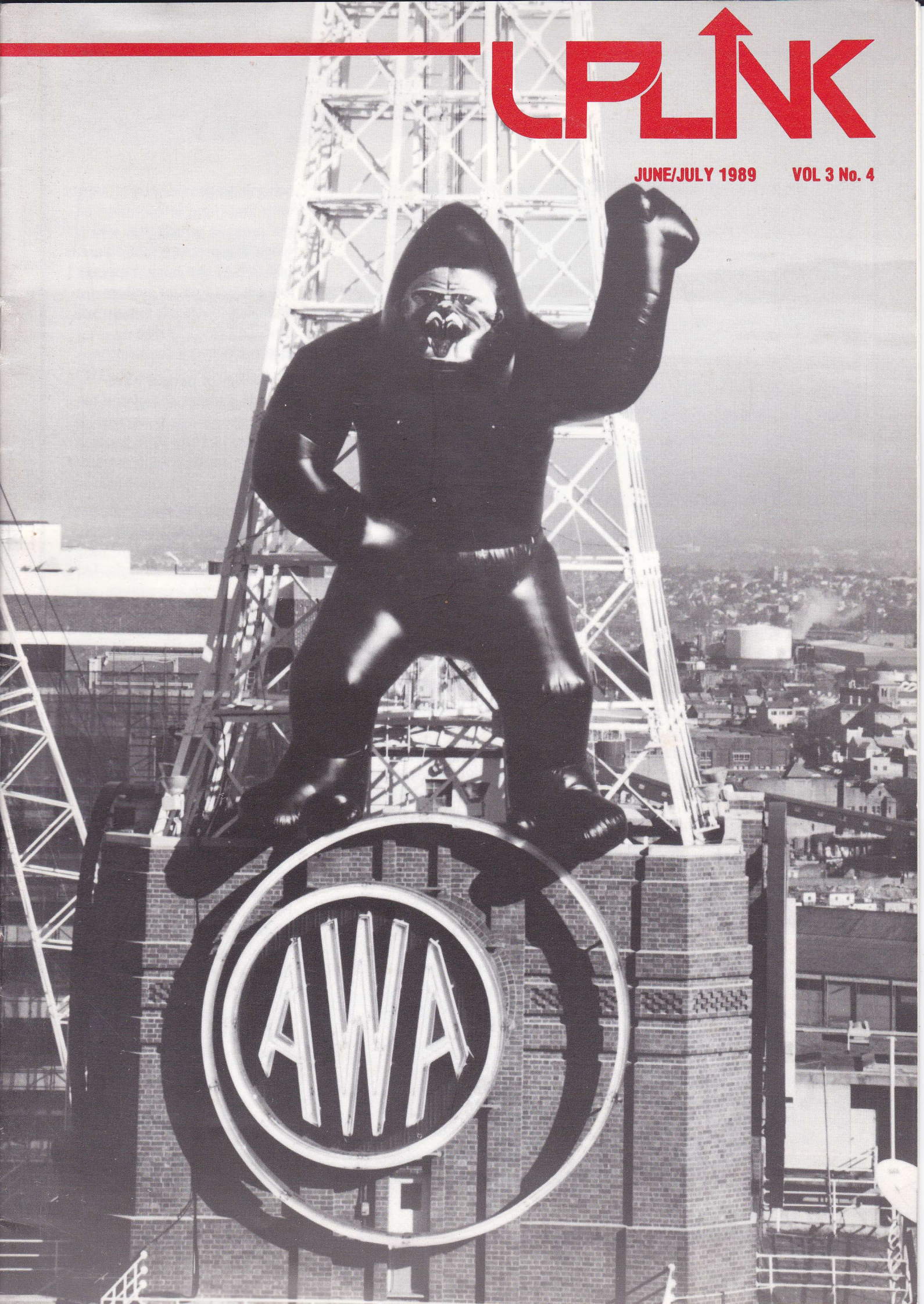


# UPLNK

JUNE/JULY 1989

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# EEO Update

UPLINK is the staff magazine of AUSSAT Pty Ltd, owners and operators of Australia's National Satellite System.

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Contributions to UPLINK are welcome and should be directed to:

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Sydney NSW 2000*

**Front Cover:** The view from Head Office. King Kong stared down at AUSSAT staff for a day as part of a promotion to sell floorspace in the AWA building.

To all staff members

No doubt you have received and read a copy of the annual Equal Employment Opportunity Report and have also received and completed the EEO Survey.

Firstly a comment on the EEO survey: To the staff who have completed the survey and returned it to me, I would like to say thank you.

