



Australian Water and Wastewater Operator's Association inc.

Victoria Australia

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Postal Address: 5440 Barmah – Shepparton Rd. Tallygaroopna, Vic., 3634.

President: Barry Waddell Phone: 0419 878 085 Fax: 03 5152 1375

Secretary: George Wall Phone: 0407 846 001 Fax: 03 5821 8158

Website : <http://www.awwoa.org.au> Email info@awwoa.org.au

May 2001 Edition

Editorial

Included in this edition is the 'Secretary's Scrawl' along with a report on the Weekend Seminar held recently and 'Around the Traps'. A new feature has been introduced called 'New Products'.

Included as an insert to this edition is the 'Hepburn Prize' winning paper presented by Michelle Colwell at the 63rd Annual Victorian Water Industry Engineers and Operators Conference held in Warrnambool in September 2000.

Good intentions often go astray which happened the weekend of 21 & 22 April. I had all intentions of completing the April edition of 'Operator' that weekend. Refer to page 6 and you will see why the April edition became the May edition.

Any articles for 'Operator' can be faxed to 52269262 or via e-mail to richardg@barwonwater.vic.gov.au

Editor



Who is this person and what was he up to ?? Find out in the Weekend Seminar Report

Secretary's Scrawl

Constitutional Review

After many hours of work, a number of amendments to the Constitution were proposed and then dealt with at our recent seminar at Mount Buffalo. I am pleased to report that all these amendments were passed and by now you would have received a revised copy of the Constitution. Thank you to the AWWOA Committee members who made a contribution to this process and particularly to John Harris and Stephen Wilson for their efforts in coming up with the final Notices of Motion. It is not easy doing this sort of job on a very tight timeline, particularly straight after Xmas.

Operational Changes

Following the change to the Constitution, we will be moving the end of our year to 31st December annually instead of the current 30th June. This is a bit of a bonus for existing members as your fees now don't fall due again until 31st December 2001. This means you'll get 6 months Membership free!!!.

Also as a result of the Constitutional changes, we will be moving our AGM to be staged at the weekend seminar from 2002. There will be an AGM at the conference this year and then another approx 6 months later to allow this change to proceed.

A key outcome of this process was the opening up of the membership criteria to allow ANY person employed in the water industry to join as a full member. It's now time for you to promote our growth by telling all your colleagues about our Association and encouraging them to join.

Member Survey

The Committee is in the process of developing a Member Survey and will send it out soon. We realise that most people don't like filling these things in, but the information

is very important to us as a committee. We want to make sure that we can continue to meet your needs and perhaps even change focus if we are not meeting your expectations. Please make an effort to get the completed surveys back to us.

2001 Conference

Arrangements are well under way for the 64th Annual Engineers and Operators Conference to be held on the 5th and 6th September, 2001 in Bendigo and jointly hosted by Coliban Water and SERCo.

The "Call for Paper" sheets have already been distributed to AWWOA Members and all Water Authorities. A number of excellent abstracts have again been submitted for consideration and the task of selecting the papers was not easy. This high standard augers well for another successful conference.

As usual, Actizyme will be providing cash Awards for the Best Operator Papers with \$1,000 and a plaque to the winner, and generous second and third prizes as well.

The "Operator's Poster Paper" section will continue and is again being sponsored by the Water Training Centre. A plaque and \$500 cash will go to the winner, \$200 for runner-up and \$100 for third. Information will be sent out soon for this category but you get more details from me if required.

We need the support of Operators to make the Conference successful in 2001.

Registration forms will be mailed out in July, once the program for the conference has been finalised.

Conference 2002

We are still open to suggestions on a venue and offers to Host the 2002 Conference. If you think you know of a largish venue in your Authority area, and your Authority may be interested in hosting the conference, perhaps you could give me a ring.

Subscriptions Owing

A membership form and letter indicating your financial status was sent out with a previous edition of "Operator". A number of people have responded and returned their form and fees. There are still a lot of outstanding fees, and although we don't want to remove names from our Members list, we may have to if the fees are not forthcoming in the very near future. Please make an effort to pay or alternatively, if you don't wish to remain a Member, please let me know.

GST on Subscriptions

Mr Howard's tax has been a pain for us - we have to charge an extra "Oxford Scholar" on memberships to give to the tax man. I have received a number of new membership applications or renewals on old forms with people forwarding a \$10 fee instead of \$11. This is a real pain in the bum from an accounting viewpoint. Please make sure that you dispose of any old membership application forms that do not include the GST - \$11 in total. If you need more forms at any stage, let me know

and I can send them out or alternatively, you can print one out for yourself from our website at www.awwoa.org.au at any time.

Golf Day

Russell Mack has been busy in the past few weeks and has already "teed up" a venue for the 2001 Charity Golf Day. It will be staged at Trafalgar GC on Sunday 21st October, 2001. Put this date in your diary now and start saving up those "Brownie Points" so you can attend.

