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FLUID TALK

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

Fluid Power Award Winner

The augural winner of the Fluid Power Society Award was AMTC student, James Yates.

James, who is in his final year of an Associate Diploma in Mechanical Engineering, was thrilled to receive the award.

“It was a great award for me to win personally,” he said. “It gives me the incentive to continue my education and aim high”.

The criteria for this Award are related more to attitude and motivation rather than purely academic Tim Bailey, President of the Fluid Power Society explains.

“Although in this instance James did excel academically, this award is all about rewarding the student who has shown the most interest, is more motivated, works hard and tries – the type of employee every employer wants,” says Tim.

Just Who Is The Metals Consortium?

We’ve all heard their name, but does anyone actually know who the Consortium is and their purpose?

The Metals Consortium was established in 1995, and comprises of representatives from the 12 Colleges of TAFE throughout the state.

Their objective is to work on agreed projects that are to the strategic benefit of all colleges and their clients. This includes the purchasing of equipment for college workshops, developing training curriculum and learning.

The members of this Consortium are in the main program directors of the different colleges, and they form the management committee. The actual working projects are then passed down to different lecturers that have particular skills to contribute to the project at hand.

The Metals Consortium has a close association with industry bodies such as the Fluid Power Society, with Bert Beevers from the Consortium agreeing that these alliances were essential .

“The Consortium tries to address the needs of the industry from a whole of TAFE approach,” said Bert “We have one member, Guy Truss, who also sits on the Fluid Power Board. This ensures that the two way flow of information between industry and education is maintained”, he says.

Presidents Prologue

By Tim Bailey



As proof of the old adage that one of the constants in life is change, we now have a new government in Western Australia. Your Society has followed a policy of establishing and maintaining good relations with the Government through the TAFE tertiary education system and, particularly, through the Metals Consortium, which acts as an intermediary between Industry and the Government.

As previously reported to you, we have had discussions with Mr Bert Beevers and Mr Greg Guppy of the Metals Consortium regarding the Society's Curriculum Matrix and the relevance of the certificate system, offered by TAFE, to the matrix.

Due to our perception that the, seemingly, often changing goal posts of the national tertiary education system was making life difficult for the Fluid Power Industry by causing us to constantly revise the Matrix, we arranged a meeting with Mr Greg Guppy to discuss the problems.

The meeting resulted in an undertaking that the Consortium would fund the time of Guy Truss, a committee member and a Bunbury College of TAFE Lecturer, to establish compatibility between the "New" certificate system and our Matrix - so, hopefully, we can stabilise the changes and, finally, have a relevant tertiary education system for our industry, which uses the Matrix as a benchmark.

Since that meeting, Mr Bert Beevers has taken over from Mr Guppy and we are arranging another meeting to review progress and maintain a dialogue with the consortium based on Mr Guppy's advice to us, at the November 2000 meeting, that the Fluid Power Society of WA is seen by the Government as the Fluid Power Industry representative.

Our hope is that the change of State Government will not induce another state of turmoil in TAFE which may result in another round of changes to the current qualification system.

As with all things, time will tell, but we can be sure that change will keep occurring. Our aim is to be consulted on proposed changes in the areas that affect our Industry and project the view of the FPS of WA membership.

To do this properly, we need your opinion which you can express by attending the various events arranged by your committee where you can let us know what you think - politely, of course!

With Best Regards,

Tim Bailey.

Prime Hydraulic Power Mazak NC Lathe

By Lloyd Hollier

Prime Hydraulic Power has just installed a bar feeder to their Mazak NC lathe, allowing them to manufacture batch quantities of special hydraulic fittings and other turned parts. Components can be turned from aluminium, brass, steel, stainless steels and plastics.

Prime have had the unit for about 5 months and it is getting a fair amount of use within and outside the industry, with customers commenting on how impressed they are at the quality of the finished components.

Events Calendar

Wednesday 6th June 2001
General Committee Meeting
AMTC Wembley

Committee Members meet for Monthly General Committee Meeting.



Wednesday 13th June 2001
Technical Evening
AMTC Subiaco

Visit the Tunnelling Project adjacent to AMTC Subiaco. Transfield will inform FPS members of the technical aspects relating to this project.



Friday 27th July 2001
Annual General Meeting
Royal Perth Yacht Club

Annual General Meeting held whilst enjoying a sumptuous meal followed by rapturous entertainment.



The above events will be confirmed to members by correspondence.



Big Win For Fluid Power Society Partner

A grant awarded to the Advanced Manufacturing Technologies Centre (AMTC) Subiaco recently, will have a huge impact on the safety and level of training for technicians involved in the area of servicing and supplying high pressure hoses.

Currently there is no national qualification or formal training in this area – a safety issue that has been an area of concern for many organisations for some time.

In June 1999, a report released by the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission on work-related deaths associated with hydraulic equipment in Australia (1989 – 1992) cites “there were 43 workers who died in incidents involving hydraulic equipment between 1989 and 1992 in Australia (3.5% of workplace deaths.)”

