AUSTRALIAN HYDROGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION

Australasian Hydrographer

Gungarlin River meanders in a drought landscape.
Snowy Mountains, NSW.
© Mic Clayton, Cooma.

May, 2006

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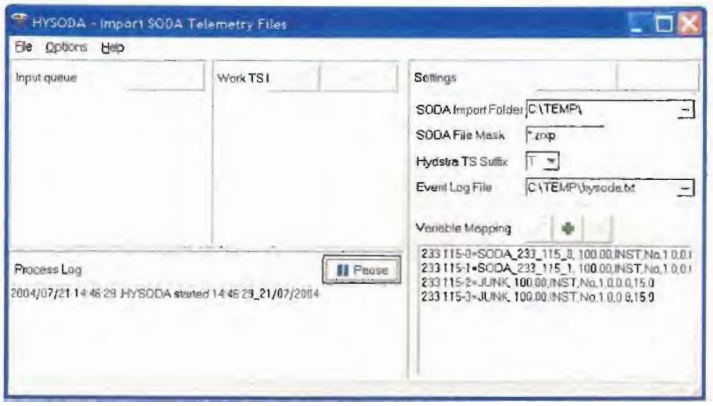
Telemetry Management With-In HYDSTRA

SVRIMP:

- Runs continuously adding SODA data to HYDSTRA files
- Deals with data coming in out of order
- Provides quick access to different TS directories
- E.g. keeping telemetry data separate



TELVIEW:

- Useful for quick data checking
- Right click to HYDSTRA Workbench
- Additional variable conversion data can be plotted. E.g. flow as well as stage
- See Battery Voltage, Gas, etc

AUDITING:

- HYAUDIT tests can be customised to test for practically anything. The results can be logged to a Times Series file (Key Performance Indicators) or actions such as alarms initiated.
- Tests are set up to reflect a set of defined standards; you can produce output when exceptions are discovered.
- Collect statistics at site level, combine site data to produce summaries at catchment / office / state level, or any other level.
- Existing tests include archive age, gauging, rating and, cross section activity.

Kisters Pty Ltd celebrating 21 Years of continuous support to the Australian Hydrographic Industry.

MAJOR SPONSOR on this years AHA 2006 Darwin Conference

For more details contact;
Kisters Pty Ltd
Email:
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KISTERS

Proud supporters of the Australian Hydrographers Association

THIS ISSUE

"Water is Gold"

"Water is Our Most Precious Resource"

"Wars will be fought over Water"

While the above are basically probably all true, in their own way, they are still being used as catch phrases, media grabbers and feel good statements. Is the rhetoric reflected in the reality of understanding and managing our water resources?

As an observer who measurers this 'gold mine', one would hope for the benefit of all of the community, that it would be treated as the 'gold' that it is. Under the Australian Constitution water is not owned by individuals and is meant to be managed for the common good of all the people of the Common Wealth.

But are we treating it as we should for the Common Wealth? Do we understand the limits of our resource? Do we know what the limits of our resource are? In other words are we measuring it correctly? How do we define accurately the long term trends in weather patterns and stream flow records if we don't? Again and again it always comes back to measuring the resource accurately and comprehensively.

To demonstrate the importance of measuring a water resource to school groups I use the analogy of a wallet.

The kids are quizzed as follows.*:*
Do you know how much money is in your wallet?
Mostly the answer is yes!
Why do you know how much money is in your wallet?
So I know what I can buy is often this answer.
"BINGO!" I say – "the same with water, you need to know how much you have before you can spend it! That's why its important to measure it." (I think eyes light up with new understanding at this point!)

One day I had an answer to the second question that set me back on my heels. "So I know these bastards haven't pinched it"

This off the cuff remark made me think about commitment to accuracy of measurement of water. What if someone involved in distribution and management of a water resource accused the measurers, or rather the processes of measuring the resource, of "measuring too accurately" because "it would be good to keep some water in our back pocket"

Such a suggestion would show at least one of two things. Firstly the resource manager doesn't understand that inaccurate measurement does not necessarily mean you have more resource – there would be a 50/50 chance you could get caught short with your resource if this concept was implemented or secondly the manager was leaning towards dishonesty for whatever purpose.

I hope the second never becomes a reality otherwise we may see the third headline.

Mic Clayton, Editor and Publicity Officer

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Visit our **Web Site** at: **http://www.aha.net.au** to download a Membership application and to find contact details for your state representative.

Editorial and advertising enquiries should be directed to the Association's **Publicity Officer**, Mic Clayton.

e - mail publicist@aha.net.au , or
PO Box 843, COOMA, NSW, 2630.

