



## *Australasian Hydrographer*

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### Welcome to the June Newsletter

Again, welcome to our latest Newsletter. Time certainly flies when we need to get these out on a Monthly basis.

I've been pleased with the responses to our Quarterly Newsletter. Even so, it still needs some development, as does this Monthly format.

To this end, starting next month, I want to implement the idea suggested at our February Meeting of having short articles from our Members. The lucky candidates, selected purely in alphabetical order, appear on Page 4. The articles only need to be a paragraph or two. What we're hoping is for you to introduce yourself a bit, and tell us what you're involved in. Or, it can be a work story, tall tale, photograph of yourself and/or your workmate in all your glory. The idea is to have you have some ownership of your Association, and, of course, this Newsletter. I'm a bit of a boring person, so I'm sure you don't want to hear from me all the time.

As I was putting this Newsletter together today, I had an e-mail from Mike Whiting, giving us an update on how our Chairman, Alex Miller was faring. Mike asked if I could let you know, and I thought it best to re-produce the message here.

"I received a call on the weekend from Gloria Miller who gave me an update on Alex's condition. As you are aware, Alex was admitted to St Vincent's Private Hospital on 20th June 2001 to receive treatment to a badly infected right foot which had been causing him problems for some time.

Unfortunately the problem did not respond to the treatment and his leg became gangrenous. Late last Friday night an operation was performed to amputate Alex's leg just below the right knee.

Gloria told me that Alex was in his 'typical' positive frame of mind after the operation and was looking forward to the commencement of physiotherapy and re-habilitation which will start from today.

She also mentioned that he intended to attend the next AHA Meeting in Canberra next month.

He will be in St Vincents for approximately a fortnight and asked that he be given a few days rest before receiving any visitors."

I'm sure everyone will join me in praying for Alex to complete a speedy recovery, and for strength for Gloria and their family. Until next time....

Les Marshall.

# Institute of Australasian Hydrographers?

I must confess that there has so far been no real progress on this issue, although it has not gone away. Our sub-Committee hasn't met on this issue, and I was hoping that we could do that at HUG. However, in the meantime, I thought I would copy the benefits and services provided for Members of the Institute of Engineers, Australia here for your interest, and preferably comment. They are as follows:

- status and recognition
- opportunities to build a network of professional contacts
- membership of any of 30 IEAust Technical Societies at preferential rates
- publications like Engineers Australia magazine
- Continuing Professional Development (assistance with, and monitoring of)
- employment services
- seminars and conferences
- Engineering OnLine (EOL) and the IEAust Web Site
- access to Mutual Recognition Agreements with engineering bodies overseas
- access to recognition on the National Professional Engineers Register or the National Engineering Technologist Register
- access to discounts on a wide range of benefits and services exclusive to IEAust members
- a network of IEAust offices and agents provide access to services
- disciplinary procedures to ensure members uphold the ethical standards of the Institution and the profession
- accreditation of Australian professional engineering university courses
- an effective, united voice for the engineering community.

Of course, the IEAust. has something like 60,000 Members, and through sheer turnover is able to deliver these services. On a more realistic scale, is this what we need? Again, I think we also need a list of "fors and againsts" for becoming an Institute (or rejecting the idea). Please put your thinking caps on, and send your thoughts to the sub-Committee.

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## Association Meeting

As we have alluded to in the last couple of Newsletters, the next Association Meeting will be held following the HYDSYS Users Group meeting in Canberra on 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2001.

It is proposed that it will run from 5pm to 7pm, preceding the HUG Dinner.

The agenda is still to be finalized. Anyone have something to include?

The Meeting will be a General Meeting and will include reports from the Training and the Institution proposal sub-Committees.

The Conference sub-Committee will present the case to the meeting for having a conference, gauge the response and canvas some ideas for a theme. Jim Tilley has preliminary information regarding accommodation and venue.

# 20 Questions With Scott Walker

Scott Walker started working for the MSW&DB Gauging branch in 1982. He then worked for Sydney Water Board and Hydrographic Services. In 1992 he worked for AWTT which then became AWT Scientific Services and soon after transferred to Ensignt. Ensignt was wound up and he then found himself working for the Environmental Measurement Services of ES&T. Now that's gone too, and he will be working for the Sydney Water Corporation's Innovation & Environment division. Do you believe he still sits at the same desk? Only the corporate logos on his shirt have changed.

## What was your first job?

I was a gardener at James Hardie fibrous cement products plant. There is not a lot of gardening at a Fibro factory so I spent most of my time trying to stop the process workers catching and eating the carp alive from the fish ponds

## Why did you pick it?

It was out-doorsey, close to home and you were left to your own devices.

## What drew you to your present position?

My next door neighbour worked for Sydney Water and told me about these positions in the Gauging Branch. "All they do is get around in four-wheel drives, go boating and go fishing." He said.

## What is the favourite part of your current job?

Getting around in four-wheel drives, going boating and the fishing.

