



# FLUID TALK

The Official Newsletter of the  
Fluid Power Society of Western Australia Inc.

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## OK Evening at K-One Fluid Power

About 20 members of the FPS of WA attended the official opening of the Welshpool facility of K-ONE Fluid Power on Wednesday September 25th.

The evening commenced with Steve Cardew and Jerry Warren, from Kawasaki Precision Machinery in the UK, providing an overview of the Kawasaki product range, which now includes the well-known Staffa radial piston motors. Additionally, a recent history of the Staffa motor's various owners was given and it was pleasing to see that, despite various ownership changes, the core people had stayed on and maintained the tradition of Staffa quality.

Following the expose of the Kawasaki product range, Dave Hepburn, manager of K-ONE Fluid Power, invited everyone to enjoy some good quality liquid refreshments backed up by an extensive spread of food. A most pleasant evening was had by everyone finding out about a product range to which many had not been previously exposed - with the exception of the Staffa motors, of course! - and enjoying the hospitality of the newest Western Australian Fluid Power company.

**The Fluid Power Society of WA thanks Peter Hondema, of Hycon fame and the owner of K-ONE Fluid Power, Dave Hepburn and his staff for a very interesting and enjoyable evening.**

## Tyco Motion & Control

Tyco Motion and Control has strengthened their position within the Fluid Power Industry. Through the acquisition of Fluid Power companies, Pressure Dynamics, John Honey and Cram Fluid Power, Tyco Motion & Control can provide a wide-range of services to a diverse industry base. They are able to serve the Oil and Gas, Mining, Manufacturing, Processing, Materials Handling, Transport, Shipbuilding, Agriculture and Construction industries. Tyco Motion & Control offers an extensive inventory of hydraulic products, pneumatics and comprehensive test facilities, making the company a leading force within the Australasian Fluid Power Market.

Tyco Motion and Control has a number of systems in place, such as, a Quality System Certified to ISO9001 and Occupational Health and Safety Systems. These management systems, operating in conjunction with comprehensive testing facilities, combine to serve the industry well. The comprehensive range of expertise and services offered, together with strategically located branches, will enable Tyco Motion & Control to service the Australian and New Zealand market to its' maximum potential.

**Wishing all Fluid Power Members a Merry Christmas  
and a Safe and Prosperous New Year**





## Presidents' Prologue

By Tim Bailey

Where has this year gone? It seems as though last Christmas was only a few months ago but here we are at the end of 2002 so this will be the last newsletter for the year.

Since reporting to you in our last newsletter, the Society has arranged a number of the events for you, of which, one had to be cancelled due to low attendance. The cancelled function was a works visit to TranSeals, to see how they make seals and vee belts, and it seemed that the timing was bad because it occurred during the school holidays. We will probably rearrange this function for February 2003 so keep an eye on your mailbox and don't miss out on sampling TranSeals' hospitality and having an interesting evening.

The other very successful events, enjoyed by the membership, were the golf day, the opening of K-ONE Fluid Power and the Christmas cruise. As usual Phil Bristow-Stagg and Stuart Coleman/Leeza Wray did a superb job of organising a great day and our sincere thanks go to them and to the companies who supported the event with sponsorship. A list of the companies appears elsewhere in this newsletter - please take the time to read the list and find out who the people are that are prepared to dig into their pockets, in these tight times, and help us run this annual event.

We had a good turnout for the official opening of K-ONE Fluid Power, which was an interesting and enjoyable evening as reported elsewhere in this newsletter.

Your committee opted for a different form of Christmas get-together this year, to add a bit of variety to the social life of the Society, and organised an evening on board the paddle steamer 'Decoy' (which really is driven by paddles and a genuine reciprocating steam engine). We had an excellent turn-up for the evening and it was obvious that everybody enjoyed themselves as you will read elsewhere in this newsletter.