AHA Office Bearers and Contacts

Chairman, Graham Armstrong,
chairman@aha.net.au

Secretary, Michael Whiting
secretary@aha.net.au

Treasurer, Max Hayes
treasurer@aha.net.au

Publicity Officer, Mic Clayton
publicist@aha.net.au

Public Officer, John Skinner

State Reps:

Queensland: Ray Alford
e-mail ray.alford@dnr.qld.gov.au
Phone: (07) 5530 8693

New South Wales: Anthony Skinner
e-mail askinner@ecowise.com.au

South Australia: Vacant

Western Australia: Michael Whiting
e-mail secretary@aha.net.au
Phone: 0412 184 946

Northern Territory: David Williams
e-mail david.williams@nt.gov.au

Victoria: Max Hayes
e-mail gippshydro@netspace.net.au
Phone: (03) 5174 2964

Tasmania: Stephen Buckland
e-mail stephen.buckland@hydro.com.au
Phone (03) 6230 5283

A.C.T.: Bill Steen
e-mail William.Steen@kisters.com.au
Phone: (02) 6292 1926

New Zealand: Martin Doyle
email martn@tdc.govt.nz
Phone 0064 3 544 3414

Membership Renewals

At the 2005 AGM it was resolved that all membership subscriptions would be due at the end of June each year. Constitutional amendments were made to allow three months grace for payments of annual subscriptions after this date.

Going to a single expiry date has been decided as the easiest way to manage the membership subscriptions. New applications for membership that arrive outside the June date will be pro rata charged, for example a new membership application arriving in December would be at a pro rata rate of 50% of the annual subscription**,** after which renewal would be due at the end of June at 100% of the subscription rate.

If you wish to renew outside the normal period of renewal, it is requested that you contact the Association Secretary, Michael Whiting to confirm the subscription cost for the remainder period of a membership year.

Renewal/Application for membership can be downloaded from the website www.aha.net.au if you don't want to cut up your Journal.

Corporate Memberships

The Committee has reviewed the way Corporate Memberships are handled.

Currently Corporate Membership provides advertisement in Journal (4 full page advertisements, and links in AHA website, and one membership for nominated person.

It was agreed that commencing with the next membership year (now July 1 to June 30) for 2006/2007, 4 levels of Corporate Membership will be offered as follows:

Corporate Membership Grade	Annual Cost	Included Membership
Bronze	$500	1
Silver	$1,000	6
Gold	$1,500	12
Platinum	$2,000	20

From the above table it can be seen that different levels of Corporate Membership include varying individual memberships. The Corporate members would be requested to supply the Associations' Secretary, Michael Whiting with the list of names and contact details for their nominated members

Main features of Australian Hydrographers' Association Membership (for both Individual and Corporate) include:

- Knowledge and information sharing amongst peers.
- Promotion and sponsorship opportunities at a biennial conference.
- Four journals, *Australasian Hydrographer*, per year.
- Association Website and peer group mailing list.
- Commitment to supporting continuing education of Hydrographers (Certificate IV Hydrography).
- Travel grant assistance scheme for student/cadet members to attend conferences.
- Educational grants.
- Job advertisement network to industry.
- Investing funds for educational support for hydrographic industry (Member of Industry Advisory Group)).
- Supporting State based industry workshops.
- Access to and information about activities from other similar scientific and industry groups

It's Your Website!
Visit It!!!

www.aha.net.au

KISTERS

KISTERS USER GROUP MEETING, August – September, 2006.

Call for Papers and Expressions of Interest:

Kisters User Group Meeting, Darwin, 2006

In association with the Australian Hydrographers' Association Conference to be held in Darwin in 2006, the Annual Kisters User Group Meeting will be held at the Sky City Casino in Darwin.

KISTERS is again a **Major Sponsor** for this years conference and has been a proud supporter of the Australian Hydrographers' Association for many years with many of its users being hydrographers and hydrologists alike and the association of the User Group Meetings with the AHA's conference has continued to be a great success.

HYDSTRA, WISKI/SODA and Time Studio are the time series database management, analysis and reporting products of Kisters used worldwide by authorities and companies involved in water resource and environmental data collection and analysis as well as energy network management systems. The majority of Australian authorities and utilities are users of KISTERS softwares.

Kisters are co-ordinating the User Group day component of the Conference. Please contact KISTER to register your expressions of interest and abstracts for the KISTERS User Group day at the contact details below. Further details in regards to the User Group Meeting and Darwin AHA conference are available via our website *www.aha.net.au*.