New Members

Welcome to the following people who have recently joined our Association :

Daryl Haag	Roger Packham	Jason Burke
Cliff Smith	Rod McKee	Bill Thomas
Stuart Pascoe	Konrad Mueller	Rohan Poll

And the following new Corporate members :

Barry Bros. Services Mono Pumps

George Wall
AWWOA Secretary

2001 Weekend Seminar Mt Buffalo

What a great success this years event turned out to be. By the registration date of Friday February 16 registrations numbered 38 members with Life Member Ron Bergmeier sneaking in on the following Monday morning at 8 am (fax machines don't lie). Ten days later the Grampian boys got their act together and a further 4 registered. So along with the exhibitors the total for the weekend numbered 50 the best numbers we have had in the 5 years the seminars have been running.

Feed back from those who attended indicated that the venue was excellent along with the meals and even the weather was great.



Seminar Dinner

The exhibitors for the weekend excelled in their presentations. On the Friday evening panic stations set in when I received a phone message that Graig Hunt from Bran+Luebe would be unable to attend the weekend. Too late to organise a replacement a new program was put in place for the weekend. Thanks to George and Glen from

Drager for filling in some of the spare time, as George said how long do you want us to talk, 2 or 3 hours?

On behalf of the Association I pass on our best wishes to Craig for the speedy recovery of his father.

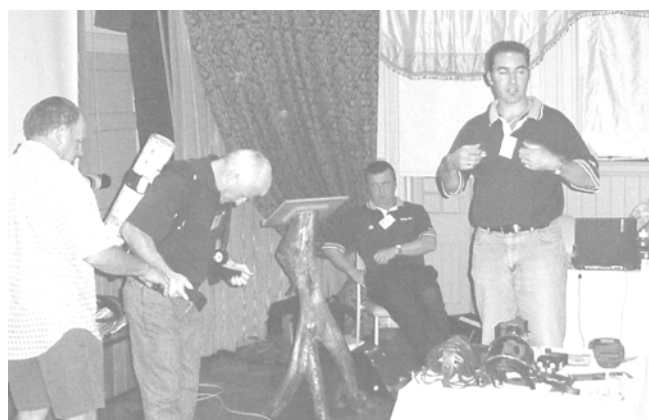
The weekend commenced with lunch on the Saturday. Lori Shortreed from Merck Pty. Ltd. was the first presenter for the day giving a presentation on the Merck range of products.



Lori Shortreed from Merck Pty. Ltd.

One of these products was their new portable turbidity meter. This is featured in the 'New Products' section. To Lori and Merck thank you again for Merck's contribution to the weekend.

Next up for the day was Drager Australia Pty. Ltd. which lead us in to Who is that person featured on page 1 and what was he up to? A feature of Drager's presentation was a hands-on demonstration of some of their products. The man in the mask was Neil Healey from Goulburn Valley Water 'modelling' the latest in BA masks. As seen below Neil ably assists Michael O'Callagan from Norske Skog Albury.



Neil & Michael with George Opasinis and Glen Schulz from Drager Australia Pty. Ltd.



Pre-dinner drinks Saturday evening

At the end of the day and prior to pre-dinner drinks the Special Meeting of the Association was held which has been reported on in the 'Secretary's Scrawl'.



Russell Mack Gippsland Water hamming it up with Peter Waddell East Gippsland Water at the seminar dinner

The Weekend Seminar dinner was an exceptional event as was the 'networking' that continued well into the evening or was it early Sunday morning?



Sunday morning concentration for the 'brain teaser'

Sunday morning after a hearty breakfast a bit of brain stimulation was had with the traditional 'brain teaser'. After this stimulation ITT Flygt Ltd. commenced their presentation and after a short sit-down presentation it was outside to be involved with a demonstration of their pump maintenance service.



Tony Taylor of ITT Flygt Ltd.

Tony and Barry Gains ITT Flygt Ltd. presentation was very well received and with the magnificent weather, the glare a bit hard to take for some, the outdoor presentation proved a winner.



Tony and Barry (ITT Flygt) outdoor presentation

Following afternoon tea the final presentation for the weekend was from Metaval Consolidated Pty Ltd presented by Andrew Garland and Glen Fazzino. Their presentation was entitled 'Solar Sludge Drying' a process used overseas and now being trialed in Queensland.



Metaval Consolidated Pty Ltd presentation

The process involves, in laymen's terms sludge being dried in 'hothouses'. By the questions asked a great deal of interest was shown in this process.



Andrew Garland (L) and Glen Fazzino of Metaval

For those members who attended the weekend there was a diversity of subjects and products covered and all presentations were well received with many questions being asked. These weekends give members a great opportunity to network with suppliers and fellow colleagues in the industry.



Saturday Dinner at the weekend

Once again I thank all the presentors for their excellent presentation, for their time on the weekend and for their continued support of the AWWOA.

Lori Shortreed - Merck Pty Ltd

***Glenn Fazzino and Andrew Garland
Metaval Consolidated Pty Ltd***

Tony Taylor and Barry Gains - ITT Flygt Ltd

***George Opasinis and Glen Schulz
Drager Australia Pty Ltd***



A further group of delegates at the Seminar Dinner

For those of you who didn't have the time (or energy) to venture further up the mountain to The Horn (1723m) you missed a strenuous walk but a magnificent view from this location. It was a fitting end to a great weekend.