No events have been organised for December or January, as most people are too busy before Christmas and on holidays after Christmas! However, as mentioned, we will have an event in February and we are progressing towards having a 'mini' Fluid Power Expo in March.

The last two president's messages have contained statements indicating our concerns with happenings in the areas of the Metals Consortium, Mersitab (Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Industry Training Advisory Body Ltd.) and training in general. I regret to report to you that the situation remains much the same with the Society not having received any information to indicate that sufficient funding is being made available to support the levels of trade and tertiary education and training, which the Society considers necessary for the successful long-term future of the industry.

Furthermore, we understand that considerable changes are taking place in the arrangement and structure of TAFE colleges and the question has to be raised as to the cost of these changes drawing badly needed funds away from the 'coalface' of lecturers directly teaching students. We sincerely hope that the current events, in this area, are not just another round of change for the sake of change.

Regrettably, whilst all of this is going on, it appears that young people are not being offered sufficient information and incentive to consider a career in the Fluid Power Industry as the number of young people entering the industry is not sufficient to replace those who are leaving or retiring as well as cover a satisfactory level of industry growth.

Of course, it is not just the bureaucrats and government who must accept responsibility for the current state of affairs, but also industry itself. It is a well-known fact that governments react to voting patterns and it is up to the Fluid Power industry to make its feelings felt to the government. To this end, your committee is in the process of arranging a meeting with Dan Sullivan, MLA, shadow minister for small business, to directly express our concerns about the current state of affairs.

On behalf of your committee, it is my pleasure to wish all our members and their families a joyous Christmas, a very happy new year and may 2003 be the best year yet for everyone!

With best wishes..... Tim Bailey

## Events Calendar

**Wednesday 5th February 2003**  
**General Committee Meeting**  
AMTC Wembley

Committee Members meet for Monthly  
General Committee Meeting.





## Christmas Aboard the Decoy

By Margaret Byrne

The recent Christmas party on the paddle steamer Decoy was a resounding success for the Fluid Power Society. The night was held on December 7<sup>th</sup> and attended by over sixty people, comprising of members, family and friends.

Everyone boarded the Decoy from 7pm and cast off was a little after 7.30. Highlights were abundant throughout the evening; members of the society could be seen at any time throughout the evening drooling over the paddle steamers old but remarkably well-kept engine. This I can confirm, as I checked on several occasions to see how many were there at any one time. Some of the members perused the engine more than once and commented on the excellent quality and craftsmanship.



*Fluid Power Sampling Squad*



*Almost All of the Fletcher Clan*

A couple of the party revelers received certificates after sounding the Decoy's horn (a great way to let off steam). Sue Hollier from Prime Hydraulic Power received the certificate for the longest pull. The local fishermen may not have caught any fish that evening as the noise would have disturbed all the fish and frighten them away.

The Gumnut Stompers Jazz Band was a huge success on the evening. With their happy go lucky natures and interaction with the guests on board, the night was full of music. The band went from table to table asking for requests and all were pleasantly surprised went it came to the Coleman table. The table requested

Fever, originally sung by Peggy Lee, and the band, along with Michelle Kenworthy, did a great rendition. The Gumnut Stompers, accompanied by Michelle continued singing requests throughout the evening. Michelle was a delightful surprise for the band who enjoyed her participation as much as the guests on board.



*El President and the First Lady*



*An Engineer Told Me.....*

# Fluid Power Society Annual Golf Day

By Phil Bristow-Stagg

On Sunday 8 September 2002 the golfing Gods smiled on all the aspiring FPS golfers. The day was perfect for the annual event and the consensus among the competitors was that the warm sunny weather made ideal conditions for all aspiring golfers, a marked improvement on last years swim through.

The dual tee off system was again implemented from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> tee's, which allowed a compact finish for the 28 players.