I would also like to assure you that the information in the survey will contribute greatly to our internal training and development program for ALL staff. I feel that the 20 minutes you have spent on completing the survey have been well spent.

We will endeavour to design a training program which will enhance employee's career and personal development interests.

To the staff who did not complete the survey - why not? It is not too late to participate in the survey and in your own career and personal development! Please contact me on extension 877 and I will forward a copy of the survey to you.

Secondly, I would like to comment on the annual EEO Report. Over the coming months a number of tasks have been set for me in generating interest in the electrical engineering and computing fields amongst high school, TAFE and CAE students in the metropolitan area.

I am calling for volunteers to accompany me to these

schools to provide the students with first hand information of the areas in which they will work. I appreciate that all areas of AUSSAT are busy, however I will set up a roster system ensuring that each person will be called on only one afternoon every six months.

A number of people have already generously agreed to participate in the program. However, to keep the program running, more volunteers are required.

Another activity and successful means of generating interest amongst students is to participate in the schools, TAFE and CAE work experience programs. The students work in study related areas for 1-2 weeks, providing unpaid assistance to the department they are assigned to, while gaining valuable work experience.

If you are interested in participating in the work experience program, please contact Tamara Phoebus on extension 959.

Lastly, I would like to stress the importance of the EEO Program and the participation of all employees. The Company is committed to the development of its employees, and one successful way of achieving this goal is the implementation of a comprehensive EEO program.

**Janet Lee**



## The things we do

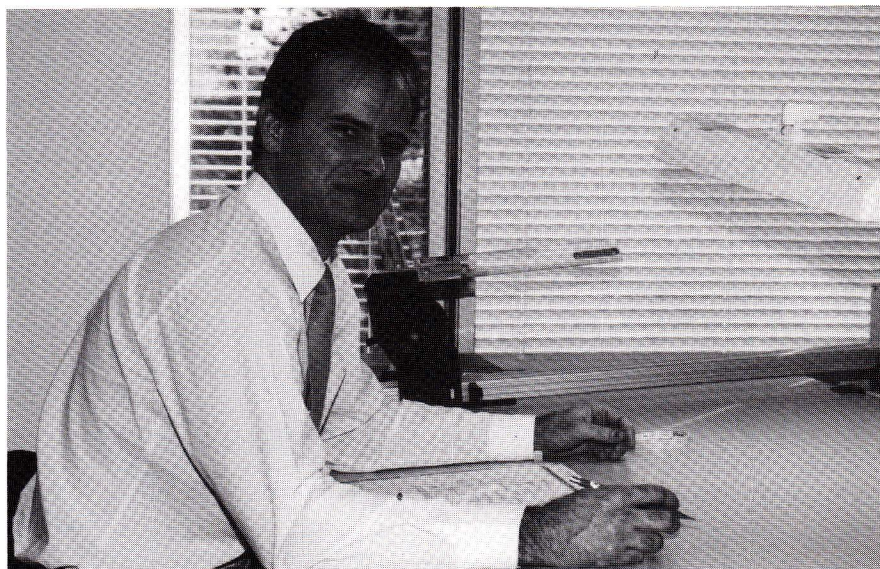
Tucked away on Level 4 at Head Office is the Drafting Room - a place of mystery for many at AUSSAT. Yet Peter Small's face would be familiar to many as he has been a contractor with the company for over four years (some may even recognise him from his OTC days).

Peter heads up the drafting team, which can vary in numbers depending on the work load, but there is always at least one drafter and a clerk.

"Sometimes we can be flat out and need to get a few extra staff in, while other times there's only enough to keep two people busy," says Peter.

The work for an AUSSAT draftsman can vary enormously. Most of the work is the drafting of artwork for equipment installations, new equipment and updating equipment. Peter spends most of his time working with engineers on Level 12, though he has been known to draw the odd cartoon or two for UPLINK.

The most challenging work is drafting circuit boards, because



**Peter Small at his drafting desk**

they are so intricate and time consuming. Fortunately Peter has been in the business long enough to have gained quite a bit of technical knowledge, which is essential when working with a company such as AUSSAT.

Peter's only criticism of his job is when people give him changes to his artwork and expect them to be made in a very short lead time.

"Sometimes some people don't realise how much work is involved in drafting, and expect

changes in very complicated drawings overnight," says Peter.

When he is not hovered over his drafting board at work, Peter can often be found racing his Go-kart, a sport he has taken up in the last year. He races at Oran Park and is fairly competitive, but has been hampered by injuries incurred while racing in October last year.

