

SMBE Christmas Dinner

Come along and join in on the SMBE Christmas Dinner

Tuesday 28th November

The Historian Hotel

18 Coromandel Place

Adelaide

6pm start, cost \$15

RSVP to Dan by

22 November

daniel.fletcher@nwahs.sa.gov.au



SMBE

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NOV 2006



SMBE Biomedical Engineering

Encouragement Award

The SMBE (SA) Biomedical Engineering Encouragement award (previously the Draeger/SMBE award) is provided to acknowledge and encourage excellence amongst Biomedical Engineering practitioners. The award is a funded visit to a selected biomedical engineering conference or seminar. It provides an opportunity for someone that would not normally receive funding to attend.

It is nomination time again so go to the SMBE website and download a nomination form under the awards tab

<http://www.smbe.asn.au/>



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Preventative Maintenance: Why ?

by Tim Ritter

Guest speaker: Tim Ritter, Senior Project Engineer, ECRI, Philadelphia, USA

Following the ABEC conference in Noosa, Tim Ritter visited SA and gave presentations to BEAG and SMBE -

Preventive Maintenance: Why?

Tim discussed changes in medical devices since preventive maintenance schedules were first set up:

Technology has become more reliable, better designed and frequently double insulated, devices have self diagnostics and error/event logs, significant failures rarely identified during inspections, the need for preventive maintenance is declining, and ECRI has no evidence of injury or death attributable to the lack of inspection of preventive maintenance.

He went on to define scheduled support as a preferred term for PM and/or inspection and discussed risk and risk levels, finally assessing the need for inspection. This talk generated a lot of discussion and comment from the attendees and it will be interesting to see what Scheduled Support changes are made over the next few years.

Tim's presentation is on the Hot Topics section of the website:

http://www.smbes.asn.au/SMBE_Hot/SMBE_Hot.htm



Anne-Louise Smith

2006 EPSM/ABEC Conference Summary



Noosa was definitely the place to be between September 19th and 21st for ABEC 2006. A top program of speakers, workshops and sessions was assembled to ensure that there was something to capture everyone's interest, all 300 plus attendees!

There was an excellent array of papers presented by the young Biomedical Engineering fraternity, often describing research projects undertaken during post-graduate studies. A prize was awarded by Engineers Australia for the best of these presentations, with it going to Mr. Mohit Shivdasani for his work done on auditory brainstem stimulation. This provides great hope

to the profoundly deaf with auditory nerve malfunction or disease as it involves direct stimulation of the brainstem rather than the cochlear as is most common in today's implants. Final year projects were also presented by Queensland University of Technology students, again a very impressive array. This all added up to painting a very promising picture for the future of the Biomedical Engineering profession, there is a wealth of emerging talent.

There were significant workshops convened that discussed a range of topical Clinical Engineering issues. The foremost of these topics was routine maintenance and how it should be managed, stressing the need for a new approach and a moving on from strategies that have been with us for a number of decades. There was consensus that this was necessary but in reality very few examples of practitioners exist that have moved away from the "check everything at least once a year" approach. Invited key-note speaker, Tim Ritter from ECRI, added some weight to this argument providing excellent insight and examples. The vexing question of can we do anything less than what is recommended by the manufacture was debated at length, the overall feeling being that it may be a starting point, but taking local factors and risks in consideration may not necessarily be the end point. An excellent legal perspective was provided by Michael Lavarch, ex Federal Attorney General, who suggested that not following manufactures recommendations, standards or any other document would not necessarily leave an operator significantly exposed to litigation. It is generally accepted by the courts these days that if one is doing something considered reasonable by ones peers, and that does not even need to be a majority of them, then ones actions are defensible. The impression was that you need to be doing something quite out of left field to really be at risk. In short the timing is right to start doing different things, gather new data and develop a fresh paradigm. The current routine maintenance project being undertaken by the American Society for Hospital Engineering was also presented and discussed; this is certainly one to watch as it is revisiting the whole issue from the ground up.

The consensus was that any approach needs to be consistent across the profession and the College of Biomedical Engineers within Engineers Australia committed to taking a lead role in this.

The conference dinner proved to be a great event. Just how did that entertainer manage to recall the names of every last person that was there, well over 200!!! There were some formalities of course, the greatest being the presentation of Engineers Australia's David Dewhurst award (to an eminent BME) to John Symonds who until recently was responsible for the provision of Clinical Engineering services to Westmead Children's Hospital in Sydney. John's career was exemplary with international recognition being gained for his work in neo-natal retrieval systems and his reputation for the provision of a broad ranging and highly regarded service to this significant establishment being second to none. Interestingly he began his career working with the James Hardie group investigating ways of diagnosing asbestosis, he understandably did not realise the ultimate significance of this back in the 1970's! He was certainly, quite rightly, a popular recipient.