After a crueiling day of golf everyone adjourned to the 19<sup>th</sup> hole, Golfview Tavern, for liquid refreshments and an excellent BBQ provided by mine host Steve Spanbrook. Next years Golf Day will be held on Sunday 14 September 2003, so make a note in your diary.

The FPS committee and members sincerely thank all the sponsors; for without them the golf day would not be possible. We would like to acknowledge the following sponsors.

- |                                  |                                 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Afkos Industries                 | Kempe Fluidair                  |
| Alfa Engineering                 | K-One Fluid Power               |
| Brevini Australia                | Mining And Hydraulic Supplies   |
| Cross Hydraulics                 | Norgren                         |
| Denison Hydraulics               | Olaer-Fawcett Christie          |
| Eaton Fluid Power                | Parker Hannifin (Aust)          |
| Festo                            | Prime Hydraulic Power           |
| Gerrard Hydraulics               | Rexroth Bosch Group             |
| Hagglunds Drives                 | Sauer-Danfoss                   |
| Hycon Hydraulic Systems          | Simon Hydraulics And Pneumatics |
| Hydair Drives                    | The Greek Taverna Restaurant    |
| Hydraulic Contracting And Supply | Transeals                       |
| Hydraulic Manifolds Australia    | Tyco / Motion & Control         |
| Hydraulic Resource               |                                 |

Awards were evenly distributed among the competitors ensuring all had a great day.

First Team Ian Lavington, Scott Glenister, Stuart Coleman, Trevor Smitham  
The winning team chose Stuart Coleman to be the recipient of the Sauer Danfoss "Most Valuable Player" Trophy

Second Team James Murray, Bruce Nind, Michael Cook, David Hey

Third Team Phill Bristow-Stagg, Ken Bristow-Stagg, Ian Trembath, Neil Sarich

NAGA Team Danny Mayers, Brad Sarich, Thomas Watts

Closest To Pin	Hole 5	Ian Lavington	Longest Drive	Hole 7	Thomas Watts
Closest To Pin	Hole 16	Ken Bristow-Stagg	Longest Drive	Hole 18	Gordon Brayshaw

Muffed shot of the day was awarded to Mat Palmer who managed to hit his own golf buggy while teeing off.

## Hydraulics Facing Strong Rivalry

Over the past decade, the Fluid Power industry has been exposed to strong competition from electrical and mechanical technologies. Dr Jacek Stecki from the department of Mechanical Engineering at Monash University and chairman of Fluid Power Net International says that to prevent eroding the position of Fluid Power Technology, some important issues must be addressed.

“Fluid Power is usually part of mechanical engineering curricula but at many universities, mechanical engineering students get a much larger exposure to electronics and electrical engineering. In addition, with the exception of some universities in Europe and the Far East, Fluid Power courses are being scaled down in favour of ‘motion control’ and ‘mechatronics’.

“Although Fluid Power is widely used in most industries, more and more engineers working with this technology will have no specialised educational background and their knowledge of the technology will be acquired by in-house training, industrial courses and subsequent field experience,” Dr Stecki said.

“It is interesting to note that such reduction in teaching of Fluid Power Technology does not attract any criticism from local Fluid Power Industries.”

One of the reasons he says is that there is no identifiable ‘skill set’ required by industry to practise in this field. “We can contrast this with electronics for example, where you would expect that somebody working in electronics must generally have specialised education in addition to experience.

“Hydraulic systems, many in critical applications, are designed, built and commissioned without deep understanding of how the system operates and with a disregard of the dangers involved.”

According to Dr Stecki, for the Fluid Power Industry to maintain and expand its hold on the motion control market, it should closely co-operate with research institutions to develop a suitable strategy to achieve these aims. “And the research community must establish closer co-operation between various Fluid Power research centres and take a hard look at that direction in which it is heading,” he said.

Richard Tweedie, MD of Hydraulic Manifolds Australia (HMA) says the hydraulic industry is maturing, driven by competing industries such as electric linear and rotary drives and constantly improving pneumatic system capabilities.

