



FLUID TALK

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

April 2004
Volume 5, Issue 1

Inside This Issue

- 1 • Tech Night at Mining & Hydraulic Supplies
- 2 • Presidents' Prologue
• Calendar
- 3 • Fluid Power & Related Industry Forum
• More Changes in the Wind for Assessors and Workplace Trainers
- 4 • Upcoming Conferences
- 5 • Notable Words
- 6 • Is Fluid Power Missing the Boat
• New Members
• Advertising with FPS
• Movers & Shakers

Tech Night at Mining and Hydraulic Supplies

Mining and Hydraulic Supplies invited the Fluid Power Society to a technical evening on Wednesday February 17th. Ken Fletcher and his staff welcomed about 20 members of the society with light refreshments which were most appreciated in the hot humid conditions.

When everyone had settled Ken gave a brief summary of the history of Mining and Hydraulic Supplies and its recent transition to the new premises in Malaga before he took everyone on a tour of the workshop.

Of special interest for members was the 'Bredel' Peristaltic Pump. Ken explained to the members how the pump is highly durable, very hard wearing and has the capacity to pump slurries with a high percentage of solids, such as uncured concrete, as well as being able to run dry.



Barry Kirkup, Mining and Hydraulics' Sales Manager, then gave an informative presentation on the 'Jensen', 'Stauff' and 'Arlon' products ranges that Mining and Hydraulics Supplies stock.

The members were invited to ask questions as the group moved through the large workshop and warehouse area.

At the end of the tour, Glenn Woodward gave a display of the 'Tractco Technik' high precision mandrel bender. This machine is able to mass produce tube assemblies as well as having the flexibility to do one-off jobs. Mining and Hydraulic Supplies acquired the machine about eighteen months ago and have had a good response from their clients due to the flexibility and mobility of the machine.



Newsletters

The Fluid Power Society newsletter will be in the mail quarterly this year. Look for them in **June, September and December.**

Fluid Power Society
of Western Australia Inc.
3 Cooper St
Mullaloo WA 6027
Website:
www.fluidpowersociety.com.au



Presidents' Prologue

By Tim Bailey

An article in the Saturday February 28th, 2004, edition of *'The West Australian'* newspaper described litigation connected with the tragic fire on HMAS 'Westralia' that occurred nearly six years ago and that resulted in the deaths of four people. The article named the principal contractor involved in the refurbishment work and a well-known fluid power industry company who the article describes as having fitted *'the wrong fuel hoses which sparked the fatal fire'*.

The article states that the December 2003 report by the Western Australian state coroner, Alistair Hope, found that the principal contractor acted *'irresponsibly by failing to arrange a proper engineering assessment of the proposed changes and in selecting an unsuitable hose manufacturer'*.

Taken at face value, a person reading this article could draw the conclusion that the named fluid power industry company should be avoided with respect to fluid power hoses as the report apparently has established that the company is an *'unsuitable hose manufacturer'*. However, those people with a reasonable knowledge of the fluid power industry - particularly in the area of hoses and fittings, know that the statement is a gross generalisation and not true.

You may recall that this column in the last newsletter contained some comments about the 'poor press' that the fluid power industry receives and the above statements are a continuation of this problem. The solution is for the industry to adopt training standards that reduce the possibility of people making mistakes to a minimum.

The Society's High Pressure Hose Assembler (HPHA) registration system is such a standard that will greatly reduce the probability of accidents such as the HMAS 'Westralia' fire happening wherever the HPHA registration system is adopted as a standard requirement for people providing hose assembly services. I encourage members of The Society to actively promote the registration system at every opportunity.

The website of the FPS of WA is undergoing some corrective, upgrading and revision work and the committee asks for your support in arranging for your company or business to be linked to the website for the mutual benefit of your business and The Society. The only requirement is that in linking to The Society's website, The Society's website should also be linked to the website of your business. If only a one-way link is acceptable to your business, an annual fee of \$50.00 is currently applicable.

