

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MARINE SCIENCE INSTITUTION

Chairman's Newsletter No. 8

30 November 2007

Greetings

This is my first Newsletter since becoming Chairman on 1 July 2007, taking over from Dr Bernard Bowen. I am pleased to say that WAMSI moves ahead with great gusto and enthusiasm. Some of the 2007 highlights have included:

- ★ The signing of the WAMSI Legal Agreements ;
- ★ The Launch of WAMSI by the WA Premier in May at the WA Maritime Museum;
- ★ Dr Bernard Bowen completing his term as WAMSI's first Chairman;
- ★ Four meetings held of the WAMSI Governing Board;
- ★ Nine meetings of the three Board Committees [R&D Committee; Audit & Finance Committee; Strategic Programs Committee];
- ★ Eight meetings of the two Groups [Operations Group and Communications Group];
- ★ The majority of Science Plans and Project Plans are now in operation through signed off Project Agreements. The total portfolio of research now underway in WAMSI is 25 Projects in the 6 Nodes and that includes over 70 sub-projects. We believe that we are involving over 200 research scientists nationally within the WAMSI Research Program;
- ★ We also held the first WAMSI Strategic Planning event on 22 August 2007 involving all WAMSI Governors, Board Members and Node Leaders. This will be repeated annually each August;
- ★ We also held the first face to face meeting of the WAMSI Governors on 22 August 07; and
- ★ We also made a presentation at the first WA *Science-at-Parliament* Day on 14 August 07.

In terms of the future directions, the WAMSI Strategic Plan has now been approved and is informing our new direction. The initial focus is on the strategic development of a Kimberley-Browse Marine Science Case and WAMSI is in the process of appointing Dr Mike Wood and Dr Des Mills to lead the development of that Marine Science Case in the period between now and August 2008.

The new WAMSI Strategic Programs Committee, chaired by Dr Bernard Bowen will oversight the development of the Marine Science Case including the appointment of a Stakeholder Group to advise the consultants on the major priorities for the Kimberley-Browse region. It is proposed that the Stakeholder Reference Group will involve State Government agencies, Commonwealth Government agencies, APPEA, Tourism, Indigenous groups, Fishing and Development Commission groups. We will keep you posted on the progress of this work.

The second identified priority area that the WAMSI Governors and Board has identified, is to develop a Marine Science Case in the Pilbara coast region, following on from the efforts in the Kimberley-Browse. Another initiative I have instigated since becoming Chairman is weekly 'meet and greet' gatherings involving external stakeholders, potential new members of WAMSI and Node Leaders. We believe this is having a positive affect on engagement in the WAMSI program; but also these

'one-to-one' meetings allow us to go into some depth as to the individuals' requirements and project delivery.

WAMSI is currently teaming with iVEC, WASTAC and WALIS to further explore the marine data management options for WA. This is anticipated to be of assistance to the State Government members of WAMSI.

I am also pleased to announce that the WA Chemistry Centre has applied to join WAMSI and we are currently in the process [by way of a Deed of Participation] of allowing them to join the consortium.

Our CEO has just returned from a four venue speaking tour of the WAMSI Commonwealth partners [Townsville, Brisbane, Melbourne and Hobart] informing AIMS, Bureau of Meteorology, CSIRO and staff located in the eastern states of the background and current and future directions of WAMSI. The feedback has been very positive.

Looking ahead to 2008, the WAMSI Board has decided that final decisions on the remaining WAMSI funds will be made at the first meeting of the Board on 13 March 2008. Preceding this, will be reviews of final project plans by the WAMSI R&D Committee on 22 February 2008. The focus of the Board, will shift, in 2008, from commissioning science projects, to monitoring science performance and reviewing project outcomes.

Also on 26 February 2008, AMSA WA and WAMSI are teaming up to run a 'Show & Tell' Marine Science event at the WA Maritime Museum. The following day, 27 February 2008, at the same venue will be a seminar dedicated to the RV Southern Surveyor Preliminary Cruise Findings from the May 2007 cruise, recently held in WA.

On 12 March 2008, in the morning, Node Leaders will be making their annual public presentations and, in the afternoon, the WAMSI Governors will be meeting and undertaking the first review of Board performance and overall program evaluation. The Governors will subsequently meet again in August as part of Board Meeting No 3 to look at reviewing the progress being made against the current Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan summary is appended to this Newsletter as are the Meeting dates for all WAMSI Committees and Groups, as well as the Board for 2008.

All that remains for me to do is to thank Dr Bernard Bowen again for all of his efforts in helping to establish WAMSI during his tenure as the inaugural independent Chairman of the organisation, to thank all of those involved with WAMSI over 2007 and to wish you and your family a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Kind regards

Peter Rogers
(CHAIRMAN)

APPENDIX 1:
WAMSI Strategic Plan Summary: (See over p3.)

APPENDIX 2:
WAMSI Meeting Dates for 2008 (See p 4.)