

# Acoustic Feedback



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## Introduction

Well, I wasn't lying if you can remember back to the last issue (November 2004), we do have trouble getting out issues of the Acoustic Feedback, even in its shortened form. In the last issue I said to feel free to email me any important news, articles or papers you would like to share with the members ... but I'm still waiting. I assume you probably just lost my email address so here it is again ([terry@lloydacoustics.com.au](mailto:terry@lloydacoustics.com.au)). We do organise 'Technical Meetings', basically just a gathering of members so if you feel you would like to share your research this way, let me know. Again, thanks to Alec Duncan, Terry McMinn and Norbert Gabriels for their input into this Feedback.

*This issue contains notification of a Technical meeting, a summary of the Acoustics 2004 Conference held on the Gold Coast, a summary of the Federal meeting and some preliminary information regarding the Acoustics 2005 Conference, to be held in Western Australia.*

Western Australia still has very few new members so feel free to pass the information you receive on to others who you feel are interested. Encourage them to join the society, the forms are available on the website ([www.acoustics.asn.au](http://www.acoustics.asn.au)) and a pro-forma should soon be available.

Terry George

## Technical Meeting

In May 2004, the Building Code of Australia, Section F5, which relates to building amenity received a significant upgrade. In particular, the acoustics section, which discusses the minimum acoustic requirements for party walls, floors, soil, waste and water pipes etc was changed to reflect international standards and upgraded due to a combination of people expecting a higher level of amenity and the change in noise sources within peoples houses (home theatres for instance). At the time the BCA was released, the Western Australian building authority did not believe there was a requirement to increase the minimum standards and as such the Western Australian acoustics section essentially remained unchanged from the previous BCA. In May 2005, Western Australia will now adopt these changes.

As such, the Australian Acoustical Society has arranged a meeting to provide information to interested parties. Speaking at the meeting will be Norbert Gabriels from Gabriels Environmental Design. Norbert has been involved in numerous projects throughout Western Australia and has been in the industry for over 20 years. Prior to starting his own practice, Norbert was at the BMA. He has been strongly involved in the development of Australian Standards, which support the BCA in establishing testing procedures, as well as standards of acoustic performance.

The meeting will be held at Curtin University in Room 147 Building 301 on 5th May 2005 at 5.30pm and will comprise of a presentation from Norbert (approximately 45 minutes) followed by question time and informal discussion. Check your street directory for a map of the campus or visit [http://www.properties.curtin.edu.au/your\\_campus/maps/](http://www.properties.curtin.edu.au/your_campus/maps/). Park in carpark 18, which is just behind the bus station but only accessible from the campus ring-road (Brand Dve). Parking is free after 5pm. Follow the path westward past Building 311 and enter Building 301 through the door in its eastern end. This brings you in on Level 1 and the seminar room is at the far end of the corridor on the left hand side.

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As the meeting is fast approaching, we require the **RSVP** as soon as possible and no later than **21st April 2005**. RSVP can be via return email or a phone call to Terry George on 9409 2999.

*Terry George & Norbert Gabriels*

## Future Technical Meeting

Following the above, future technical meetings are also being organised. The next one is scheduled for the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2005 and will be hosted by the underwater technology company Nautronix, which is located in Fremantle. Nautronix has an active R&D program and produces a number of products that exploit underwater acoustics for both civilian and military applications. There will be a talk about the company, the technologies it has developed and a tour of the facilities.

The meeting will commence at 5.30pm on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> of June. Further details will be provided closer to the date.

*Alec Duncan*

## Past Technical Meeting

The December technical meeting was presented by Jacqueline Giles, from the School of Environmental Science, Murdoch University, who treated the audience to a fascinating talk on the underwater sounds she has recorded in freshwater lakes. These are definitely not the quiet and tranquil places one might imagine! Jacque's particular interest is in underwater acoustic communication between turtles, which she is studying for her PhD. It turns out that these animals produce quite a range of sounds, which appear to be an important part of their social behaviour.

Those of us who stayed after the talk also enjoyed pizza and finding out more about Jacque's work. Thanks Jacque!

*Alec Duncan*

## Australian Acoustical Society Website

All members should now be aware that the Society has moved its Registrar database to our web site at <http://www.acoustics.asn.au>. This move provides every member the opportunity to view and update their own details in the database. It is *essential* that members periodically log in and review and update these details. If you are having difficulties remembering your user name and / or password, please email the [Registrar@acoustics.asn.au](mailto:Registrar@acoustics.asn.au).

- Please consider enabling the '*Correspond via Email*' option to receive emails from the society and the local division. Email is the preferred method of communication from the society to you our members. 34% of the WA Divisions members are not receiving email information from the society.

Access to your email addresses is limited by design, to the Federal Registrar, General Secretary and Divisional Secretaries, where each divisional secretary is restricted to members within their own division.

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- The database also provides the opportunity for Fellows (FAAS) or Members (MAAS) to self nominate their areas of professional competence (see [http://www.acoustics.asn.au/members/ncompetence\\_form.php](http://www.acoustics.asn.au/members/ncompetence_form.php)). This information is recorded in the database and made publicly available via the web site. All members are required to re nominate their areas of competency each year. This is coordinated by the General Secretary.
  - Formally, a paper based directory of members was printed and sent to all members. This practice has been discontinued in favour of the search and browse features of the web site.

Please make use of our web site and update your own details.

*Terry McMinn  
Federal Registrar  
Divisional Vice-Chairman*

## Acoustics 2005 Conference

On the website, you can also obtain updates on the 2005 conference (*Acoustics in a Changing Environment*), to be from the 9-11 of November at Abbey Beach Resort in Busselton. We are currently calling for abstracts which are due on the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2005 (yep, this month!!!). Abstracts are requested on all aspects of acoustics including underwater, architectural, environmental noise, occupational health and engineering noise control. Submission guidelines can be found on the website at [www.acoustics.asn.au/divisions/2005-conference.shtml](http://www.acoustics.asn.au/divisions/2005-conference.shtml).

*Terry George*

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## 2004 – 2005 Committee Members

<b>Position</b>	<b>Person</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
Chairman	Alec Duncan	9266 3599
Vice Chairman	Terrance McMinn	9266 7175
Secretary	Norbert Gabriels	9474 5966
Treasurer	Daniel Lloyd	9300 4188
AAS Reporter	Alec Duncan	9266 3599
Technical Meetings Coordinator	Dick Langford	9342 8049
	Terry George	9409 2999
Acoustic Feedback Newsletter Committee	Terry George	9409 2999
	Murray Limb	9323 4317
Archivist	Norbert Gabriels	9474 5966
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