“Hydraulic systems are becoming more complex, compact and flexible in the solutions they provide. This requires versatility from suppliers to make new solutions possible,” he said.

Hydraulic Manifolds Australia – (08) 9250 4544

Monash University – (03) 9859 6320

*The foregoing article was taken from Manufacturer’s Monthly.*

*Written by Debra Trayler.*

## Advertising with the FPS

Don’t forget about our new feature! Your company can sponsor **Fluid Talk!** For a minimal cost you can publicise your company with a flyer, which is inserted into the newsletter. Acknowledgment of your sponsorship will be highlighted within the same edition. Advertise your company, service or product to a **targeted audience** with an A4 flyer, single or double sided, for only \$150. Contact Lime Communications on 9459 4402 to take advantage of this unique opportunity.



## Training with the Fluid Power Industry

The National Occupational Health and Safety Commission released a report, in June 1992, stating that there have been 43 deaths attributed to fluid power system or fluid power component failures. This equates to 3.5% of workplace deaths in Australia. It has been identified by a number of people, respected by industry, that Fluid Power is a specialised industry area lacking in appropriate training and training knowledge.

The Fluid Power Society of WA Inc (FPS) is an independent fluid power industry organisation not controlled by any Registered Training Organisation (RTO), government body or any other vested interest group other than the membership of the Society. One of the Society's objectives is to ensure that education and training Institutions maintain training courses and programs of satisfactory quality and also keep pace with modern technology.

Over the last few years it has become increasingly obvious, to the Society, that the break-up of the TAFE colleges into individual business centres has lead to intense competition between them for a diminishing purse with the result that their focus in meeting the objectives of The Society and the fluid power industry is being lost.

The Government, through the WA Department of Training, has guidelines for the distribution of public funds specific to training. The FPS has had contact with bodies such as the Metals Consortium and The Manufacturing and Engineering Related Services Industry Training Accreditation Board (MERSITAB) and it appears that the funding for these bodies is under threat. It is known that the MERSITAB has Federally provided funding until the end of the year. Therefore, the future of the MERSITAB is unknown so creating a major concern as to who will provide this service when the funds run out. There have been suggestions that the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) will take on this role but, as we all know, very few people are prepared to work for a poor, or no, return!

In addition to the Metals Consortium presently going through a number of internal transitions with changes in executive positions, the amount of funding provided by the Federal Government has been diminishing each year with a corresponding reduction in consultation with the FPS and the bodies representing the training organisations.

The FPS is concerned about the situation and is taking action to bring pressure to bear in political circles to correct the situation. As part of this action, your committee is arranging a meeting with Dan Sullivan MLA, deputy opposition leader and shadow minister for small business to discuss these matters further.

The Society invites members to offer their opinions on the matter by contacting any of the committee members whose names and telephone numbers are shown in this newsletter.

### Movers & Shakers

- Andrew Cottrell has left Hydraulics Manifolds Australia to pursue a sales career with Simon Hydraulics.
- John Sullivan has left Parker Hannifin to pursue other interests outside the industry.
- Jim Bouffier, Manager of Berendsen WA, has resigned to take up an appointment at P&H Minepro.
- Pat Parker, Emeritus Chairman of Parker Hannifin Corporation, was in Perth to witness sea trials of Greg Norman's luxury launch "Aussie Rules".
- Graham Preston has resigned from Tyco Motion & Control to pursue other interests outside the Industry. David Blount has been appointed General Manager and Chris Galpin has been appointed WA State Manager for Tyco Motion & Control.
- Paul Afkos has been appointed to the board of Soccer Australia.



### FPS Contact Names and Numbers

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#### Disclaimer

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The Fluid Power Society newsletter is compiled by Jenny and Margaret from Lime Communications. Suggestions, ideas and information for the newsletter are most welcome - contact us on 9291 4442 or email limecommunications@yahoo.com.au.