Kisters Pty Ltd
Unit 4A, 24 Mahoney Court,
P.O.Box 3476
Weston Creek ACT 2611
Australia
phone: +61 2 6288 2756 * fax: +61 2 6288 9061
E-mail: support@kisters.com.au
WWW: http://www.kisters.com.au

Water Industry Training Package Review

In February Graham Armstrong and Mic Clayton attended an initial workshop in Sydney to assist with scoping out issues for the Water Industry Training Package Review that is presently underway. Others with an interest in this review of the training and education needs for hydrographers and field hydrologists that attended included Greg May from Western Australia and Neil Harper from OTEN.

There was a cross section of representatives from other Water Industry areas including Dam Safety, Water Treatment plant operations, Local Councils and so on. What became apparent in the workshop following some discussions with some of the facilitators was that the training required for the science of hydrography/field hydrology doesn't necessarily sit neatly in a pigeon hole within the training frameworks for water operation type industries.

The following article is the latest update on the review – Hydrography units for revision are expected in the next few weeks.

NWP01 DRAFT UNITS READY FOR INDUSTRY COMMENT

Following recent extensive national industry consultation, the Water Training Package review project team are pleased to advise that the first batch of **draft** units of competency are now available for viewing and industry feedback. These drafts can be viewed on the following dedicated website:

http://www.groups.edna.edu.au/course/view.php?id=416

There is no requirement to logon as a member to view these draft units - guest users will have total access to all draft units.

Newly drafted units including units covering Hydrography and Trade Waste will be loaded in batches over the coming weeks as they are developed.

For the success of this project, the development team will be relying on industry feedback and comment. This feedback is not restricted to Training Managers and Human Resource Managers. We encourage operational people in the Water Industry to provide input eg: operators, technical officers, specialist officers, engineers - basically anyone who works in or for the Water Industry.

You are encouraged to book-mark the above website and visit it regularly.

For Further Information
Contact:
Joan Whelan
ALGT
Ph: 03 9349 3911

Email: joan@algt.com.au

Water Industry Capacity Development (WICD) Initiative

In March the Australian Hydrographers Association was invited to sit on the Reference Committee of the Water Industry Capacity Development (WICD) Initiative. Following are extracts from the initial invitation as well as further information supplied about focus areas that the Reference Committee will be requested to review.

"Dear Colleague,

Water industry education, training and professional development is an area that requires national coordination to ensure that the appropriate resources and support are available now and into the future. Over the last twelve months water businesses have expressed their concern for meeting the needs of training and professional development and attracting people to the water industry. In response to this, the water industry has formed the Water Industry Capacity Development (WICD) initiative.

A WICD Steering Committee will direct activities, with expert and content input from a Reference Committee.

As a key expert in water industry education, you have been nominated to sit on the Reference Committee for WICD. It is intended that the Reference Committee will consist of a wide group of regional representatives and content experts that will provide advice to the steering committee and act as the water industry's content experts on individual projects undertaken within the initiative. Your participation will be critical in providing specific industry and technical expertise in regard to education, vocational training

and professional development within the water industry..."

The WICD Coordinator, Carla Scomazzon forwarded the following further information:
"*For your information the key goals of WICD are to:*

- *Brokering training services.*
- *Oversight of the Water Industry Training Package Review – Phase II. (WICD will keep informed on findings and outcomes , but is a separate initiative)*
- *Development of the Skills Supermarket.*
- *Professional Development – Sharing of resources and courses.*
- *Attracting people to the industry – career development.*
- *Identify the gaps and needs – mapping exercise.*
- *Portability of staff – enabling movement between water management positions in urban and rural settings."*

An initial meeting of the Reference group was expected to be held in April in Alice Springs at a Water Education Conference. Further information in regards to this initiative will be distributed as it comes to hand.

Australian Hydrographers' Association Educational Grant

The Committee of the Australian Hydrographers' Association has instituted a number of awards/grants to encourage younger (and not so young) cadets and hydrographers to undertake studies in the Hydrography Certificate IV. This has been implemented in 2006 and the following information is provided to AHA members. AHA members are also encouraged to make their employers and others aware of this grant and that the Association wishes to support the development of cadetships and traineeships within the industry, this grant being one aspect of the ssociations support.

Along with this Grant the committee has also instituted an Educational Travel Grant (closed end of April 2006) and the Committee is currently considering applicants for this Grant

The following describes the requirements and conditions for the Educational Grant.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Educational Grant is to:

- promote the principle objective of the Association to further the development of the science of hydrography/field hydrology and its application to the under-standing monitoring and management of Australia's water resources, and
- assist students undertaking the Hydrography Certificate IV (accredited under the Australian Qualifications Framework to undertake the final year Project (Subject 8004AA) as required in the course

THE GRANT

The Grant will be of a value of up to $1000 to assist the students undertaking studies in the Hydrography Certificate IV to purchase material/equipment and services necessary to undertake the Project in the final year of the course.

