

PRELIMINARY NOTICE

The Hydrological Society of South Australia Inc.
in association with
The Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation,
The Department of Environment and Heritage
and
The Catchment Water Management Boards

Present:

The Science of Environmental Water Requirements in SA

a Seminar to be held on
Tuesday 24 September 2002

The seminar aims to review the state of scientific knowledge and methods currently being used in South Australia to assess environmental water requirements; and to set directions for the development of the science underlying assessment and decision making regarding water for the environment.

Program: There will be an exciting program involving a range of local and interstate speakers and some workshops sessions to allow participants to share their knowledge and help shape the direction for this new field of science.

Speakers include:

- Associate Professor Keith Walker – University of Adelaide
- Dr Rick Evans – SKM
- Dr Chris Gippel - Fluvial Systems Pty Ltd
- Dr Sandra Brizga - Sandra Brizga and Associates.
- Dr Peter Cook – CSIRO

Who Should Participate? Those with an interest in the science of environmental water assessments including: Catchment Water Management Board technical staff, Local Government Environment Officers, Agency water and environmental managers, scientists, academics, consultants, students and community representatives.

Cost: (includes refreshments & lunch) \$50.00. (\$35.00 Unemployed/Pens/Student)

**REGISTRATION BROCHURE WILL BE AVAILABLE
VIA EMAIL BY 9 AUGUST 2002**

Further information:

Barry Johnson barryjoh@adam.com.au or Phone 08 8297 5697

Michael Good Good.Michael@saugov.sa.gov.au or Phone 08 8463 6939

Ian Laing Prize

HydSoc presents the Ian Laing Prize each year to a final year or honours level student in water related studies. The prize of \$500 is awarded on the basis of overall academic record, performance in the field of water studies and demonstrated interest in water studies.

Applications for this year's prize were received by December 2001, and the prize was subsequently awarded to Sally Roberts, studying in Biological Sciences at Flinders University of South Australia. Sally presented the results of her research at the HydSoc's technical meeting in June.

Sally has conducted research into the effects of water regime on recruitment from the soil seed/bud bank of a peat swamp in Mount Compass. An abstract of her winning research project follows.

Peat swamps of the Mount Compass region have been created by groundwater that reaches the surface and forms permanently waterlogged areas, and that are supplemented by winter rainfall. However, due to past land management practices, such as burning, slashing, heavy grazing and draining, these swamps have been degraded and reduced in size and now exist as isolated habitats. On-going land use, including draining swamps to make that land available for grazing and use of groundwater for irrigation, poses a threat to the survival of swamps that still remain on the Fleurieu Peninsula. Swamps are important for maintaining clean water supplies as they filter water, which results in cleaner water downstream. They are also home to a considerable diversity of rare and threatened species.

Research has been conducted into the effects of water regime on the recruitment of swamp plants from the soil seed/bud bank. Soils samples were extracted from within 8 different vegetation patch types to which various hydrologic treatments have been applied in a Glasshouse. Obvious trends have emerged from the experiments that point to the unique water requirements of individual plant species, which have implications for management of these threatened habitats.

The outcomes of this study will be submitted to the Conservation Council of South Australia's management planning for swamps of the Fleurieu Peninsula in aiming towards sustainable management of these valuable areas.

STOP PRESS!!!

Applications for the 2003 Ian Laing Prize are now invited.

Application Forms and further information are available from:

Mr K Schalk : Ph 8273 3100 (Wk hrs)
Email ken.schalk@tonkin.com.au

Applications Close: 30th October, 2002

The Hydrological Society's ABN - Bill Lipp.

Some of you may have noticed that the Hydrological Society now has an Australian Business Number (ABN 50 758 059 950) and wondered why.

The issuing of ABNs has been linked in the public mind with the GST. However, bodies are only required to register for the GST if their turnover exceeds \$50,000 for profit making bodies and \$100,000 for non-profit making ones. As the Society's turnover is well below the threshold amount, the Executive Committee took the decision not to register for the GST.

While this makes my life, as Treasurer, somewhat simpler and means that you are not paying GST on your subscriptions, it also means that the Society has to bear the cost of any GST it pays to suppliers etc. So just like individuals, the cost of day to day operations of the Society have increased.

However another part of the tax reform package is the 48.5% withholding tax. This is the amount that is supposed to be deducted from the payment for taxable supplies (eg subscriptions, seminar fees etc) if the supplier doesn't have an ABN or doesn't have a valid reason for not having an ABN. The deducted amount is to be paid to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). In order to avoid this prospect I thought it prudent to look at registering for an ABN.