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

At work, it would be traversing an ocean outfall sewer conduit with a video camera to film any abnormalities that might be affecting the EPA monitoring point's flow characteristics. And yes we found some abnormalities.

## Pastimes and hobbies?

Being an owner builder of a new house and keeping the kids entertained is not a pastime but a permanent part time job that I share with my wife. I seem to have precious little time for hobbies, but I enjoy all codes of football: Sydney Swans, Parramatta Eels, Merrylands Rugby and the Bowral Bandicoots under 8's soccer.

## What are you reading?

*Why men don't listen and women don't read maps* By Allan & Barbara Pease

This book is great: It actually explains why I can't find any thing in the refrigerator. In fact I use this book a lot. Any quirks that annoy the hell out of my wife I refer to this book and explain to her that it's not my fault. I am just a victim of evolution.

## Favourite music?

Elvis is still the King.

## Favourite website?

Oztips.com.au. It gives a mug half a chance.

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

With AWT returning to Sydney Water and seeing what has happened to other state run water authorities, I assume that more work will head the way of the private sector. This is not necessarily a bad thing. We should be raising the profile of the AHA and encouraging the more scrupulous businesses to join and help maintain its ideals

## How can participation of younger members be encouraged in our association?

The last AHA meeting where NSW TAFE and OTEN reps were invited to talk, it became apparent that the AHA needs numbers to be considered an industry force. The AHA needs clout to lobby for a new Certificate / Diploma within the industry. For younger members, especially those without formal qualifications, it is in their best interests to join so that this end may be achieved. Oh, and lost of piss-ups. Hic.

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

I would love to work in Antarctica. Surely they need Hydrographers there.

## Name three people you would like to invite to dinner?

Larry Fine, Moe and Curly Howard.

## Your favourite beverage?

Free Beer

## Your ideal weekend consists of .....

Friday afternoon, driving home from work, I catch every green light. When I get home my wife remarks "You look tired", slips me an extra dry martini and insists I sit down in front of the TV and relax while she prepares a 2 inch thick porter house steak for dinner. After my second martini I notice that it's very quiet around the house. I learn that all of the kids have been bathed, fed and are in bed. After dinner we settle down and watch Parramatta flog Brisbane at ANZ stadium 28-12. Saturday morning the kids sleep in and I have to wake them so that we don't miss my eldest boy's grandfinal, where he scores all 14 goals in the 14- 0 drubbing. Afterwards we celebrate at McDonalds where I find a severed finger in one of the McHappy meals. To buy my silence I am offered a life time supply of McHappy meals. Saturday afternoon sees me play the perfect round of golf where I win side bet after side bet. My friends are obliged to settle their wagers in the clubhouse after the game. Later I am hailed a taxi and sent home. Upon my arrival home my wife remarks "You look tired" and insists I have a kip before she takes me out to dinner. After the weekend's second steak dinner, a couple of drinkies and some dancing we return home in time to discover an old episode of Parkinson interviewing Elvis. Sunday morning I rise early with no sign of a hangover to be helicoptered with a couple of friends into a hot trout fishing spot, where we clean up. Upon my arrival home my wife remarks "You look tired", and insists we both slip into something more comfortable and retire early. (Sorry Scott, we're out of space, Ed.)

## How do you balance your work and private life?

I go home at night

## Your greatest asset?

My family, they are truly the dearest thing to me, they keep me happy.

## Your greatest liability?

My family, to me, they are truly the dearest things to keep happy.

## What is the worst thing about your job?

Cleaning the dags off the current meters whilst performing a sewer gauging

## What is the best thing about your job?

Keeping abreast of the constant changes in technology gives me something in common with the techno nerds of the world. Four-wheel drives, outboards, power tools and secret fishing spots gives me something to talk to the blokes about. Monitoring, managing and helping to nurture the environment even in a small way is very fulfilling and helps me keep in touch with my feminine side.

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## Our Lucky Contributors.

As I mentioned in the Welcome, the lucky contributors to our July Newsletter are: Ray Alford, Juanita Amora, Bill Barratt, Colin Beard and Brent Bell.

If I haven't heard from you by, say, 25<sup>th</sup> July, I'll give you a hurry up!

# AUSTRALIAN HYDROGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION

## *Application For-Renewal of Membership*

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The Secretary,  
Australian Hydrographers Association,  
C/- 14 Kosciusko Street,  
TRARALGON,  
VICTORIA 3844

Dear Sir

I wish to **Become a Member/Renew my Membership** of the Australian Hydrographers Association.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Membership Grade: **Member (\$60 to end of Year 2001)**  
**Retired/Student/Cadet (\$40 to end of Year 2001)**  
**Corporate (\$300 to end of Year 2001)**

I enclose \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .

I wish to receive my monthly Newsletters by **e-mail/post/I will down-load from the web site.**  
I wish to receive my Quarterly Newsletter at my **Home/Work** Address.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

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*Date Received* \_\_\_\_\_ *Member Number* \_\_\_\_\_