A benefit to businesses linked to The Society's website is that the website can be built up into an effective electronic 'Yellow Pages' of fluid power equipment and service providers which can be promoted by The Society as the best place for the industry's clients to find the equipment and services that they require. Of course, the list of linked companies should not only be fluid power based organisations but also those that provide services to the fluid power industry such as electronics, electrics, training etc.

Dr Vladimir Golovanevskiy who is the WA manager of the Business Technology Centre Network (AMTN) addressed the February meeting of the general committee. The AMTN is a Federal government initiative that was launched last year and will run for three years with the objective of providing a service to industry to solve problems by carrying out research and applying for grants on behalf of industry. It will also work with industry in conducting workshops and seminars.

Dr Golovanevskiy requested that The Society cooperate with the AMTN in running a seminar to provide information on the effects of corrosion on materials used on the inside and also on the outside of fluid power systems. Your committee agreed to assist in anyway that is within the capability of the Society and we look forward to advising you of the details as soon as the seminar has been arranged.

An aspect of your present committee that came to my attention recently is that the combined fluid power experience of the ten committee members is about 230 years! Whilst this is good from the aspect that a very large amount of experience is available to conduct the affairs of The Society, it is also an indication that the 'line of succession' is not suitably filled by young people.

I strongly urge that anyone who considers that they fit the category of 'young' and who has a desire to assist in running The Society, as well as gaining knowledge from many of the present committee members, contact me and ask for their names be put forward for election to the general committee at the next annual general meeting - which is only three months away!

With best wishes..... Tim Bailey

Events Calendar

Wednesday 5th May 2004
General Committee Meeting
AMTC Wembley

Committee Members meet for Monthly General Committee Meeting.



Wednesday 21st April 2004
Pressure Dynamics - Well Control System Site Visit

Details will be advised via mail out.



Sunday 12th September 2004
Annual Golf Day
Peninsula Golf Course, Maylands

All members are invited to attend the Golf Day.



Fluid Power and Related Industry Forum

Topic: Taking on an Apprentice; should it be this hard?

By Barry Catanach

About mid 2003, a couple of fluid power businesses each made a decision to take on an apprentice. The particular motive in making this decision was – and still is - the current extreme shortage of skilled fluid power tradesmen and technicians available in the industry in Western Australia.

As a fluid power business owner - what are your options? You can advertise or you can ‘poach’ someone a practice which has, by necessity, come to be the industry norm. This is a negative exercise as one company’s gain is another company’s loss resulting in the escalation of labour costs to keep key personnel.

The above-mentioned fluid power companies each found and took on an apprentice but they are now wondering whether or not they made the right decision! One company found the ordeal frustrating and time consuming and, as a result, contacted the Fluid Power Society of WA to see if this was a normal occurrence. After discussing the matter with them, it seemed that there may also be other apprentice employers that feel the same way and have endured similar situations.

One fluid power company has asked The Society to consider organising a forum with other companies from associated industry fields to discuss a number of issues relating to the taking-on of apprentices, the support given by government departments and agencies and where to get proper advice. The experience of this company was that they were given little advice and when it was provided, it was either inadequate or incorrect.

If you are concerned about the current ‘health’ of the training sector now is the time to step forward and contact your Society to assist in organising a forum that would probably consist of relevant companies, businesses and industry groups.

The suggested focus of the forum would be to identify problems in the apprentice training areas so that a strategy can be put in place to take these concerns to the appropriate levels of government to get some action. A lot can be achieved by yourselves and The Society tackling issues that affect the future of your business.

NOW is the time to TAKE ACTION! For further information please contact the Fluid Power Society of WA.

More changes in the wind for Assessors and Workplace Trainers

By Barry Catanach

Congratulations on surviving 2003 and thank you for being with us for the start of 2004! This looks to be an eventful year if the amount of work that is taking place within the hydraulic industry is any indication.