CONDITIONS

- The recipient will supply an initial abstract paper and a final project paper for publication in the Association's Journal "Australasian Hydrographer", and win advanced consideration for the right to present the Project paper (describing the work undertaken) at the Australian Hydrographers' Association Conference (at a future date) upon applying for the Conference Educational Travel Grant. (See previous section)
- The recipient will be a financial member of the Australian Hydrographers' Association.
- The recipient will normally be enrolled in the Hydrography Certificate IV (AQF).
- The recipient's project will have been approved by OTEN and/or the recipients employer as an appropriate project activity meeting the requirements of the Project (Subject 8004AA) in the Hydrography Certificate IV.
- Applications will include the approved Project proposal, a budget detailing other sources of financial/material support (for example from the employer/supervisor).
- Applications will be assessed by the Association's Committee who may invite advice from appropriately qualified people. The Committee may liase with the employer where necessary. More than one grant may be awarded annually, at the Committee's discretion.
- The grant will take the form of a reimbursement to the awarded value, paid to the individual, or as a rebate to the employer that has initially covered the recipients costs incurred, after presentation of proof of purchase of items/services.
- Items purchased with the Grant will become the property of the recipient's institution/employer or in the case of a stand alone student, the student.
- Proof of purchase of the items/services must be supplied to the Treasurer prior to reimbursement if this grant is awarded.

Further information and application forms can be found on the Associations website at ***www.aha.net.au***

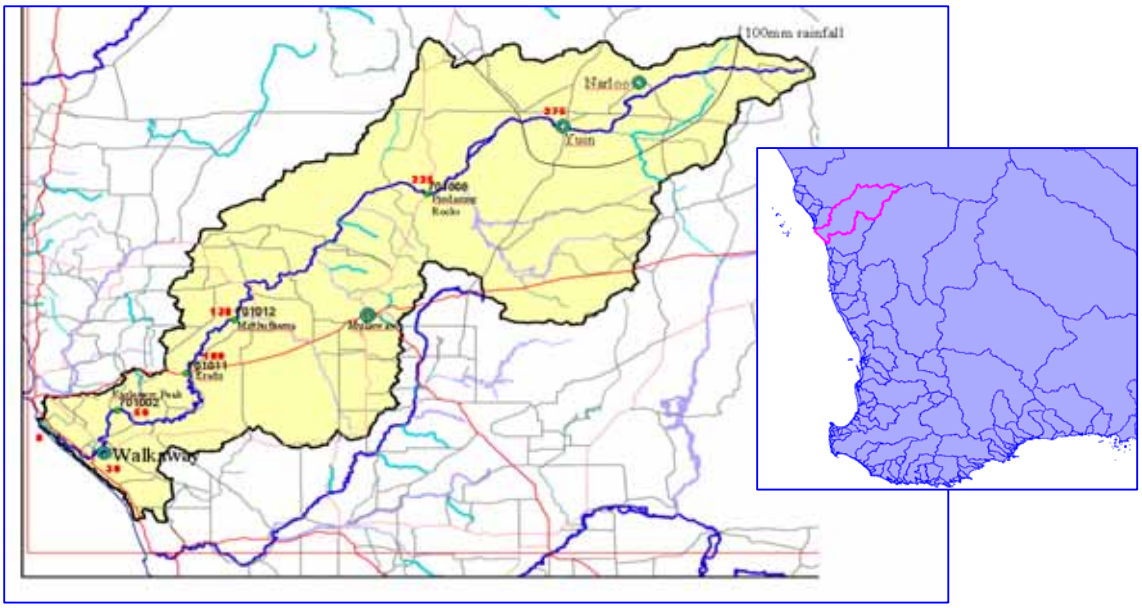
GREENOUGH RIVER FLOOD

Steve Pearson, Department Of Water, Western Australia

Significant rain fell on the upper Greenough River catchment in the wake of disintegrating Tropical Cyclone Clare in early January 2006. Falls of over 100mm occurred over large areas with 175mm recorded at Narloo and 129mm at Yuin station. News of a "large river" only reached the Mid-West measurement team via direct calls to our office from pastoralists. At the time of the event there were no Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) rain gauges in the outer part of the Greenough catchment where the heaviest falls occurred. On the morning of the 13th January the official flood warning report read: "Rainfall on the Greenough was light (~20mm), so most parts of the river will not flow."

Consequently, the community was originally unprepared for the impacts that followed. Greenough catchment (located just south of Geraldton) flood warning information allows for adequate preparations such as road closures (including the main coastal road, Brand Highway), removing campers from Ellendale pool, building temporary levee banks protecting rural homes and the town of Walkaway, and managing a permanent levee on the Greenough Flats.