On reading the requirements to be registered for an ABN, my initial impression was that the Society was not eligible, as we were not carrying on an "enterprise". This did not unduly concern me, as it appeared that we should have been adequately covered via a statement on a subscription notice or seminar brochure etc not to withhold the 48.5% withholding tax, as we were a non-profit making body. There also appeared to be a fallback mechanism (filling out a declaration etc) to anybody who required additional documentation.

My attention was then drawn to the ATO booklet ClubPack. On scanning through a copy on the Internet, I was surprised to find that the Hydrological Society, in the eyes of the law, appeared to be a charity as opposed to merely being a club. To quote, "*a charity is an entity established for altruistic purposes that the law regards as charitable*". ClubPack further advised that most scientific based societies are charities and that I should consult another ATO publication, CharityPack.

CharityPack confirmed the Society's standing as a charity with the following words. *Non-profit entities that operate for the public benefit by advancing science are charities*. So for taxation purposes the Society is a charity.

CharityPack further advised that charities are not automatically exempt from income tax, unlike clubs, where if some basic rules (such as being non-profit and based in Australia) are fulfilled, are automatically exempt from income tax. Being a charity, to avoid paying income tax, the Society had to apply to be income tax exempt charity and to apply to be income tax exempt, the Society had to have an ABN!

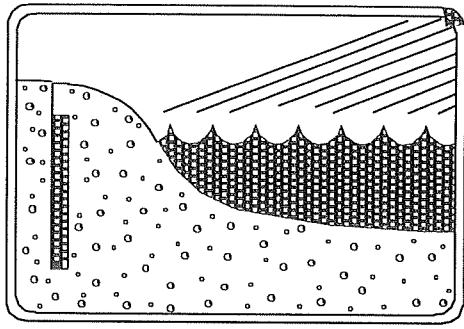
So back to the ABN registration form to apply for an ABN. CharityPack also had some useful advice on the meaning of the term "enterprise", as required on the form (and you were only given 76 spaces to describe it).

After a quick consultation of the constitution and some playing with words, I settled on the following as the "enterprise" of the Society - I hope you agree.

Advancing the state of knowledge in hydrology and water resource management

Needless to say, the ATO accepted this and an ABN was provided. Using the ABN, application was then made for income tax exempt status, which was then granted.

So on the surface we have no further need for the ABN. However now that we have it, it will ensure that we avoid any problems with the 48.5% withholding tax. But no doubt, now that we are registered in the system, "big brother" will be watching to ensure that we don't step out of line in the future.



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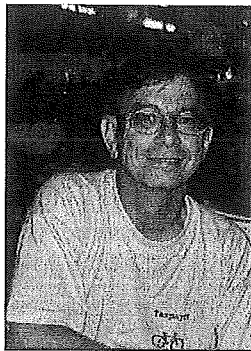
August 02

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Webpage: <http://www.civeng.adelaide.edu.au/HYDSOC/>

Newsletter of the Hydrological Society of South Australia



Whither HYDSOC?

HYDSOC is a community professional organisation founded over 30 years ago in the heyday of community activism. It seems that since then, changes in the workplace and emphasis on efficiency as viewed solely from an employer viewpoint have made individual contributions to societal good increasingly difficult. An example of this is the lack of volunteers at last years' AGM for positions on the committee. Many like-minded organisations are increasingly hiring paid staff, with commensurate increase in fees. HYDSOC annual membership fee remains at \$10, compared to \$100-\$400 for other national water and engineering organisations, with about 200 members.

Consequently the HYDSOC committee is reviewing its operation. Steps have been taken to synergise with similar water-related organisations, reduce overlap and increase exposure for its activities. Over twenty non-government societies involved in water have been identified in Adelaide. HYDSOC is seeking national and some international links. The committee is developing policies, with which it can make informed comment on topical issues such as data collection and the Catchment Management Subsidy Scheme (CMSS), once approved by the membership.

Meanwhile, traditional activities of the organisation continue. An active subcommittee has organised a seminar *Water for the Environment for 24 September 2002*, with wide ranging sponsorship. The Ian Laing Prize, in memory of a noted South Australian engineer who died prematurely, continues to be awarded, and supports young professionals in the pursuit of water studies. Regular technical meetings continue, many in conjunction with other organisations, offering the possibility of learning beyond one's narrow knowledge base.

Your opportunity to be part of the changes in HYDSOC will present itself at the **October AGM (Date to be confirmed)**.

I would like to thank the committee from last year and supportive organisations for their sterling efforts, particularly:

Chris Purton of Tonkin Consulting who stood down after more than a decade as secretary carrying out the task in a fastidious and well organised manner;

Bill Lipp who continues as Treasurer and without whom the finances and membership numbers would not be the envy of many;

Tonkin Consulting who provide free meeting space at their office and over many years a member to the committee; and

SARDI who provide free meeting space for the technical meetings at Urrbrae.

Bart van der Wel