Change is in the wind again for any assessor workplace trainer with Certificate IV in Assessment and Workplace Training (BSZ40198). The responsibility of trainers/lecturers is forever growing to keep up to date with the dynamic vocational education and training system that is in place. I feel for those that are still in the process of gaining their Cert IV as I personally know how it feels to have to upgrade current qualifications. From memory, this will be the third time for some trainers.

What are the implications the new training package will have for those that currently hold their BSZ Cert IV? The call for changes stem from the broad national policy issues and those people that currently have a BSZ Certificate IV cannot have it taken away as the qualification is recognised as credible and relevant within the VET sector.

The changes reflect the Australian National Training Authority (ANTA) continuous quality improvement process. Feedback from industry and practitioners were said to have found many gaps as well as issues specific to the overlap of content and vagueness in the requirements for achievement. In other words, , the current BSZ Certificate IV is no longer seen as effective with respect to changes in the way assessment and training is now performed. Any Registered Training Organisation (RTO) delivering the current BSZ training package will be required to adopt the new BSZ training package with a possible 12 month phasing out of the old package so that the new package will come into full effect sometime in 2005.

The new package consists of a total of 44 new units of competency spread over 3 qualifications. I will not complicate the issue by explaining the difference in the three qualifications as we are generally only interested in the base level Cert IV. The emphasis of the new package is on learning whereas the earlier package was biased on the assessment process. There has been mention that the new units of competency are longer but come with better guidance and information with respect to the gaining of the qualification.

The draft Certificate IV has fourteen units of competency to with thirteen deemed as ‘core’ (mandatory). As yet I do not have details on the lecture/learning hours involved in each of the competencies but the fact that the word ‘longer’ has been mentioned means that the days of getting a qualification in less than a week may be over.

My earlier comment relating to the current qualification being relevant may possibly not be applicable as the Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF) standards cover the trainer’s relevance and qualifications from the aspects of vocational and training so it is probable that everyone in the training environment will need to upgrade to meet the AQTF standards especially around audit time (5 yearly). If you are a company workplace trainer/assessor and need further information please email me and I will provide relevant person/s contact details.

Upcoming Conferences

3rd FPNI PhD Symposium 2004

The 3rd FPNI PhD Symposium 2004 will be held in Terrassa, Spain from 30th June to 2nd July 2004. The Symposium is a platform for young researchers in the fluid power and motion control field to present the results or their work. Over 70 abstracts have been submitted so far. Further information can be obtained from Symposium web site <http://www.phdsymposium2004.upc.es/>

2004 ASME International Mechanical Engineering Congress

The Modelling and Identification Panel of the ASME Dynamic Systems and Control Division invites you to submit your manuscript to the sponsored sessions at the 2004 ASME International Mechanical Engineering Congress and Exposition which will take place on November 14-19, 2004 in Anaheim, CA. The panel is sponsoring sessions on automated modelling, identification of dynamic systems with live demonstrators, life cycle modelling of complex dynamic systems, identification of diagnosis/prognosis in dynamic systems etc. More details on the session's description, scope and deadlines are available on the website.

The deadline for the IMECE Congress is the end of the month (January) but we will still accept abstracts if you can get them in as soon as possible. Our international fluid power community has always supported the Fluid Power Systems and Technology Division in the past and we hope that the trend will continue again this year. All you have to do is go to the ASME Web site at <http://www.asmeconferences.org/congress04> and follow the instructions for on line submission. See you in Anaheim!!!

News about Fluid Power net Activities:

The first International Conference on Computational Methods in Fluid Power Technology, to be held in Australia, was held in Melbourne in the period 26-28 November 2003 and was very successful with over 50 referred papers presented by authors from 25 countries. I would like to thank both authors and reviewers for their efforts. The feedback on the Conference was very good and we will plan the next Conference probably in two years time. The list of papers presented at the conference can be accessed on the web site.