The Greenough River flood warning network consists of two gauging stations installed in the 1970s and two sites installed in 1998. The older sites, 701002 Karlanew Peak and 701008 Pindarring Rocks, are fairly well gauged and rated, while the newer sites, 701011 Eradu and 701011 Mittutharra, were ungauged, unrated and operated as "level only" since installation. Our telemetered rain gauges were situated at Pindarring, Mittutharra and Karlanew, and like the BoM gauges, were not situated in the areas were major falls occurred.



Greenough River catchment: gauging sites, area of 100mm rainfall, and river distances.

On the morning of Friday 13th January (yes, Friday the 13th) the telemetry failed at 701008 Pindarring, the most distant of the Greenough gauging stations. This failure of the catchment's most critical flood warning site prompted a non-routine visit to investigate and hopefully repair the "fault". On arrival at the site at midday I saw a full bank river that was stretching 100m across the road crossing and still rising. At about 1330hrs the peak level of 14.440m (4.44 metres of water) was reached having risen from dry at 0800hrs that same morning. The reason for the instrument failure was that the entire float well had been knocked over by the force of the flows. The velocities were peaking in the immediate vicinity of the float well and looked to be around 2.5m/s. My best guess is that these forces were magnified by debris snagging on the well or ladder, and knocked the whole structure over.

Pindarring: Remains of the float well

PLI and debris after the waters receded

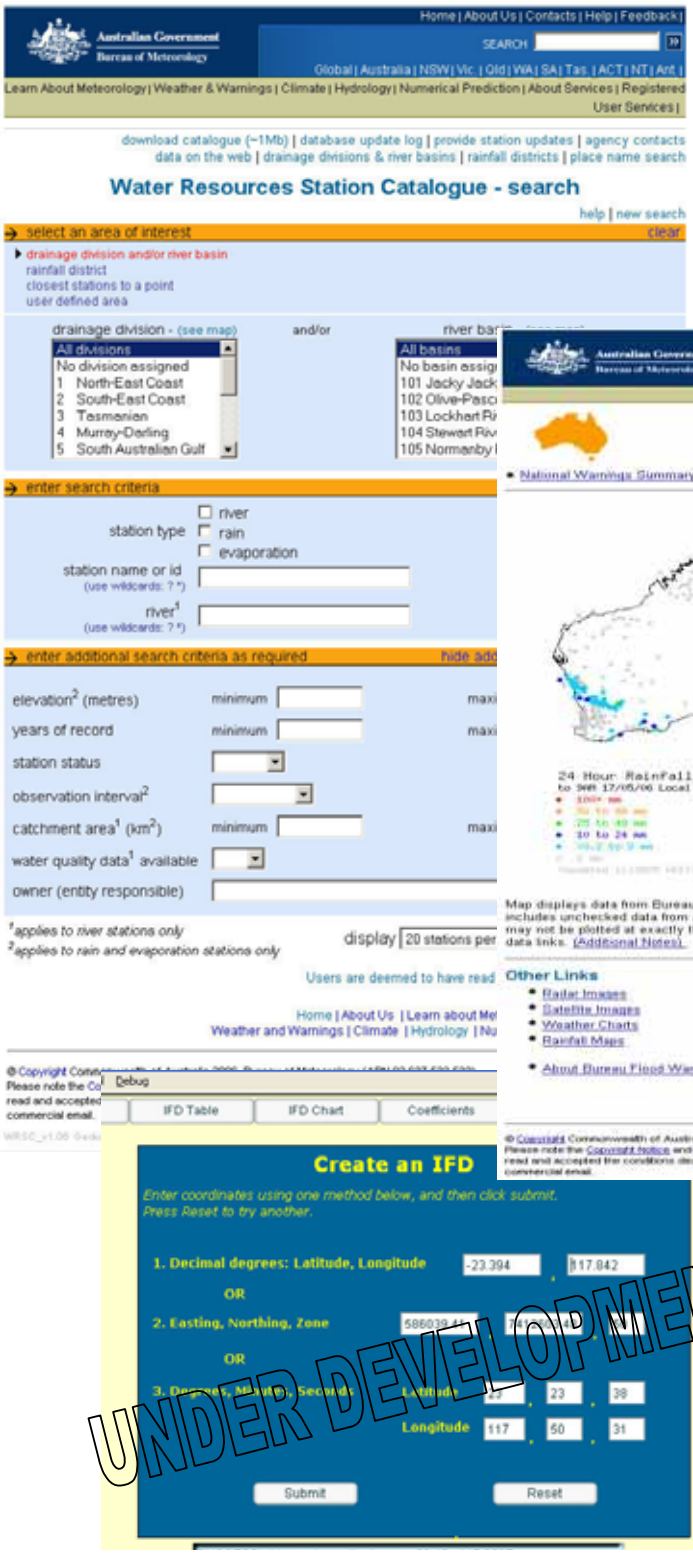
Deprived of the vital upstream river monitoring site, Mid-West officers ***Mighel Chivilo*** (recalled from training in Perth), ***Mick Major*** (recalled from leave), ***Natalie Lauritsen*** and myself faced a busy week of measurement activities. These included tracking the progress of the flood, estuary sampling in the river mouth, and high flow discharge measurements at the Greenough River gauging stations.

