

# Chairpersons Report

## 2004 - 2005

This report is presented for consideration at the NSW Division Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2005. I am pleased to report on our activities since the 2004 Annual General Meeting.

### **DIVISION COMMITTEE**

The Divisional Committee (10 person) has changed significantly this year. Ken Mikl retired due to ill health and his absence is keenly felt by the Committee. Ken Scannell unfortunately also found it necessary to retire and his enthusiasm is sorely missed (not that Neil is doing a bad job as his replacement).

The current NSW Divisional Committee is structured as follows:

Matthew Harrison	Chairman, Federal Councillor
Dave Anderson	Vice Chairman, ICA2010 Conference Organisation Committee Member
Chris Schulten	Treasure and Registrar
Neil Gross	Secretary Federal Councillor
Rodney Stevens	Technical Committee Co-ordinator
Donald Woolford	Minutes Secretary
Brian Marston	Membership
David Luck	Technical Committee
Tracy Gowen	Technical Committee
Marion Burgess	Chairman/Coordinator ICA2010 Conference Committee.

Thanks to all the old hands for their continued contribution and a warm welcome to the new members on the Committee. The major work of the committee during this year has been:

- Organising and running the technical program – a big thanks to Rodney Stevens who has done most of the work in organising these functions (if you don't like the food blame him!)
- Regular membership/administration issues

## Technical / Social Activities

There were once again seven technical presentations throughout the year. A summary of those are given below:

- Friday 10th December 2004  
**“Out of the frying pan - reflections on life on the other side of the fence”**  
– Dave Anderson (RailCorp)
- Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2005  
**The Assessment of Vibration in Buildings**  
– Ken Scannell
- Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2005  
**BarnOwl – Real Time Directional Noise Monitoring**  
– Rob Bullen (Wilkinson Murray)
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2005  
**BCA Acoustical Design of Residential Buildings “Is it working?”**  
– Louis Challis AM, Nick Tselios, Peter Knowland
- 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2005  
**Vibration from Underground Railways**  
– Dr Hugh Hunt (Cambridge University)
- 14<sup>th</sup> September 2005  
**Regulating Construction Noise from Major Projects**  
– James Goodwin (DEC)
- 28<sup>th</sup> September 2005 – Newcastle Presentation  
**Temperature Inversions and their Effect on Noise Propagation**  
– Roger Treagus (DEC)

Thanks to all who presented and helped organise these presentations. I believe that helping to provide interesting technical presentations and to facilitate social communion between members are the most important of the tasks we on the Committee do.

We are always looking for more topics for technical seminars and the names of people who could give a talk on an area of personal research or an interesting field of acoustics.

The consultants amongst us should think about giving a talk on their high profile projects and our academics on their particular area of research. You may be surprised at the how many people would be interested in learning about what you do!

## MEMBERSHIP

The NSW Division Membership has increased substantially by 31 (or 16%). The structure of our membership is as follows:

	June 2004	June 2005
Fellows	8	8
Members	140	150
Graduates	5	7
Associates	13	13
Subscribers	10	29
Students	12	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>219</b>

As at the 6<sup>th</sup> of October, 20 members remain un-financial. If you are one of these 20 please pay up so you can continue to reap the benefits of membership (the number of un-financial members has dropped from 31 from the same period last year)

If you know of someone who would benefit by attending our meetings, bring them along and let us work on them to join up.

## CHAIRMAN'S MUSINGS

I look forward to talking to you at the AGM and don't forget we will shortly be having our annual Christmas breakfast. I would encourage anyone who any ideas on how we can improve the Society and get more out of our membership, please come and talk to me about it.

The Society is first and foremost for the benefit of its membership. The objectives of the Society are (short version)to:

1. Promote the acoustics and facilitate the exchange of ideas
2. Increase confidence and trust in persons with qualifications in the field of acoustics and admit persons of adequate knowledge to the society
3. Promote honest practise, discourage malpractice and settle disputed points of practice
4. To promote education in acoustics for the public, and for technical or professional persons
5. To encourage the study of acoustics and highlight excellence
6. To publish material beneficial to the society
7. Encourage research in acoustics and publish new developments
8. Interact with other institutions, government authorities
9. Manage the assets of the Society
10. Promote the Society
11. Accept bequests and use them to benefit the objective of the Society
12. Do other things that advance the above objectives

It is the fourth point that particularly disturbs me at present. I recently heard that the Faculty of Engineering at the UNSW will cease their Masters degree course in noise and vibration at the end of the year because there is not enough interest in it. Currently there is only one student taking the subject "Advance Noise". This was arguably the most relevant course for budding acoustic consultants and will soon be lost to the profession. How do we as a Society attempt to pursue the fourth objective of promoting the education of acoustics, helping to ensure that we also meet the second objective of the society to *"Increase confidence and trust in persons with qualifications in the field of acoustics and admit persons of adequate knowledge to the society"*.

I am currently investigating the potential of establishing or adapting an existing course in Acoustics that provides knowledge in the areas of acoustics that is specifically relevant to the practice of general acoustic consultancy.

I welcome your thoughts or suggestions on how we might better promote the objectives of the society.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Harrison', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matthew Harrison  
Chairperson (NSW Division)  
Australian Acoustical Society