To order the Proceedings or CDROM please go the Publications on the web site. Photos from the Conference will be shortly placed on the web site for downloading - if you attended the Conference, please check the web site.

The FPNI Journal on Fluid Power is in its 4th year of publication and a new issue was published in November 2003. Please look at the journal web site for further information. Please consider subscribing to the journal - its publishing is dependant on subscribers and also please consider submitting papers to the Journal citing the Journal in your publications.

Review of FPNI operation. We are currently reviewing the operation FPNI to attract more industry support and make it more useful to research/design communities. To obtain such support we need to add value for members. Please write to me with your suggestions, your input will be of great help in our review process. The results of review will be conveyed to you in due course.
Contact: Jacek Stecki at jstecki@bigpond.net.au

FPNI publishes books, proceedings etc. are available from our Publications page. Full text downloadable papers under Research and Tech Briefs are also available. We will shortly place new material on the web – downloadable papers from the last two Conferences run by Japan Fluid Power Society (1999 and 2001). You may also like to search for bibliographic references in 'Search Data'.

Next year is the 40th anniversary of the death of George Constantinesco – father of the science of 'sonics', ac hydraulics and the inventor (over 150 patents) of the gun synchronizer used in WW1, automatic torque converter etc. I think it would be nice to organize some event - a workshop on his inventions and contribution to fluid power or maybe publish a collection of his work. If you are interested in his work please contact me. I would appreciate any information you may have about his work, life etc.

Dr Jacek .S .Stecki
Dept of Mechanical Engineering
Monash University Australia
Phone: +61 3 98596320
Fax: + 61 3 98599575
Mob: +61 0419 361 167
FPN web Site: <http://fliud.power.net>



Notable Words
Exert from Fluid Power Journal

Ray Hanley
Vice President of Certification
Fluid Power Society

Well We Did It!

The Connector & Conductor Certification will help raise the bar for best practices in the hose and tubing in the mobile industry next year.

The Fluid Power Society continues to strive to advance the professionalism in our industry, best practices, and education through certification.

The new connector and conductor certification is complete, after months of development and work by the Fluid Power Society, the Society of Automotive Engineers and countless volunteers in the industry.

We have interviewed incumbents, developed the body of knowledge, assembled the core competencies, developed tasks necessary, created a study guide and tests for both the written and hands on test, assembled the components for the kits, done the psychometric analysis, etc, etc. You get the idea.....a lot of preparation work.

We are now in the process of the final assembly of the test kits, training of our accredited instructors and proctors, final review of all the materials and the marketing of the program for a 2005 launch, in eight short months.

We have also upgraded the Job Performance Test for our Mechanic and Technician Certification. This updated test will take effect October 1st this year. In addition to the updated test, for the first time we will have complete study guide for the six job performance stations.

Also, we have developed a Math for Certifications book that will be published shortly!

A lot of great work, a bit tiring and challenging at times, but well worth our investment.

Thank you to the industry for supporting our efforts in Certification!

Best Regards

Ray Hanley
Vice President of Certification
Fluid Power Society

Technical Data Books

All members are reminded that the Society has purchased, from the British Fluid Power Association, twenty three technical data books covering all aspects of Fluid Power Technology.

These books are held in the Chamber of Commerce and Industry library situated at 180 Hay Street, East Perth.

Should any member wish to borrow these books, please contact Pam Di Giovanni, librarian, during office hours on 08 9365 7586.

Members will be required to provide identification to Pam before borrowing the books.

Is Fluid Power Missing the Boat?