The priority for Saturday 14th January was locating the floodwaters along the river. This was to enable a reliable estimation of flood travel time and so facilitate accurate flood warnings, road closures and the issue of safety procedures to local communities. The original estimation of travel time was modified by many hours after the waters were located early on Saturday afternoon at Tenindewa-Yuna Crossing fairly close to the Mittutharra gauging station.

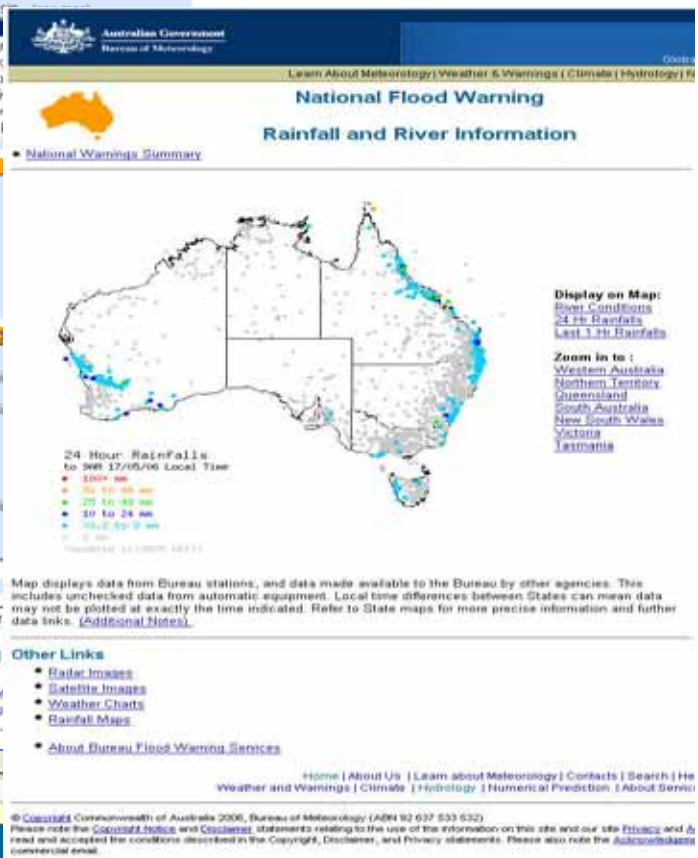
Mick Major's photograph sequence (following page) shows the water level rising at the gauging station at Mittutharra. The levels were preceded by large amounts of scum froth and ***Mick*** noted a bad compost smell.
The rate of rise was very rapid, rising from dry (9.592m) at 1520hrs, to 12.905m at 1555hrs. That is, a rate of rise of 3.313m in just 35 minutes, or 95 mm per minute. The final peak level of 16.484m was reached at 2215hrs that night.

BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY RESOURCES ON THE

www.bom.gov.au/hydro/wrsc



www.bom.gov.au/hydro/flood



Mittuthara 701012 – sequence of the initial flood waters

Dry at 1520hrs

…a few seconds later

Looking Downstream

Approximately 11.8m at 1540hrs

Approximately 12.5m at 1550 hrs

A late attempt at boat gauging on Saturday afternoon at Pindarring was abandoned due to safety concerns. That is, the safety of ourselves and the children of the two hundred plus strong indigenous community that had sprung up at the Road Crossing overnight to watch the floodwaters. The children were mainly occupied with riding the river from the road crossing to our travellerway but were equally keen to get a ride on the gauging boat. We aborted the attempt early due to lack of light and potential risk to spectators. It would have been great to obtain a measurement at Pindarring as this flow event was well above the current rating table and, as it turned out, over three times larger than the previous high flow gauging at the site.

Another time consuming aspect of the work was preparing gauging equipment which had not been "used in anger" for some time. A bit of dusting off and checking was required for most equipment. A bridge

gauging boom also had to be fitted onto the front of the Nissan in preparation for use later in the week.

