



Australasian Hydrographer

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LATE NEWS:

Jim Tilley and the Hydrographic Workshop Committee has been working away in the background. They have selected the dates which will be as follows:

Arrival Tues 9/07/2002

Conference Wed 10th, Thurs 11th and Fri 12th

Depart Sat 13/07/2002.

We'll have many more details in our next issue.

Welcome to the September Newsletter

Hello once again, and welcome to our September Newsletter.

This month, several things have been happening which may interest you.

Firstly, an update on Alex Miller. He is at home, enjoying his surroundings, and especially the time with his wife and family. I'm sure he would love to receive an e-mail from all his friends. If you don't have the address, it's on the back of this Newsletter. In the meantime, I'm sure you all will join me in saying a big "hello", and keep him and his family in your prayers.

Since our Canberra Meeting, John Skinner has approached the AWA with the aim of establishing an affiliation between our organizations. The AWA has produced an affiliation model that we can discuss. Unfortunately, someone forgot to send it to me, so at this stage, I can't tell you much more.

On the education front, a working group comprising representatives of WIETTA, AWA and AHA has been established. This group will work with OTEN to study industry and professional needs and to assemble a viable suite of offerings. On Page 2, Don Alexander gives us a full account.

Further information on this and other things will be on our new, improved web site. This will be up and running before the next Newsletter, so I will e-mail the details to those whose address I have. While on the subject, I am always open to suggestions about what you want to have on it, so let me know!

The idea of having a group of contributors each month has been a dismal failure, so I'm not going to bother going through the list for the next group. As always, I'm looking for good articles to fill these pages. Remember, they don't have to be very long, and would almost certainly be better than having me whinging.

Until next time....

Les Marshall

Our Corporate Members Are:

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

Diploma of Hydrology and Environmental Management

- An urgent meeting was called in Sydney on Monday 24th September 2001 regarding the proposed Diploma of Hydrology & Environmental Management course and the problems making the course available to students.
- OTEN advised that it will cost \$200,000 to complete material for the diploma course. This involves the writing of the outstanding subjects, most of which are for years 3 & 4 of the course. OTEN are under pressure to reduce their costs and advised that without contributions from industry or other sources they cannot continue to develop the hydrography diploma. OTEN have suspended further development of the diploma course and are awaiting industry advice and contributions.
- The \$200,000 is for the outstanding materials to be written and printed. At present an hydrography training course is available to students who can enrol in the subjects already available and get credits which will be recognised in the full diploma course. The ongoing costs for the running of the diploma course and subsequent revamping from time to time can be met from the OTEN budgets.
- The DLWC representative advised that a mapping exercise had been undertaken with the hydrographers in NSW and that as a group they are not in favour of the diploma course. DLWC have water treatment operators, sewerage treatment plant operators and other technicians who are only seeking a trade certificate level or slightly higher qualification.
- OTEN advised that if the diploma course had early exit levels such as certificate level III and certificate level IV, then it would be an easier for OTEN to obtain funding and complete modules of the course. This would suit DLWC needs but not necessarily suit full hydrography training as the "common" subjects would be of limited benefit to hydrographers.
- As the diploma would be an industry wide portable qualification, it is expected that industry contribute to establishment of the diploma course.
- A small steering group comprising WIETTA, AHA, AWA and OTEN was established to:
 - Set priorities for the establishment of the certificate III and IV exit levels in the diploma course and then focus on producing and completing the diploma course material.
 - Identify the existing gaps for hydrographer training in the new training package for certificate levels III & IV.
 - Assess industry needs for hydrographers' individual career aspirations.
 - Catalogue existing courses and resources to assess their role in future hydrographer packages.
 - Establish a "calling" in NSW for cadetships.
 - Develop a strategy to use these resources most effectively for both the industry and the agencies, bearing in mind both the distances involved and potential numbers of students.
 - Create a strategy to resource the necessary work by seeking the industry and government sponsorship (cash and in kind).
- DLWC are one of the largest sources of potential students for the proposed course and so its continued support is essential for the survival of the course.
- Don Alexander will represent the AHA on the steering group.

(Thanks Don, for your contribution..Ed.)

Hydsys/TimeStudio Merger

As you will all be aware, TimeStudio is to merge with HYDSYS Pty Ltd on October 1.

There will remain two offices for the merged company, one in Hobart and one in Canberra with most staff remaining in their current locations. Ian Donoghue will take the reins as General Manager of the new company commencing on October 1.

A new dedicated Client Services Team will provide clients with a greatly enhanced support structure, including extended helpdesk availability, dedicated client account managers, better training schedules and more.

The merger was announced to HYDSYS users at their HYDSYS User Groups Meetings (HUG) which were held in various location during late August and early September.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Les,

I recently had the opportunity to read the AHA Newsletter for the first time. I currently work with the Department of Natural Resources & Mines in Bundaberg QLD, and while I'm still regarded as the Mexican (from Albury/Wodonga) I certainly have learned a lot in the past three years as a droggie.

