'm still here.

What is the favourite part of your current job?

I enjoy getting out in the field and talking with the Hydrographers. I always learn a lot from them. It makes a good change to escape the office (and phone) once in a while.

What is the strangest thing you have been asked to do for or at work?

Frog monitoring. I was asked to design and build 30 frog monitors for use in the Condamine-Balonne system by our Biological Monitoring group.

Pastimes and hobbies?

I enjoy catching mudcrabs and sailing my boat (19ft. Investigator). I've been studying part time for the last eight years (BTech and BSc) so this hasn't left me much time for these activities. Now that I'm finished with the study I aim to spend a bit more time on the water.

What are you reading?

The last book was "Conrick of Nappa Merrie", a biography about the settlement of Nappa Merrie station in Western Queensland.

Favourite music?

Ross Ryan, Peter Alan, Dr. Hook (I must be getting old).

Favourite website?

www.mercedesspares.com.au

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

Hydrography is at the crossroads at present. The industry has been fragmented due to commercialization and regionalisation and is in real danger of losing its identity as a profession. I will be optimistic and predict that the AHA will be the catalyst in unifying the industry and that it will present a more professional image in 5 years time.

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

Younger members can only be encouraged to participate by ensuring that a hydrographic career is a desirable and rewarding occupation. If the younger member has a substantial commitment towards the task and views it as a career rather than a job, the aims of the Association will match the career aims of the member.

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

Catch a barramundi. I spent ten years in North Queensland and never caught one.

Name three people you would like to invite to dinner.

Nikola Tesla, Gary McDonald and Kerrie O'Brien.

Your favourite beverage?

XXXX Gold.

Your ideal weekend consists of

Tinkering with my old car. It's over forty years old and I never seem to have time on weekends to do any maintenance on it.

How do you balance your work and private lives?

There is not too much overlap. I don't do any regular field work and most weekends are my own. My wife keeps me on the straight and narrow in this respect.

Your greatest asset?

My knowledge of both hydrography and technology.

Your greatest liability?

I don't own a tie. Says something about my managerial aspirations.

What is the best thing about your job?

I enjoy providing the hydrographic staff in Queensland with a quality service dedicated to their needs.

What is the worst thing about your job?

Not getting out in the field as often as I would like.

Office Bearers and Contact Information

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chairman | Alex Miller | ajmiller@hinet.net.au |
| Secretary | Jim Tilley | Jim_Tilley@excite.com.au |
| Treasurer | Max Hayes | gipps-hydro@i-o.net.au |
| Publicity Officer | Les Marshall | hydrographer@dingoblue.net.au |
| Public Officer | John Skinner | jskinner@ecowise.com.au |
| Committee Members | John Skinner | jskinner@ecowise.com.au |
| | Kieren Bennetts | kbennetts@ecowise.com.au |

State-Territory-New Zealand Representatives:

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| New South Wales | Jim Tilley | Jim_Tilley@excite.com.au |
| Queensland | Ray Alford | Ray.Alford@dnr.qld.gov.au |
| Victoria | Max Hayes | gipps-hydro@i-o.net.au |
| South Australia | Mark Harvey | Harvey.Mark@saugov.sa.gov.au |
| Western Australia | Mike Whiting | michael.whiting@watercorporation.com.au |
| Tasmania | Stephen Buckland | stephen.buckland@hydro.com.au |
| Northern Territory | David Williams | david.williams@nt.gov.au |
| A.C.T. | Bill Steen | wjs@hydsys.com |
| New Zealand | Martin Doyle | martn@tdc.govt.nz |

Sub-Committees:

Institute of Australasian Hydrographers:

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Co-ordinator | Les Marshall | hydrographer@dingoblue.net.au |
| | Scott Walker | Scott.Walker@awtpl.com.au |
| | John Skinner | jskinner@ecowise.com.au |

Next Hydrographic Conference:

| | | |
|--------------|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Co-ordinator | Jim Tilley | Jim_Tilley@excite.com.au |
| | Graham Armstrong | graham.armstrong@awtpl.com.au |
| | Bill Steen | wjs@hydsys.com |

Training Committee

| | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Co-ordinator | Alex Springall | aspringall@dlwc.nsw.gov.au |
| | Don Alexander | Don.Alexander@dnr.qld.gov.au |
| | Mark Harvey | Harvey.Mark@saugov.sa.gov.au |
| | Greg May | greg.may@wrc.wa.gov.au |
| | (Other Members to be co-opted) | |

Postal Addresses:

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Treasurer: | Secretary: | Publicity Officer: |
| Max Hayes | Jim Tilley | Les Marshall |
| 14 Kosciusko Street | 5 Wilbung Road | P.O. Box 200 |
| TRARALGON | ILLAWONG | SNUG |
| VICTORIA 3844 | N.S.W. 2234 | TASMANIA 7054 (Ph. 03 6267 4515) |

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

E-mailed Newsletters Returned

The addressees below had their Newsletters returned last time. If you know these people (or their correct address), could you please let me know.

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Geoff Smith | gsmith@thiessservices.com.au | Michael Lorber | Michael.Lorber@awtpl.com.au |
| Ross Knee | R.Knee@ecowise.com.au | | |