Thank you to all those who attended.



Richard Greenough - Weekend Seminar Organiser

Stop Press

We have received some registration forms for a seminar to be staged by Qld. EPA entitled:

Leakage Reduction and Demand Management

Dates are:

Gold Coast	14/5
Rockhampton	16/5
Townsville	18/5
Albury/Wodonga	21/5
Sydney	23/5
Tamworth	25/5

If anyone is interested in attending this seminar please contact George Wall to get a copy of the registration form sent out.

New Products

Press Release

NEW Portable Turbidity Meter with 'benchtop' performance

The most advanced Portable turbidity meter on the market is now available from Merck Pty. Limited for the determination of turbidity in water and other liquids, in the field or mobile laboratory.

The *Turbiquant 1000* completes the range of Turbidity meters complementing the high resolution 3000 and benchtop 1500 series already available.



The *Turbiquant 1000* Portable Meter has an IR LED light source and is fully compliant to ISO 7027 (Water Quality-Determination of turbidity). Calibration is a breeze, with four ready-to-use secondary standards supplied. Approximately 1000 readings can be obtained from four standard AAA batteries.

The most significant benefits however are the superior resolution and wide measuring range unavailable in any portable turbidity meters on the market. The *Turbiquant 1000* measures from 0.01 to 1100 NTU with a resolution of 0.01 NTU – At least Ten times better than any other portable !

The *Turbiquant 1000* Turbidimeter combines the convenience of a portable, with the specifications of a benchtop, for a very 'portable' price !

For more information contact Phil Edwards at Merck Pty. Limited, 207 Colchester Rd, Kilsyth, VIC, 3137.
Tel: (toll free) - 1800 335 571. Email: philip@merck.com.au

Around the Traps

As mentioned in the Editorial 'Operator' was scheduled to come out in April but like many of us workers in the Water Industry weekend 'on call' responsibilities disrupt plans that we may put in place. My position with Barwon Water as Coordinator Headworks, in a nutshell involves the coordination of the operation and maintenance of all headwork facilities that being all asset upstream from water treatment facilities. These facilities include channels, pipelines, storage basins, reservoirs and a wellfield and associated treatment plant.

On the weekend of April 21 and 22 on the Saturday I ventured to Apollo Bay to catch up with one of Barwon Water's Headworks personnel who was manning the temporary pump installed to boost Apollo Bay's water supply. On this day the seas along the coast from my home at Jan Juc to Apollo Bay were white and monstrous, an easterly was blowing and it was raining. Tradition has it that if rain comes in from the east in the Otway catchment it can continue for days. After leaving Apollo Bay I traveled inland over the Otway ridge (Mt Sabine) to the West Barwon reservoir at Forrest and then home, the rain continued as it did all evening.

On the Sunday morning I telephoned a series of rain gauges along the Otway ridge at Mt Sabine, Mt Cowley, Benwarren and Boonah. The easterly rain had kept to its tradition with the rainfall figure for Mt Sabine being 267mm for the previous 24 hours (over 10 inches for you non metric people). Mt Sabine is at the top end of the West Barwon reservoir catchment Geelong's major onstream reservoir (capacity 21000ML).

On the previous Friday morning scaffolding was erected on the Pennyroyal Creek syphon crossing. The syphon is one of many along the 55 km Wurdee Boluc Inlet Channel that conveys water to the Wurdee Boluc Reservoir from the West Barwon Reservoir and several stream diversions. The scaffolding was erected to give safe access to the mid-stream inspection opening. The pipe needed to be accessed to carry out internal repairs. Why in the 50's they constructed the crossings with IO's mid stream and not on one side of the stream still bewilfs me. Below is a photo of the syphon pipe crossing at low stream flow.



Headworks Operators Len Rochford (AWWOA member) and Fred Gardiner were to carry out these repairs on the Monday. What a difference 24 hours of rain makes, not only did the access road bridge disappear under water but so did the syphon pipes and the scaffolding (refer photo below).



Sunday was spent along with both Len and Fred inspecting channels, stream diversions and reservoirs. By 8 am Monday Mt Sabine had received 382 mm of rain in 48 hours (15 inches) raising the West Barwon reservoir by 7m (approx. 6000 ML). Runoff continued until Wednesday with the total gain being 9000 ML, a substantial boost to Geelong's water supply.

As can be seen from the above snippet AWWOA members come from all sections of the industry not just treatment plant 'operators'. So to all member out there encourage others in your organisation to become members, Reservoir Keepers, Headworks personnel, water and sewerage reticulation operation and maintenance personnel, the list goes on, we are all water industry 'operators'.

Past Barwon Water employee and current AWWOA committee person Leigh Strange who 'retired' recently is out of retirement and doing a stint with Portland Coast Water. The rumor has it that the list of works drawn up by 'she who must be obeyed' for around their Lorne residence encouraged Leigh back to the less hectic environment of an office.

Web Sites

If you are 'surfing' the net and find an interesting web site (water industry related) forward the address to us so that we can publish the address in 'Operator' to share with others.

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