By Stuart Coleman

During our busy business lives we tend to be so focussed on dealing with day to day problems that the “Big Picture” issues tend to get overlooked until we get a wake up call. Last week I got that wake up call meeting a client who ten years ago used to purchase considerable quantities of hydraulic equipment for industrial equipment manufactured by his company. When we had disposed of the pleasantries I asked the question about hydraulic systems and his reply was we only use hydraulics when we have to, as Triple VF Drive Technology is far superior and usually more cost effective against the equivalent hydraulic drive proposal. Prime example is ore car positioner systems once the undisputed realm of fluid power is now no longer considered for that application. Also mining companies find it almost impossible to find suitably trained fluid power technicians to maintain the equipment where as electrical technicians are easier to recruit and deploy around a mine site.

What concerned me about his negative attitude to Fluid Power Technology, and he is not alone in that regard, raises serious questions about the future growth prospects for our industry. If broad industry consensus determines Fluid Power is not the technology of choice we as an industry have a serious problem that needs addressing.

As the Fluid Power Industry in Australia is fragmented and small in an overall industrial sense we need to form a national body, similar to the British Fluid Power Association, working in close co-operation with the Fluid Power Society to promote the benefits Fluid Power offers to the industry and education sectors. Once the proposed association or body has promoted the benefits of Fluid Power over competing technologies it would leave the question of who has the best products etc for member companies to convince the industrial consumer. Only with some form of association or body looking after our mutual interests can we ensure future growth and prosperity to people who through their endeavours are the backbone of our industry.

Some members will do doubt remember the enormous effort put it by the late Bob Randall to form an industry association almost ten years ago, although the association was initially well supported by industry it was derailed by competing interests and did not deliver on promises and subsequently ended up in oblivion.

As with most things in life timing is the essence and although Bob’s vision may have been premature all those years ago I think the time is now or our industry will be left on the shore well and truly missing the boat.

If anyone is interested in taking this idea forward please send me an e-mail or give me a call.

Advertising with the FPS

Your company can sponsor **Fluid Talk!** For a small cost you can publicise your company with a flyer or Brochure inserted into the newsletter. Your company sponsorship is acknowledged with an article about you in the same edition. The flyer/Brochure should be A4 single or double sided and is distributed to a **targeted audience** for the cost of \$150. Contact Margaret at Lime Communications on 9459 4402 to take advantage of this unique opportunity.

New Members

The Fluid Power Society of WA extends to all new members a warm welcome, and especially to our newest member David Manoni of Hagglunds Drives .

Movers & Shakers

- Pressure Dynamics are the new owners of Tyco Motion & Control Welshpool.
- Hydraulic Manifolds Australia have new owners but the management and technical team are still the same
- Simon Hydraulics and Pneumatics have changed their name to Custom Fluid Power.
- Parker Hannifin have acquired Denison Hydraulics.
- John Ruby, formerly of Kempe Fluidair, has taken a position with Flotech Controls.



FPS Contact Names and Numbers

Position	Name	Phone	Fax	Email
President:	Tim Bailey	9244 4993	9244 4995	hydeng@iinet.net.au
Vice President:	Barry Catanach	9471 8744	9471 8755	bcatanac@bigpond.net.au
Secretary/Treasurer:	Stuart Coleman	9362 3722	9470 1447	stuart@pressuredynamics.com.au
Technical & Training:	Phil Bristow-Stagg	9248 8255	9248 8256	pbseng@iinet.net.au
Membership & Programs:	Neil Sarich	9209 2344	9209 2355	neil.sarich@hydac.com.au
Accreditation:	Tim Bailey			
Newsletter:	Stuart Coleman			
Committee Members:	Lloyd Hollier, Ian Lavington, Peter Marwood, Danny Mayers, Malcolm Tucker.			

Disclaimer

Whilst the Fluid Power Society of WA Inc., does its best to ensure that any information that it may give is accurate, no liability or responsibility of any kind is accepted in this respect by the Fluid Power Society of WA Inc., its members, its servants or its agents.

The Fluid Power Society newsletter is compiled by Margaret from Lime Communications. Suggestions, ideas and information for the newsletter are most welcome - contact us on 9459 4402 or email limecommunications@yahoo.com.au.