Sunday 15th January began at 0600hrs with a site visit to replace the Eradu logger, which stopped logging just in time to miss the flood peak and needed urgent repair. After dealing with this emergency the measurement team divided into two. ***Mighel Chivilo*** and ***Natalie Lauritsen*** performed pre-event sampling routines on the Greenough river mouth for the Aquatic Science Branch, while ***Mick Major*** and myself gauged the river flows off the Eradu Bridge. The gauging was performed using a bull bar mounted winch assembly with a 45kg weight and Ott C31 meter suspended off the downstream side of the bridge. The first winch was lost before the meter got wet! As the 45kg weight was lifted off the ground the winch cable slipped and snapped the plug before we had even started.

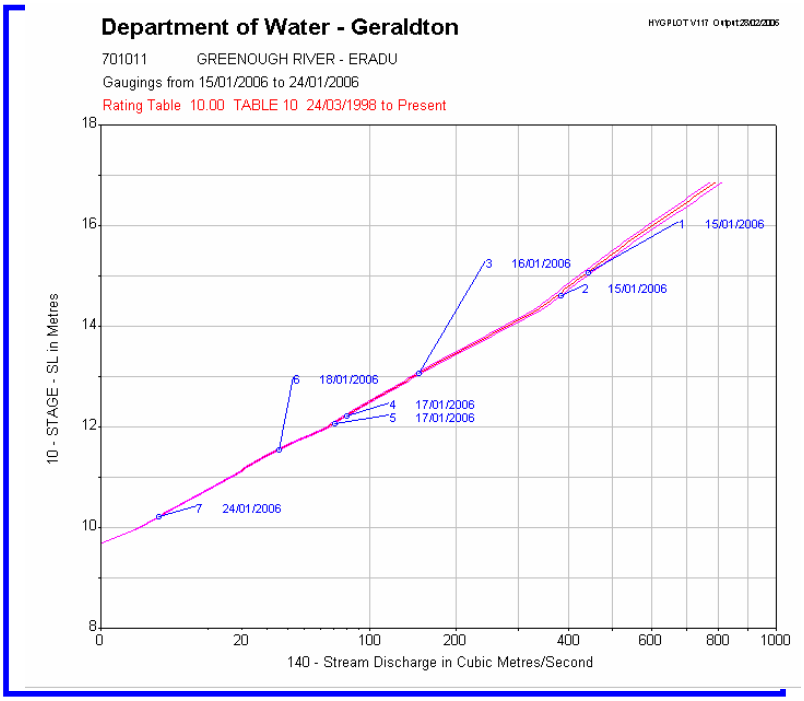
Luckily we had a spare winch, but I must confess to concern for the rest of the day about being able to complete the gauging. This was especially so as we had a team of traffic controllers who had been hired to manage the constant flow of heavy traffic across the bridge. This left the measurement staff free to concentrate on more technical aspects of the job, and handling the constant stream of questions from onlookers. Each party of onlookers wanted to test their own theory of what we were doing before hearing our explanation. The questions persisted at a rate of about one party per discharge vertical throughout the day. In the end we completed a very intensive PR exercise and two extremely valuable gaugings - the highest ever in the catchment. There were no further dramas but the Nissan's suspension took a bit of punishment from the 45kg weight and the 2.5m/s river velocities.

Traffic controllers at Eradu

Boat gauging equipment

The rest of the week was spent performing gaugings on the receding flows at the two newer sites, Mittutharra and Eradu. That we were able to get a full range of measurements was due to the fantastic support offered to Mid-West region by Bunbury staff ***Ashley Ramsay*** and ***Wayne Davies***, who assisted us from Monday to Thursday with boat measurements at Eradu. Thanks for the help guys. Thanks also to Geraldton office staff ***Sarah Baron*** and ***Paul Anderson*** who assisted with low flow measurements the week later.

It was a great opportunity for us to take advantage of the high flows in the river and get valuable data at two sites for which flow measurements had never previously been obtained. With discharge measurements from a wide range of flows it was possible to develop good first pass rating curves for both sites that had previously been ungauged. These ratings also add considerable value to the level data that has been collected at both sites during the last seven years. In addition ***Mighel*** and ***Natalie*** followed up on their sampling efforts on Sunday by taking post flushing water quality samples in the estuary on Thursday. Pulling together enabled us to capitalise on this unique measurement opportunity and provided a very satisfying week for all.



701011 Greenough River @ Eradu Rating table - measurements from 2 to 443 m3/s

One not so fortunate aspect of the floods was the collapse of one span of the Greenough hamlets "Convict Bridge". Undermined by the floodwaters the span gave way when a driver ignored warning signs and drove onto the bridge after the flood.

Greenough River Mouth

Another Successful Year with the National Youth Science Forum

Each year, Snowy Hydro hosts National Youth Science Forum students. The students who come to Snowy Hydro have chosen engineering as their topic of interest. They are always very excited to visit Snowy Hydro and see the Scheme first hand.

Mic Clayton, Howard Brown and Jason Venables spoke to the first group who came on 6 January and sparked their interest, fielding interesting questions, after which they went up to the Control Centre.

