



THE HYDROLOGICAL SOCIETY OF S.A.

Water Resources Branch

Box 1751, Adelaide, S.A. 5001

Newsletter No. 46

April 1984

1. Programme of meetings remaining for 1984

10th May - The impact of development on water quality in the Mt. Lofty Ranges watershed, by P. D. Harvey.

18th June - a joint meeting between the Geomechanics Group, Instn. of Engineers and H.S.S.A. - Case histories of groundwater investigations* (speakers to be announced later).

28th June - a joint meeting between Aust. I.M.M., G.S.A. and H.S.S.A. - the Kingston coal development (speakers to be announced).

30th August - Rehabilitation of irrigation areas, by Malcolm Gallasch.

26th October - The approach to water resources planning in South Australia (Joint I.E. Aust. and H.S.S.A. meeting).

These meetings will be held at the CHARLES HAWKER CONFERENCE CENTRE, WAITE INSTITUTE, at 6.30 p.m., following light refreshments, which will be available from about 5.30 p.m. onwards.

* This meeting will be held at I.E. Aust., 11 Bagot Street, North Adelaide, at 5.30 p.m. for a 6.15 p.m. start of the meeting.

2. Annual Subscription

The subscription for 1983/84 is \$5-00, unchanged from last year. Members who have not yet paid are requested please to pay the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. S. R. Barnett, C/- Department of Mines and Energy, P.O. Box 151, Eastwood, 5063.

3. Office bearers for 1983/84

The office bearers of your Society for the current year are:-

Chairman: Mr. D. Armstrong

Vice-Chairman: Mr. J. D. Waterhouse

Hon. Secretary: Mr. P. D. Harvey

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. S. R. Barnett

Committee members: Mr. J. Botting Dr. G. C. Dandy

Mr. S. D. Moore Mr. K. Potter

Dr. G. Schrale Mr. C. Wright

Mr. A. Close was also elected Committee member at the 1983 A.G.M., but has resigned because his work involves frequent attendance in Canberra, on secondment to the River Murray Commission.

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4. The proposed Institute of Freshwater Studies

Since the last Newsletter (July 1983) a rather significant development has occurred in the institutional arrangements (potential only!) for water research in Australia. It is the establishment by the Commonwealth Government of the Interim Council of an Institute of Freshwater Studies, announced by the Minister for Resources and Energy, Senator Peter Walsh on 6th November, 1983.

The members of the Interim Council are:-

Professor J.P. Quirk, Director of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute, University of Adelaide, Chairman of the Council.

Professor N.F. Millis, Professor of Microbiology, University of Melbourne.

Dr. R.J. Millington, Chief of CSIRO Division of Water and Land Resources.

Mr. B.D. Scarsbrick, New South Wales Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Regional Director for the Murray and Riverina Region.

Mr. K.J. Shepherd, Director of Water Resources, Ministry of Water Resources and Water Supply, Victoria.

Dr. D.W. Connell, Reader in Environmental Chemistry, Griffith University.

Dr. B.R. Davidson, Senior Lecturer in Agricultural Economics, University of Sydney.

Included in the Interim Council's terms of reference are:

- To advise whether an Institute of Freshwater Studies should be established;
- If establishment is recommended, to advise on the functions and modus operandi of the Institute.

The Interim Council has concluded its interviews with those who were called to make submissions to it, and it is believed that it will present its report to the Minister about July, 1984.

Members of the Society who wish to gain further information about this development could approach the Editor of this Newsletter, or Mr. J. C. Killoch (E.W.S.D.), or Mr. M. Till (Department of Agriculture) for additional details.

5. Forthcoming conferences and symposia

- A. The International Symposium on hydrochemical balances of fresh-water systems is to be convened in Stockholm and Uppsala, Sweden from 10 to 14 September, 1984. Its sponsors are the Swedish Natural Science Research Council, UNESCO, and the International Association of Hydrological Sciences. Further information is available from Dr. Malin Falkenmark, P.O. Box 6711, 11385 Stockholm, Sweden.
- B. The International Symposium on challenges in African hydrology and water resources is to be convened in Harare, Zimbabwe from 23 to 27 July, 1984. Its sponsors are the Ministry of Water Resources and Development, Zimbabwe, UNEP, UNESCO, WMO, IAH and IAHS. Further information is available from Zimbabwe Conference Board, P.O. Box A585, Avondale, Harare, Zimbabwe.

- C. The 12th Biennial International Conference on water pollution is to be held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands from 17 to 20 September, 1984 (IAWPRC).
- D. The 5th World Congress on Water Resources - Applications of water technology to rural areas and their communities is to be held in Brussels, Belgium from 9 to 15 June, 1985. (International Water Resources Association).
6. Water news gleaned from here and there
- A. A 100,000 tonne tanker, formerly used for oil, is now delivering 83,000 t of fresh water every $5\frac{1}{2}$ days to Tarragona, Spain. The ship can be charged in 30 hours, the source of the water is Lavéra, on the south coast of France, and the turn-around time seems to make the operation marginally economic. Actually it has to be, because the report stated that the winter rains have failed in Mediterranean Spain for three years in a row (Oct. 1983).
- B. The inaugural meeting of the British Hydrological Society (BHS) was held in London, on 1 November, 1983. The Society issued its first newsletter, entitled "Circulation" in February, in which some of the details concerning its formation are described. The Society is stated to be associated with both the Institution of Civil Engineers and the Institute of Hydrology, reflecting the applied and scientific aspects of hydrology.
- The inaugural chairman is Mr. M. Mansell-Moullin. The Hon. Secretary is Dr. M. J. Hall, 21 Pamela Gardens, Eastcote, Pinner, Middlesex, HA5 2QU.
- C. The Paraná River, South America, forms the frontier first between Brazil and Paraguay and then between Argentina and Paraguay before entering the River Plate estuary. Brazil and Argentina negotiated a resources treaty in 1979, under the terms of which the Brazilians guarantee a minimum flow of $5,000 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$ at the point of entry into Argentina. It is such a large river (the seventh largest in the world) that the R. Murray's discharge of $50 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$ as the minimum entitlement to South Australia seems rather paltry. That is the best that our continent can provide, so we can either quarrel over it or allocate it by wise and cordial negotiation.

J. W. Holmes
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