



Australasian Hydrographer

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COMPANY NEWS:

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Welcome to the July Newsletter

Hello once again, and welcome to our July Newsletter.

This past month has been one of frustration and embarrassment for this broken down old droggy. As you may have gathered, my computer had a fatal crash, and I have lost lots of stuff. Luckily I had the Financial Members' addresses hiding in a separate place to my usual drives, and thanks to several Members, I have been able to resurrect some of my Address Book. But none of my historical e-mails. Such is life! Anyway, before you read on here, perhaps you might like to save your Address Book to another drive.

Well, now that you are back with me, thanks again to those Members who replied to my plea for help.

The call for this month's lucky contributors was a dismal flop. Thanks to Ray Alford, who has been a regular contributor to our publications over many years for his effort to get me an article. The next Newsletter will be the Quarterly publication, and so far, I can fill up one page if I use large fonts. Undaunted, we will press on.

Our next group of lucky contributors is Don Alexander, Kieren Bennetts, Pat Betham, Mike Blackwood, Phil Boreham and Richard Brown. I'd like to have your articles in no later than 25th August please. At present, I am inclined to delay publishing the next Newsletter until after the Association Meeting on 29th August.

Our Membership numbers have been increasing steadily. It is really heartening to have so many becoming Financial. I will talk more about the Membership next month, but the most striking thing about processing all the Membership forms is the range of "Titles" we have. It seems that the days of the old saying "six months ago I couldn't spell Hydrographer, now I are one" have gone.

Les Marshall

Our Corporate Members Are:

*Hydrological Services Pty Ltd, Bureau of Meteorology,
Water Data Services, Scott Technical Instruments Ltd,
Water EcoScience Pty Ltd,
Northern Territory Department of Land Environment and Planning.*

Water Industry Specialist Instrumentation Syllabus

Lucky contributor? I can't see it myself but at least this is a good chance to update the Association about a subject that I am writing for the hydrographic course. The subject is 8004H Water Industry Specialist Instrumentation. The aim of the module is to allow hydrographers to select appropriate instrumentation after consulting the manufacturers specification sheets. I was contracted (this is a strange term as I'm not actually getting paid for this) earlier in the year by TAFE OTEN in NSW to write the material. Mark Harvey (SA) will review the material.

The syllabus initially supplied by TAFE did not appear to be written with hydrography in mind. One of the proposed learning outcomes involved selecting pumps and another concerned water meters. Mark and I did some negotiating regarding the subject material and the resultant objectives are now more applicable to our work.

The subject material now consists of four sections.

Section one is an overview of standards, quality assurance and the meaning of terms used to specify instrumentation parameters. This section includes a discussion on the propagation of measurement errors.

Section two discusses loggers and transducers and section 3 continues the hardware theme with descriptions of solar power and gas bubbler systems.

The final section discusses telemetry methods and current meters and has a section on the theory behind acoustic doppler current profilers. I have included practical exercises throughout the sections that I hope will prove interesting to the learner. These will form the basis of assessment, as there will be no final exam for this module.

I have completed about three-quarters of the writing and am hopeful that I can continue to abide by TAFE's rather onerous schedule. Their aim is that the subject will be available late this year.

For those of you who eventually enroll in this subject, I hope that the material proves interesting and useful in your hydrographic careers. **Ray Alford**

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Reminder to our Corporate Members

Most of your Membership entitlements comes in the form of "free" advertising. That is, a quarter page in the Monthly edition, and full A4 page in the Quarterly edition. Then there is the advertising and links on our web site. So, here is a gentle reminder to send me your copy so that I can fulfill our part.

Association Meeting

Another reminder! The next General Meeting will be held in Canberra, on 29th August, 2001. It will run from 5pm until approximately 7pm, and will precede the HUG Dinner.

The Agenda is still being finalized, so even if you are not going, there is scope for you to have your ideas concerns or two bob's worth included for discussion. Jim Tilley is frothing with excitement at the opportunity to take some more minutes, so give him something to do.

20 Questions With Dennis Burt

Dennis Burt is a spring chicken 59 years of age, married with 2 sons and 2 daughters. He has worked for 27 years as a Research Officer (Forest Hydrology) with the State Forests of New South Wales.

What was your first job?

I left school at 16 and as I couldn't get an apprenticeship as a mechanic I took a job as a live-in farm labourer.

Why did you pick it?

My parents were keen for me to get into the work force ASAP.

What drew you to your present position?

A love of the bush and an interest in research.

What is the favourite part of your current job?

Working on an untamed river.

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

Operate infra-red heat sensing equipment from a helicopter in a bush fire.

Pastimes and hobbies?

We live on 33 acres on the Williams River and I'm attempting to start an olive orchard. I ride a 1984 R65 BMW motor bike and I am learning 4-string tenor banjo.

What are you reading?

"So It Goes" Bob Ellis.

Favourite music?

Anything except Country and Western. Mainly Jazz, Blues, Folk and 70/80's Rock.

Favourite Website?

We have only just got onto the WWW so I'm still looking.

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

Water quality is going to be the big issue and it's just possible that the clean water leaving native forests will be more valuable than the timber growing on it.

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

By setting up a mentoring system with older members, maybe starting a fund to pay for travel and accommodation for younger people to attend meetings, workshops etc.

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

To leave with a smile and no desires unfulfilled.

Name three people you would like to invite to dinner.

Fred Hollows, Ian Anderson (From Jethro Tull) Jacqueline Mc Kenzie.

Your favourite beverage?

Coopers or Guinness stout.

Your ideal weekend consists of...

The company of my wife, friends, a home cooked meal, music (preferably live) and the odd stout.

How do you balance your work and private life?

Not very well according to my wife. There's always that extra job to be done whilst you're "out there".

Your greatest asset?

Being a jack of all trades and master of none.

Your greatest liability?

Being born into a Protestant work ethic family that didn't believe in higher education.

What is the worst thing about your job?

Ridiculously small budgets to stay within when there is so much to be done.

What is the best thing about your job?

The satisfaction of seeing really good data that you had a hand in producing from a catchment we know nothing about.

Some Interesting Web Sites

<http://www.uswaternews.com/homepage.html>

<http://www.timestudio.com>

<http://www.emailmedia.com.au>

http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa/nawqa_home.html

And, of course our Corporate Members:

<http://www.bom.gov.au>

<http://www.hydroserv.com.au>

<http://www.scottech.net>

<http://www.waterdata.com.au>

I'm sorry I don't have the addresses for Water EcoScience Pty Ltd or NT Department of Lands, Environment and Planning. If you give them to me, I'll certainly publish them.

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
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	Kieren Bennetts	kbennetts@ecowise.com.au

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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 14 Kosciusco Street TRARALGON VICTORIA 3844	Jim Tilley 5 Wilbung Road ILLAWONG N.S.W. 2234	Les Marshall P.O. Box 200 SNUG TASMANIA 7054 (Ph. 03 6267 4515)

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

A Note About Our Web Site

Anyone who has visited the site lately will have noticed that we are still using the "Free" site, complete with the banner advertising. At present, I'm working on tarting the whole site up, and then will move it to a Commercial ISP.

But, of course, I need a few things. Firstly, I haven't had much feedback at all about it. Here is your chance to have some input. If I don't have any responses, I'll assume that you have the utmost confidence in my judgement!!

Secondly, some time ago, I asked our State Reps to write a small introduction for each State's page. I received a couple, Martin Doyle and Ray Alford. Would the other State Reps. please send me theirs as soon as possible?

AUSTRALIAN HYDROGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION

Application For-Renewal of Membership

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: _____

Date Received _____ *Member Number* _____