

Welcome to the

## **Society for Engineering in Agriculture Electronic Newsletter**

October 2003

### **FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

Hello. It has taken me a while to fit my new task of Acting Chairman into my routine but I am excited about the Society and the things we can do together. At the moment I am organising the AGM we are required by our constitution to have. The main business is the election of three national committee members so if you would like to nominate someone now is your chance. As far as I know the existing committee members whose time has expired are all eligible for re-election and all have indicated their willingness to do so.

It's also time to begin thinking about the next conference. We now have about 11 months until our next opportunity to chat face to face and share our successes and our problems. I find there is nothing that intrigues fellow diners as much as a difficulty being experienced by a colleague.

Our society spans most of the country and it can sometimes be difficult to make contact with like-minded people. The Society was created to bring together people with an interest in solving agricultural problems. So involve the Society in your work by sharing your problems and involve yourself in the Society by sharing your successes.

Richard - e-mail: [rjwill@inet.net.au](mailto:rjwill@inet.net.au)

### **THE CIGR NEWSLETTER**

Newsletter from the International Commission of Agricultural Engineering (CIGR)  
<http://www.cigr.org/newslett/nl64.htm>

### **IRRIGATION ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA, DARLING DOWNS BRANCH DINNER**

You may take this as a reminder or an invitation to the 2003 Annual Dinner.

It will be held at the Burke and Wills here in town With Guest Speakers  
Chris Thompson, Serve-Ag and Matthew Durack, CEO, CRC for Irrigation Futures.

Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2003

At the Mercure Burke and Wills, 554 Ruthven St, Toowoomba  
6:30 pm for 7:00 pm

Tickets \$45 per person - University Students \$25

RSVP by Friday October 24

NCEA(Tanya) on 4631 1871 or David Wigginton on 0408 703 783

Ticket Price Includes: 3 courses, wine on table, happy price drinks and entertainment. Pay at the door, sorry no card facilities. Accommodation packages available.

## UPDATING RECORDS

Please advise Scott Barber <[Scott.Barber@dipnr.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Scott.Barber@dipnr.nsw.gov.au)> (the membership secretary) if any of your contact details have changed (or are about to!) so he can maintain an up to date contact list.

## SEAg WEBSITE

The Newsletters will soon be archived on the [Society web site](#) for access from other than your standard machine, this will also mean you do not have to store this vital information on your own hard drive/file server.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### TILLAGE

Primary Sales Australia (<http://www.primarysales.com.au/>) are interested in employing an Agricultural Engineer to undertake tillage design work. Robin Smith (graduated in 2001) is currently employed with them but is intending to head overseas for a while. The Managing Director (Ray Moyle) is so impressed with Rob's work that he wants another Ag Eng person (either new graduate or an experienced professional) to take over the role as soon as possible. Would prefer someone with a farming background but not essential. For more information give Ray Moyle a ring on ph 08 9250 3500

### WATER USE EFFICIENCY

<http://www.jobs.tas.gov.au/> The project focuses on measuring existing Water Use Efficiency and then developing training to achieve improvements at the farm level.

## ABC SCIENCE MEDIA FELLOWSHIPS

The ABC is offering three Science Media Fellowships in 2004 for practising scientists and engineers with several years experience in their fields.

The six-week, full-time fellowships, based at ABC Sydney, will commence on March 15, 2004. You will undergo a science media course and then work with ABC science radio, television and online production teams. For details, visit <http://www.abc.net.au/science/fellows>

## TRIP TO BOURKE

The NSW Branch Society For Engineering In Agriculture plan is to travel out on Friday, 7th November for an early start on the technical tours on Saturday morning. Saturday night will see us farewell Roger Lund in style with a dinner cruise on the Jandra Paddle boat along the Darling River. Roger Lund has provided many years of service to the SEAg and is retiring from NSW Agriculture to head off to Tanzania. Roger will still be a member of SEAg, but this will be an opportunity to thank him for his decades of service.

We may squeeze in a few more technical tours or see the sights in and around Bourke on Sunday morning and we will make our way home in the afternoon.

Depending on the number of responses I receive I will organise a bus or alternatively we may car pool. Peter Kelly is organising the agenda for the tours and will also provide advice on the

accommodation options when I have an indication of numbers. Family members are welcome to join us.

Please respond ASAP indicating your interest in attending, whether you are prepared to drive if needed and how many others you could fit into your vehicle and your accommodation requirements. Email: [helen.fairweather@agric.nsw.gov.au](mailto:helen.fairweather@agric.nsw.gov.au) or phone 6881 1211 or 0412 265 962

Highlights of the technical visits will include a tour of the Back O' Bourke fruits irrigation system. This system is fully PLC controlled from the river pumps to the irrigation valves, all networked through optical fibre and radio links. We will also be able to view the latest technology in fruit grading, which includes the first bin-to-bin citrus sorting facility in Australia that has the ability to sort on size, weight, colour, shape and amount of blemish. A 3 row tracked vine sprayer, built from an armoured personnel carrier with a fully electric drive is another feature we will be able to look at closely and a tour of the Jojoba plantation; On this tour the fully electric driven & PLC controlled harvesting and cleaning equipment designed and developed in Bourke will be demonstrated.

## JOINING SEAG

For membership of the only professional body dedicated to the application of scientific knowledge to agriculture through engineering principles.

<http://www.ncea.org.au/seag/join.htm>

We now have a Membership Secretary, Scott Barber. If your email address is about to change, send a brief message to:

<mailto:sbarber@dlwc.nsw.gov.au>

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SEAG ENEWS

All contributions welcome.

- It doesn't have to be Nobel Prize material, just current
- <mailto:paul.harris@adelaide.edu.au>

## RECEIVING THE SEAG ENEWS

If you do not have email access (i.e. you have received this Newsletter by other means), send your alternative contact details to:

Mr. Paul Harris

Faculty of Sciences

The University of Adelaide, Roseworthy Campus, AUSTRALIA 5371

Ph : +61 8 8303 7880

Fax : +61 8 8303 7979

If you prefer not to receive this message, [reply](#) with the subject line as "REMOVE" and you will be rubbed out.