

Acoustic Feedback



Introduction

Well, as we seem to have trouble getting out issues of the Acoustic Feedback, the committee members made a decision to shorten it to this format, rather than the booklet style used previously, hopefully meaning that we will keep you informed more often. One of the problems with the Acoustic Feedback was limited input from members, with the first issue basically being written by Lynton Storer and myself. This means I can get things off my chest but I'm sure presents a one-sided view. So, we would sincerely welcome any input from members, which is probably most easily done via email (terry@lloydacoustics.com.au). Let us know about interesting projects you've been involved in, research you are undertaking etc. If you would really like to share it, we can make it into a 'Technical Meeting', which is a basically just a gathering of people in the field of acoustics or others just interested, so we can share our research and ideas. The other problem is time in putting these things together. We all of course are busy doing are normal jobs so it is sometimes difficult to find the time. A special thanks to Kaye Bell from Herring Storer Acoustics in helping me put this one together and also Alec Duncan and Terry McMinn for providing articles.

This issue contains notification of a Technical meeting, a summary of the Acoustics 2004 Conference held on the Gold Coast, a summary of the Federal meeting and some preliminary information regarding the Acoustics 2005 Conference, to be held in Western Australia.

On another issue, in the last few years, Western Australia has had very few new members. Feel free to pass the information you receive on to others who you feel are interested. Encourage them to join the society, the forms are available on the website (www.acoustics.asn.au). The forms are a bit ominous and we believe one of the main reasons new memberships are low, so the committee is working on producing an example form that people can then modify to suit their particular experience.

Terry George

Technical Meeting

The Western Australian Division of the AAS will be holding a technical meeting at 6:00pm on Thursday 2nd December. The speaker will be Jacqueline Giles from the School of Environmental Science, Murdoch University, who has been doing some fascinating work recording the underwater sounds in freshwater lakes. You will find a brief description of her talk below. The talk will be followed by pizza and refreshments. Non-members are also welcome.

The meeting will be held in the Physics seminar room at CURTIN University. This is room 147, Building 301. Check your street directory for a map of the campus or visit http://www.properties.curtin.edu.au/your_campus/maps/.

Park in carpark 18, which is just behind the bus station but only accessible from the campus ring-road (Brand Dve). Parking is free after 5pm. Follow the path westward past Building 311 and enter Building 301 through the door in its eastern end. This brings you in on Level 1

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and the seminar room is at the far end of the corridor on the left hand side. If you are interested, could you just send Terry or Alec an email so we can get a handle on numbers.

For further information contact Alec Duncan on 9266 3569 (W) or
a.duncan@cmst.curtin.edu.au

FRESHWATER MUSICIANS: THE ARIAS AND THE HALLELUJAH CHORUSES: The sound field in three clear-water wetland systems

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A series of underwater, ambient sound recordings were made in three freshwater, clear-water systems –Blue Gum Lake, Glen Brook Dam and Lake Leschenaultia. These wetlands differed in terms of their location, buffers, nutrient enrichment, water depth and complexity within the habitat. The frequencies utilised by the invertebrate organisms ranged from 3kHz to 13.5 kHz. Blue Gum, the most enriched of the three wetlands with greatest diversity and abundance of invertebrates, had chorusing at dusk and midnight. Calls were mostly percussive but one complex call was heard, which was interesting because of its bird-like song quality.

For the first time, underwater vocalisations have been recorded for the Oblong Turtles (*Chelodina oblonga*), which are the long-necked turtles inhabiting these wetland systems. Underwater vocalisations have never been recorded for any freshwater turtles before. The Oblong Turtles use an extensive repertoire of percussive and complex sounds, ranging from 200 Hz up to around 2 kHz with sounds including ‘chirps’, ‘lion growls’, ‘squawks’ and ‘clicks’. Of special interest, was the recording of a 9 minute ‘song’ by a male turtle.

Australian Acoustics Society Conference & Federal Council Meetings

Location: Gold Coast

Dates: November 2-5, 2004

The conference was possibly the largest national conference staged by the Australian Acoustics Society. (There have been larger, but they were international conferences.) There were over 200 delegates and 109 papers arranged in five parallel streams.

As is normal practice, the Society arranges to have two council meetings and the AGM at the conference. The first council meeting takes place before the conference and usually takes a full day. The second meeting is normally held on the last day of the conference and takes usually about 2-3 hours, 2004

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was no exception.

Of council matters, particular interest to Western Australia is the 2005 National Conference. In 2005, the WA Division is hosting the conference at Busselton November 10-11, 2005. I was re-elected in the two council positions of Federal Registrar and Web-Manager.

The conference is always stimulating as it is a mixture of many of the diverse areas of acoustics and included a trade and equipment display. The mixture included many papers from the underwater acoustics field, vibration, rail and transportation noise as well as building acoustics.

Of particular relevance to WA, was confirmation that WA will be adopting the National provisions of the BCA on acoustics in 2005 having opted out in 2004. This will leave only Queensland, Northern Territory and possibly Canberra outside the National accepted regulations. There was much discussion on the BCA acoustics provisions, specifically the impact noise measurement for floors and the 'Deemed to Satisfy' constructions performance levels. From discussions with the ABCB representative after the workshop, it appears that the performances of many of the constructions were based on commercially sensitive tests. The actual performance data is not available through the ABCB. This has potential for many problems as the code allows an equivalence evaluation to be made between alternative constructions and the 'Deemed to Comply' constructions. The BCA workshop did not resolve the performance issue and I expect that Renzo Tonin will be pursuing and Peter Knowland defending the 'Deemed to Satisfy' constructions performances over the coming year.

Much can be gained from attending these conferences, though to achieve significant gains one needs to be a regular at the conference to enable developing friendships and networks. The networking itself can often be more valuable than the papers.

Terry McMinn

Acoustics 2005 Conference

From the 9-11 of November next year, the Western Australian Division of the Australian Acoustical Society will be hosting the national conference. It will be at Abbey Beach Resort in Busselton and is titled *Acoustics in a Changing Environment*. This theme can be interpreted in many different ways and all speakers will be welcomed. You will receive a brochure with the next edition of *Acoustics Australia*. In the meantime, you can let us know if you would be interested in volunteering to help organise the event and also start thinking about if you would like to present a paper. There is no need to think about if you will be going as, of course you will, it's an excuse to go down south.

Terry George

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2004 – 2005 Committee Members

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