"It's a great sport, but there tend to be a few accidents which can be very nasty as we reach pretty fast speeds. It can also be very expensive!" he says.

Peter seems very happy working with AUSSAT, and finds that he enjoys working with different people and on a variety of jobs.

"I certainly never get the time to get bored, as there is always enough work to keep me busy," he states as the phone rings again.

### Letter to the Editor

In these heady times of second generation, reorganisations, making a profit, future planning, etc., etc., I would like to report that life still continues on the first generation satellite operations. On May 17 the 500th manoeuvre was performed on K2 (also known as A2.) This is just one of the 1300 manoeuvres which have been successfully planned and executed by Satellite Operations Staff so far on the first generation spacecraft.

**Andrew Edwards**



# Staff briefings on the China crisis

Following the news of China's civil unrest a series of meetings were held involving all staff. Dick Johnson, General Manager, was eager to not only let staff know what AUSSAT's position was regarding our launch with China, but also to discuss other matters relating to the company.

Rather than organise one large meeting, Dick spoke to small groups, on a floor by floor basis at Head Office and at Belrose with staff from Frenchs Forest giving the discussions a more informal atmosphere with feedback.

Most of the meetings lasted over an hour, and many topics were raised, ranging from the China situation (see below) through to AUSSAT's financial future, cellular licences and even the slowness of the lifts at AUSSAT House.

There was a lot of positive feedback too, though there were some concerns expressed about the planned relocation and redeployment of staff. Hopefully, these fears will be allayed by the follow-up meetings, and staff will be informed promptly when decisions are made.

One of the main outcomes of these meetings was the need for more face to face contact with Senior

Management, a fact not lost on Dick. "After each meeting it became clearer that the staff are very keen to learn of AUSSAT's activities, and I hope they left feeling more aware of our future directions," he said.

There is certainly no doubt that staff appreciated the chance to air their concerns, and Dick plans to hold similar meetings on a regular basis or when special matters of wide interest to staff arise, as was the case involving our launch situation in China.



Dick Johnson talks to staff at Belrose MCES

## An interview with the Managing Director

*The following is an edited version of a 2BL World Today interview with Graham Gosewinckel on 7 May.*

**Q: Is the launch schedule going to be altered due to the unrest in China?**

A: No. Our schedule is perfectly safe because of the guarantees we have with both the American and European launchers. If, for any reason, we are unable to launch with China, the satellites should still go up on time.

**Q: How much more will this cost?**

A: This will be in the region of \$100 million, as we stated when we announced the contract to launch on the Long March rockets. This

extra money is part and parcel of our contract, of funding arrangements with the banks and approvals from the Australian Government.

**Q: So AUSSAT wouldn't have to go cap in hand to the Government asking for more money?**

A: No. The funding is all there. The difficulty comes from an additional \$100 million on top of a program like this in a very competitive communications business environment, and what it will do to our future profitability. That's where it will effect us.

**Q: Is it possible the Americans might prevent AUSSAT for**

**political reasons using the Chinese rockets?**

A: That's always a possibility. The export licence we have allows the export of the satellite built in the United States to go to China to be launched. This licence can be revoked at any time, and that's one of the risks we run by choosing the Long March rockets, and why we insisted on a backup.

*Since this interview the US Government has suspended all export licences to China. However, these licences are being reviewed on a case by case basis. Refer to Downlink No 6.*



# The birth of Taslink



**Wayne (second from left) and his helpers position the dish**

It is a cold but clear Sunday morning. I am standing in the middle of a public carpark in the centre of downtown Auckland at 5.30am, waiting for a wide-load semitrailer to arrive carrying a 4.6m satellite antenna. The helicopter is also due to arrive to lift the dish to the top of the Westpac Towers building, the site of AUSSAT's newest earth station.

All will be OK. Sure. It has been a rough week. There has been rain and wind every day and I have had to organise this lift weeks in advance. Each night has been spent studying the weather charts. Will it be fine? Helicopters with dishes attached do not like wind and rain. Councils do not like helicopters lifting dishes over the city except for two hours early Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Saturday was no good because of building delays. But I have great faith in the weather. This is our third helicopter lift and each one was done in fine weather, after a very wet week.

The police arrive to stop the traffic and otherwise rubberneck like everyone else. The night sky is giving way to rays of sun when I hear the chopper arriving. Now, where is that truck with my dish? I know, I'll ask the policeman.

"Sorry Sir," he said. "We can't help you. That's a Traffic Authority problem - probably still in bed."