Another report produced by the Department of Minerals and Energy (DOME) stated hose and fitting failure contributed to 39% of underground fires during 1995 – 1999 and the tragic loss of four lives on HMAS Westralia was blamed on a ruptured hose.

It was these statistics and many others that strengthened the resolve of AMTC lecturers Barry Catanach and Peter Marwood to develop better testing technology and training for parts of the hydraulics industry.

“We knew what we had to do” said Barry, “however it wasn’t until we heard about the Science and Technology’s Innovation Fund that we knew we could make it a reality.”

The State Government acknowledged the problem and opportunities that this project offered.

As a result, the Hydraulic Systems ‘Point of Failure’ Monitoring and Analysis project was granted \$170,000 to develop an industry accepted testing device and training package for hose technicians. A feather for the cap of the AMTC as only 7 out of 60 applicants received funding.

The actual project brief entails:

- Designing and constructing a dynamic testing unit for the testing to failure of high pressure flexible conductors
- Designing and installing remote-access an on-line monitoring system (laser contamination monitoring, burst parameters and dimensional stability) to monitor hydraulic systems to ‘point of failure’
- In conjunction with a University partner (final year engineering undergraduate) collecting and analysing ‘point of failure’ indicator data which will lead to the formulation of a Failure Expert System or knowledge base
- Devising methodologies that indicated preclusion to possible points of failure; and
- Constructing certification mechanisms and flexible training systems (on line/multimedia) for hydraulic component condition monitoring and Hose Doctoring.

“What’s very important to point out is that this is not simply a AMTC project” Barry stresses, “We want this to be an industry project. We are asking for industry to join us and provide information and feedback on exactly what they require in the workplace.”

The Fluid Power Society and other businesses including Denison Hydraulics, NS Komatsu, Hydair Drives, Flexco, Hydeng, Pressure Dynamics, Couplers, Hydac, Pirtek Fluid Systems and Kempe Fluidair have already signalled their intentions to contribute to this project.

All Fluid Power Society members are welcome to make any contributions to this project now or in the future. Barry can be contact at the AMTC on 9382 5721 or via email on: catanb@amtc_sub.training.wa.gov.au



Hot Air!



Movement in the Bush

Following the acquisition of the Enzed Pilbara Franchise last December, John Honey has further expanded their reach by taking on Enzed Kalgoorlie.

"We started operations as of April 1, 2001," said Sales and Marketing Manager Chris Galpin. "This franchise gives us a presence in fluid connectors and provides a base for our motion control business in Kalgoorlie, this being the fourth phase of our expansion plan for the John Honey Group."

Eaton Acquire Duffield

Eaton-Aeroquip announced on 24 July 2000, that it had signed a letter of intent to purchase the privately held, Australian based Frederick Duffield Pty Ltd in a cash transaction. Terms were not disclosed but both companies expect to complete the deal in September this year. Duffield with headquarters in Sydney, also has operations in South Africa, Singapore and New Zealand. Eaton Corporation has its headquarters in Cleveland, Ohio and employs 64,000 in 200 manufacturing sites in 24 countries. Sales for 1999 were US\$8.4 billion.

The Big Get Bigger

Following the recent acquisition by Robert Bosch GmbH of Rexroth from parent company Vodaphone, Bosch Hydraulic Systems and Rexroth will amalgamate to form a new company called Rexroth Bosch Group. Australian operations of this new company will start on 1 July 2001.



Movers & Shakers

- John Ahlin has left Frederick Duffield & has been replaced by Terry Cole. Terry's background includes 30 years with Coventry's & State Manager for Aeroquip, which became part of Eaton approximately 18 months ago.
- John Senior has left Berendsen PMC and gone to Rexroth.

New Owner for Flexco

Due to the sad passing former owner Rudi Nunez (Sr), Flexco has been sold and is under new management.

And from all report *she's* doing pretty well.

Melissa Bevilacqua had known Rudy for about 6 years and when illness forced him to sell his business, Melissa saw this not only as a good business proposition, but an opportunity to continue Rudy's legacy.

"Rudy had always been a sounding block for me" Melissa explained " And was an absolute encyclopaedia of knowledge. He had built up a sound business and I didn't want to see the business fold or it to go to someone else" she said

Melissa is not a new comer to this industry, having had nearly 4 years experience with Esihose. Not one to shy from the hard work, she does everything from cutting and manufacturing the hose assemblies to filling orders and shipping them out.

"Some guys come in looking for the boss and when I tell them that's me , I get one of two reactions – sheer disbelief or total support" said Melissa. "But those that are a bit dubious normally come round when I show them I know what I'm doing."

Who is Wendy?

Wendy Rudge from public relations company PR² has recently been appointed to collect interesting pieces of news for this publication. No doubt Wendy will be contacting you in the future, lucky you!

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