I can only imagine that most of your readers are of an older demographics and after reading 20 Q's with Mark Johnston (42 yrs), it's great to hear that at least one hydroggie in Australia believes that we younger staff coming through have something to offer.

There seems to be a large gap between the senior and more recent hydroggies (why this seems to be, is beyond my understanding) which is a considerable concern to me as many of QLD's more senior staff will retire within the next 5-10 years, leaving a large gap in the history/knowledge of Hydroggies in QLD and indeed Australia.

Therefore, I urge you to place an article in your future issues regarding the younger cadets/hydrographers concerns and ideas.

Its time to close the gap and the belief that "Knowledge is Power" for the lack of knowledge is not what the younger droggies want to be reminded of and remembered for.

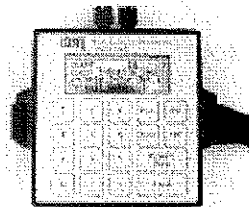
On a more enjoyable note, it was great to read the article RE: Environmental Flows & Water Quality for the River Murray as this was the research project I was working on/with before my move to Bundaberg. It's great to read articles about your home region.

Des Hetherton

(It was great to receive this letter from Des, and I have reproduced it, because the comments he makes are valid, and I hope to stimulate some discussion. What are your thoughts? By the way Mark. It seems you're an old bloke at 42. When I finish this, I might go down and check out the old age pensions. Ed.)

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20 Questions with Michael Whiting

Mike Whiting works for Asset Monitoring Services, WA Water Corporation, primarily as the Data Manager for all collected data using HYDSYS and associated systems. He also works on integration of logging software/hardware within the business. Asset Monitoring Services carries out hydrographic and environmental data collection related to Water Corporation assets for water supply, drainage and wastewater, and to private clients.

Mike has had approximately 13 years experience in Hydrography, working for the Water Authority of WA, Water and Rivers Commission, and the Water Corporation in and around Perth, and nearly six years in the Pilbara and the Kimberley regions of the State. He has completed a Diploma in Civil Engineering, and some subjects towards an Environmental Engineering degree. He is engaged to be married, but tells us he is in no rush.

What was your first job?

Hydrographic Field Assistant working for the Water Authority of WA in the Bauxite Research group, operating gauging stations and associated research instrumentation in mined and pre-mined catchments in the jarrah forests near Perth.

Why did you pick it?

It was either go to University and study Civil Engineering or a job in Hydrography, I chose the latter, and little did I know at the time, that it was probably the best decision I could have made.

What drew you to your present position?

The ability to work in a water engineering based Hydrographic business.

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

Carrying out a salinity profile of the Ord River in the Kimberley, by helicopter, hovering just above the surface of the water taking samples and salinity readings along a 30km stretch, to identify the movement of salt water during the tidal cycle.

Pastimes and hobbies?

Riding my Motorbike, rebuilding an old car (When I can find the time and the money!) and helping my fiance with the menagery of animals we have (Probably more of the last one rather than the first unfortunately!).

What are you reading?

Andy McNab – Firewall.

Favourite music?

Anything really, I listen to Triple J a lot, and don't mind the odd bit of Jazz.

Favourite Website?

www.motogp.com

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

I hope that we will be a stronger profession with an actual identity, with good support across Australia from both private and government organizations, with

the AHA as the spearhead of the profession. The adoption of a national training course for all Hydrographers (Not only as a starting point for entry into Hydrography, but as a refresher for others).

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

Raising the profile of the AHA within each Hydrographic company or department, and ensuring that every Hydrographer is a member and is a strong advocate of the Association. The flow on from this is that every potential new member will actually want to join the Association.

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

Travel to the seven wonders of the natural world.

Name three people you would like to invite to dinner.

Billy Connolly, Murray Walker, and Minnie Driver.

Your favourite beverage?

Caffreys

Your ideal weekend consists of...

Riding my motorbike through the winding roads in the hills here in Perth, relaxing with friends over a coffee, and wrapping it up by watching some motorsport on the television on Sunday afternoon.

How do you balance your work and private life?

Ensure that I can enjoy both, and the balancing act tends to take care of itself.

Your greatest asset?

Being a Hydrographer.

Your greatest liability?

Trying to balance the required level of precision with the 'urge' to be as precise as possible.

What is the worst thing about your job?

Not having enough hours in the day.

What is the best thing about your job?

Developing systems (hardware and software) that take into consideration the needs of the Hydrographer using them in the field, and finally seeing them put to use.

Office Bearers and Contact Information

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Publicity Officer	Les Marshall	hydrographer@dingoblue.net.au
Public Officer	John Skinner	jskinner@ecowise.com.au

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