The chopper lands and setup procedures begin. The pilot comes over. "Where's the load?" "Search me," I said. "I saw it out towards the airport last night and it was supposed to be here already."

I start to get one of those instant headaches you can get at 6.00am. I knew it was too good to be true. Weather's fine. Chopper didn't crash. I woke up in time and all the help has arrived in time. I hadn't counted on losing my dish.

I know - why don't I call the transport company? Surely someone will be there? The nearest phone book and phone were on the 25th floor of the

Westpac Building. Setting a world record for this distance, I made it to the 25th floor. I fumbled through the book and found the right number - the General Manager of the transport company, still in bed. "Don't worry - be happy," he said. "I'll find your dish for you."

I paced the floor like I was expecting a baby. Then the phone rang. It's already there, he said. I rushed to the window and saw the dish below.

The rest of the exercise was an anticlimax. We did not drop the dish. It was placed gently on the roof of Westpac Towers. And just as we were tightening the last bolt the heavens opened. Another great AUSSAT feat - controlling the weather.

This was, in fact, the story of the second dish to be erected for AUSSAT on this building, the first being installed a week earlier. The electrical installation had taken place and Taslink is now a reality. My final AUSSAT triumph!

## **Wayne Kitchener**

*(Wayne has recently resigned. We wish him the best in the future)*



**The 4.6 dish securely in place**



## Steve aims for Gold



**Mild mannered contractor during the week - crack shooter (above) on the weekends**

They say that shooters can slow down their heart and fire between heart beats. Steve Negus, from Belrose is not sure if he does this, but his tactics are certainly successful. Steve is one of Australia's top young shooters and has already represented the Green and Gold in the Under 25 National Team against New Zealand last year.

Steve, who is a contractor and has spent over three years off and on working with AUSSAT recently competed in the Commonwealth Games trials in Brisbane. Although he missed a spot in the Australian Full Bore Rifle Shooting Team, he should still be very proud of the fact that he qualified for the eliminations.

The New South Wales selections were held in late April which Steve won convincingly. The top two competitors from each state qualified for the national

eliminations, where Steve was the youngest competitor.

"I think I tried too hard in Brisbane, and had trouble getting my natural rhythm going. Still, it was great experience and next time I hopefully won't be so nervous," he said.

Rifle bore shooting is something of a family affair for Steve. His Dad is Captain of

the Queensland team and has represented Australia at overseas competitions. However, like Steve he also missed out qualifying for the Commonwealth Games when he came fourth in 1981.

Steve is a member of the Mosman/Neutral Bay shooting club which practices at Malabar. Here he runs courses on general firearm safety, and is thinking of holding one for interested AUSSAT employees.

After a short break from shooting Steve will soon be back training and travelling around the country competing. The next major competition is the National Championships in November.

Steve works with Roger Donnelly on building projects and is heavily involved with the Belrose extensions.

Perhaps someone should warn the builders not to mess around with this guy!



**The "formal" presentation for Steve after a win at the DRA prize meeting, Mudgee**



## More contracts for the Private Network Business team

Olaf Lambooy was recently awarded "Champion of the month" in the Private Network Business section of Marketing.

And it's no wonder. Olaf joined AUSSAT only seven months ago and has been busy hunting up customers since.

The contracts Olaf has arranged include a three year contract with BT Australia for a data channel between Auckland and Sydney, a two year contract with the AMP Society for a Sydney-Auckland and Sydney-Wellington data link and a one year contract with Midland Montagu for a Sydney-Auckland voice line.

Bond Technology has also just signed a three year contract with AUSSAT for a national Citylink system to support their corporate public packet switching network.

Fay Richwhite Australia Limited has signed for a two year contract for a Citylink data link

between Sydney and Melbourne. Olaf has also teed up two customers to renew their contracts with us - Skypage (previously Voicecall) and Stockwatch.

As for the future, Olaf is sure there are plenty more "forthcoming attractions" for AUSSAT.

In mid May John Denton (our Marketing man in Canberra) and Graham Gosewinckel spoke at a dinner celebrating Canberra ATUG's second birthday, which was attended by 80 couples and has generated tremendous business opportunities.

Most of the audience were from Government Departments based in Canberra, and the speeches gave the company exposure on



**Olaf Lambooy**

services such as RAS, Taslink and Citylink.

Also in Marketing news, John Beetham (Melbourne office) has secured a contract with BHP for a Melbourne-Darwin link. There is strong potential growth for similar services with "The Big Australian" once this first link is proved.

