

# **Pacific Water Association**

**Report on the**

**40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Expo of the New Zealand Water and  
Wastes Association**

**held in Wellington, NZ, 22-25 September 1998**

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*SOPAC Miscellaneous Report 301*

## **Background**

A very welcome invitation was received by the Pacific Water Association (PWA) from the New Zealand Water & Wastes Association (NZWWA) to attend it's 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Expo held in Wellington, NZ, from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> September 1998.

The PWA Executive agreed that Ed Burke should attend the conference if funding was available. (Note that Ed is a long time member of NZWWA). The PWA Executive Director, John Chaniel, was unable to attend due to a prior commitment to attend the Pacific Power Association meeting held in New Caledonia.

NZWWA agreed to pay for all conference fees with SOPAC and PWA agreeing to share the balance of the costs.

The main reason for attending the NZWWA meeting was to seek future collaboration with NZWWA and to promote PWA to the NZ water sector to build up Allied membership.

## **The Conference**

Over 650 water sector people attended the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Expo. The conference commenced with pre-conference workshops on Reform of the Australian Water Industry in the morning and either a Water Supplies Workshop or Wastewater Workshop in the afternoon.

The conference proper was a mixture of keynote addresses and over 50 technical papers were presented. The conference program is shown in Appendix 1.

The Interim Secretariat can provide copies of selected papers presented if requested.

The NZWWA organisers allowed a PWA poster display within the Expo area at no cost. An A4 copy of the poster is shown in Appendix 2.

## **The Expo**

Over 70 exhibitors participated in the Expo. Appendix 3 shows a list of exhibitors. Conference breakfasts, lunches plus morning and afternoon teas were held in the Expo areas thus giving better exposure to exhibitors.

Most Expo stands were visited with the PWA brochure and covering letter distributed. Detailed discussions about the PWA were made with about half the exhibitors. Appendix 4 shows the business cards of the exhibitors who were consulted. Most exhibitors were very interested in joining the PWA. However, when they heard that the membership fee was US\$2,500 (about NZ\$5,000) most indicated that this amount was much more than they were willing to pay. Many stated that to join the NZWWA cost only NZ\$250 and that for NZ\$5,000 they could travel to many member countries to promote their services. It was most difficult to convince potential Allied members to join PWA because of the current subscription fee. Many suggested that an "associated" type membership should be established at a subscription rate similar to that of the NZWWA.

### **Meetings**

The NZWWA Executive including Rob Fullerton (past President), Anthony Wilson, (elected President), Len Chapham (Business Manager), Michele Bristow (Publications Manager) and Rob Blakemore (Board Member) were all very supportive of the PWA and were keen to find ways to assist and collaborate with PWA. One immediate form of assistance is to run PWA articles in the NZWWA Journal that is published six to eight times a year. Also reciprocal membership was discussed and seen as a positive move by each Association. Their expertise in organising meetings was offered for future PWA meetings.

Met with the Australian Water & Wastewater Association (AWWA) Federal President, Grey Cawston (from Sydney Water) who was supportive of PWA. Again reciprocal membership was discussed as an initial collaboration that could develop.

Also met with the Executive Director of the Water Services Association of Australia (WSAA), John Langford, who made a presentation at one of the pre-conference workshops. Both ACTEW and Sydney Water are members of PWA and WSAA. Maybe through our mutual members we could access support from WSAA.

### **Comments**

The NZWWA conference and Expo was excellent in that it was very professionally organised and conducted. The NZWWA Executive has extended a friendly hand to PWA to help us develop. They have agreed to let PWA publish articles in their Journal. Also they have offered their assistance to organise future PWA AGMs.

There is potential assistance from both the AWWA and WSAA that needs to be further explored.

Again, despite much interest by many exhibitors to join PWA as Allied Members, the current membership fee is the main reason for their reluctance to join.

### **Recommendations**

1. That PWA develops this initial contact with NZWWA to benefit PWA members.
2. That PWA takes advantage of NZWWA offer to publish PWA articles in their Journal.
3. That PWA offers reciprocal membership to NZWWA.
4. That PWA contacts both AWWA and WSAA to establish contact and offer reciprocal memberships.
5. That PWA reviews its current membership and fee structure in order to attract potential Allied Members to join the Association thus increasing its membership base that will allow the PWA develop further.

**APPENDIX 1**

**CONFERENCE PROGRAM**

**APPENDIX 2**

**A4 COPY OF PWA POSTER**

**APPENDIX 3**

**LIST OF EXPO EXHIBITORS**

**APPENDIX 4**

**LIST OF BUSINESS CARDS OF PARTICIPANTS MET**