The second group came on 20 January and were treated to lively presentations by Howard and Mic, who flew in from Melbourne and arrived with seconds to spare before giving his usual dynamic, interactive and amusing presentation on what it takes to be a hydrographer. This group also visited the Control Centre.

Student Snow Flakes!

These students come from all over Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. They are just about to start their final school year and several of them will be awarded an overseas trip as a reward for their participation in the two Forums.

There are always expressions of interest in traineeships and career paths leading to positions at Snowy Hydro and it is a pleasure to welcome them each year.

Source: Current, Edition 92, Snowy Hydro Limited.
(Reprinted with permission)

Interactive Hydrographers at Snowy Hydro.

Co-Ordinating Hydrographers, and AHA members, Jason Venables and Mic Clayton have been involved in educational presentations at Snowy Hydro over the last couple of years through programs, such as Learning with Altitude (LWA), where students from schools around the state partaking in Geography studies take in the Snowy Hydro scheme as part of a major excursion in the snowy corner of New South Wales.

With LWA the focus of the presentations is the interaction of the Snowy Scheme with the water cycle in the region, an emphasis being why it is important to measure the resource properly so that it can be managed effectively for all the end users, including the environment, irrigators and power generation.

Another issue emphasised in the presentations is that it is essential that hydrographers working in a catchment require a good understanding of the characteristics of that catchment (climate, geography, water usage and so on) when assessing the data and information coming back from sites in the catchment.

From having students interacting with each other as snow flakes, squeezing them through doorways to demonstrate channel capacity, hypnotising them with a slowly turning current meter and getting them to actually see how much money is in their wallets (a demonstration of understanding the resource available to you!), the presentations vary in complexity and content according to where students are from, what class they are in and so on.

Jason and Mic have also been involved in the National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) (see previous item). which is based out of Canberra in January each year.

Demonstrating how a snow corer works

WHO IS EDNA?

You may have noticed Edna turning up in recent communications from your Association. Well here is a short introduction to her (*sic*).

Well EdNA is short for **Education Network Australia**

With the Water Training Package Review currently underway the co-ordinators have utilised the resources of EdNA to disseminate draft training modules for comment and access to forums for industry stakeholder input and discussion. Following is information on who EdNA is.

About EdNA Online

Overview

EdNA Online is one of Australia's largest education and training resources and since 1996 it has been providing the education and training community with online access to quality assured information and tools and services to support teaching, learning and research. The new generation EdNA Online provides a host of new features and services including distributed search, MyEdNA personalisation, online community spaces for education and training groups, and web services in XML/RSS format for EdNA Online content including news, newsletters, noticeboards, search and browse

EdNA Online is a service that aims to support and promote the benefits of the Internet for learning, education and training in Australia. It is organised around Australian curriculum, its tools are free to Australian educators, and it is funded by the bodies responsible for education provision in Australia - all Australian governments.

As an information service, EdNA Online provides two key functions:

- A directory about education and training in Australia.
- A database of web-based resources useful for teaching and learning.

As a communications service, EdNA Online aims to promote collaboration and cooperation throughout the Australian education and training sectors and facilitate the growth of networks of common interest and practice.

As a service provider to education and training systems and sectors EdNA Online also provides a Developer's Kit to assist in the implementation of free EdNA Online services into other websites and portals.

Who Manages EdNA Online?

education.au limited, a non-profit company limited by guarantee and owned by the Australian education and training Ministers, manages EdNA Online.

The business of the company is to develop and manage online services that are of benefit to the education and training sector and are national in scope. The company does this through the use of collaborative and consultative processes with the aim of building networks and a collective approach to meeting the challenges and opportunities presented by the Internet and information economy. It aims to add further value to these processes through the formation of strategic national and international alliances with similar government-sponsored organisations.

The company also provides leadership in developing and identifying standards relevant for online information services, and provides related services such as the management of the <.edu.au> domain.

How to Contact Us

EdNA Online is managed by ***education.au limited***.

education.au ***limited***
182 Fullarton Road

Dulwich SA 5065
AUSTRALIA
http://www.educationau.edu.au/

Email:

General Enquiries - askedna@edna.edu.au
News Submissions - news-editor@edna.edu.au

Ph: +61 8 8334 3210
Fax: +61 8 8334 3211

Who Can Use and Contribute

Anyone can access the EdNA Online website. People are encouraged to use and contribute to it. The resources, information, and communication areas are available for education and training. for all to use. You can contribute through suggesting a site or resource, providing feedback, joining and email discussion list or web forum, or by becoming a member of the metadata harvesting community.

WHAT IS IT?

(Photo source: Matthew Klein, NSW)