People regrettably left the sun and surf that characterises Noosa all the wiser for their visit, already planning their trip to Fremantle for ABEC 2007.

Adrian Richards

Presidents Report for 2006

The committee would like to thank Anne-Louise for her efforts as president. The report given by Anne-Louise is below for all that missed the AGM.

Membership

	2006	2005	2004
Life members	5	4	4
Free membership	1	1	1
Full financial	83	56	65
Student	2	1	4
Non-financial*	25	80	54

*Any non-financial members please see Dan Fletcher

Events Highlights over the last 12 months include:

- July 2005 – Site Visit: CSIRO Manufacturing & Infrastructure Technology (CMIT)
- Aug 2005 - AGM featuring the hybrid car Toyota Prius
- Sept 2005 - the highly successful ABEC, Australian Biomedical Engineering Conference, part of EPSM 2005.
- Nov 2005 - Post-grad student papers
- Dec 2005 - Xmas dinner
- Mar 2006 - Site visit: State-of-the-Art Endoscopic Reference Suite (thanks to Chris Dry of Stenning and Michael Ledgard for organising it)
- May 2006 - Amazing Human Body Exhibition
- July 2006 - Site visit: Royal Society of the Blind organised by Olivia Pallotta

Meetings coming up include:

- TBA 2006 – Site visit – behind the airport

Australian SMBE Web site www.smbe.asn.au

This been up for 2.5 years now and has filled the gap on the web of a professional national presence for biomedical engineering and to provide a focal point for the state SMBE groups in the future. Victoria SMBE are slowly reconstituting so I am hoping to add their info to the website.

Awards

Information about the awards – photos and articles can be found on the SMBE SA web site Award pages:

http://www.smbe.asn.au/SMBE_SA/SA_Awards/SMBE_Awards.htm

In November 2005, the SMBE participated in the Biomedical Engineering Outstanding Honours Project Award. The award is based on practicality of the design, project development and outcomes and explanation of work at the exposition day. The award is in the form of a \$200 cash prize, a certificate and 12 months free membership to the SMBE (SA). The award is judged on Expo Day at Flinders University by three members of the Council. It was awarded to Scott Bond and Mel Ryan for their work on a Knee Examination Simulator.

The Drager/SMBE award was presented to Tom Allen.

"Tom, as a new member of the team, has accepted the challenge of learning the skills and disciplines of biomedical practice with enthusiasm and dedication, putting into practical application his academic knowledge whilst learning new technologies...His interpersonal skills show a maturity beyond his years...I believe Tom would gain much from attending the "grass roots" flavour of the NSW country technicians seminar."

Tom is here tonight so I would like to ask him to come and receive his award.

The award enabled Tom to attend the 2006 NSW Country Technicians Seminar in Richmond, NSW earlier this year. He has written a report for the newsletter/website about his experiences there.

EPSM 2005

Incorporating ABEC – New name for the biomedical side: Australian Biomedical Engineering Conference.

This time last year, we had 22 booths booked and only 8 left, with 130 paid registrants. Final registrations were 319 - far surpassing our expectations and providing us with an unexpected windfall of \$26,247. We are now seeking options for using this funding for South Australian SMBE and biomedical engineering fraternity.

EPSM 2006

The conference in Noosa next month has not picked up on our name change as we had hoped, however, these things do take time and we are hoping that ABEC will stick with time.

Constitution change

we have been deliberating and discussing this for some time (since I became President), the postal ballot has finally been completed. The result is the proposed changes to the constitution has been accepted.

New councilors

This year up for re-election are the President, Secretary and 2 council positions.

New positions:

President - Robin Woolford

Secretary - Anne-Louise Smith

Councilors (2) – Adrian Richards and Darren Kolhagen

Immediate Past-President – Anne-Louise Smith

Thanks

I would like to thank all the councilors for their efforts throughout the year, our sponsors over the last year, especially Helicon Technologies and Drager. Particular thanks to Dan Fletcher for taking up the Treasurers mantle.

Thanks to Tony Carlisle for all his years on the council – taking time off now to return to full-time study.

Membership Renewal Time !!!

SMBE membership renewal is now due

SMBE (SA) membership benefits:

- Newsletter with technical & topical content, advance notice of technical program, events & conferences
- Subsidised or free registration at workshops and technical program and networking events
- Affiliations to: *AFMBE, Australian Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering*
IFMBE, International Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering
- Access to IFMBE journal: MBEC, Medical & Biological Engineering & Computing
- Tax deduction for membership fees

Ordinary Members \$35

Students \$15

Please visit the SMBE website for more details www.smbе.asn.au or contact our treasurer Dan Fletcher daniel.fletcher@nwahs.sa.gov.au

SMBE SA

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