## The Last Aussie Fishcaf

After a mad rush to sell the remaining tickets and then realising that there were 11 boys and only two girls, the evening was looking to be potential disaster.

However, fortunately this proved to be the opposite and everyone that went had a lot of fun. The Last Aussie Fishcaf is a loud and energetic restaurant. The waiters and waitresses scream out your order and are continually offering some form of distraction. This proved to be a blessing for Glenn McGrath, who managed to spill

his beer four times, but everyone was too busy watching the activity around us to notice too much.

The centre of the restaurant is a large Wurlitzer juke box (complete with remote control) and a couple of performing Rock and Roll dancers. These boppers managed to convince diners to attempt all that swirling. Carlie Martin and Fiona Finlayson were almost at the point of exhaustion when luckily one of the 11 AUSSAT men noticed a table of women.

The highlight of the evening was the limbo competition, which Dean Foley excelled in despite his height. At least it gave us a good excuse to fall over.

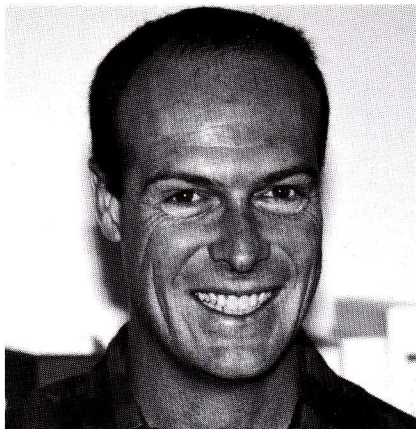
It's a shame more people couldn't make it, and next time we'll make sure we organise our outings in pay week.

The next major event will be the ski trip which, judging by the falls so far, should be a great weekend.

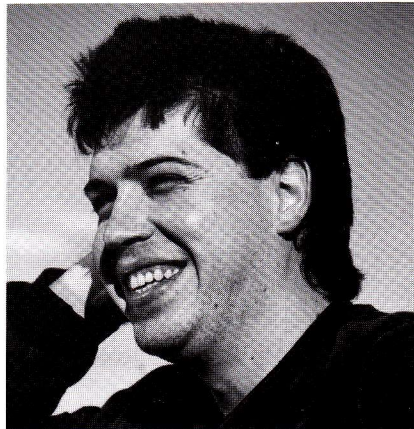
**Rob Parcell**



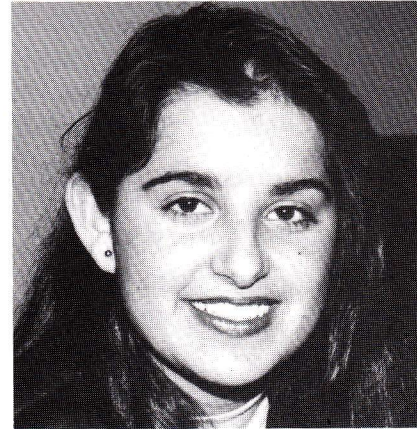
## New People



**Gordon Bates**  
Communications Officer



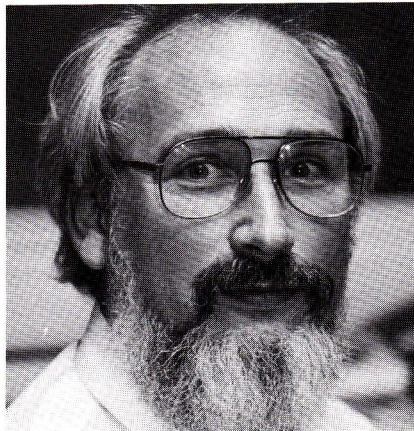
**John Lontos**  
Engineering Specialist



**Irene Psarianos**  
Administrative Assistant



**David Scott**  
Analyst/Programmer



**Geoffrey Smith**  
Principle Engineering Specialist



**Neil Stewart**  
Assitant Network Controller



**Raji Tenneti**  
Business Analyst



**Greg Larkins**  
Network Controller



**Paul Timbs**  
Programmer/Analyst



## People...



Seen at lunch celebrating Samantha Carroll's 21st were (front left) Sally Rosenberg, Rob Loane, Kevin Crouch, the birthday girl, Mary Silvio, Megan Horrocks, Andrew Kirk, and half of Leighton Farrell.



Graham Murray farewells Wendy Shackelton on her final day before leaving for a year's maternity leave.



Rob Jolly wheeled off to hospital after putting his back out. Must be all that natural Spring Water. (printed with his permission!)



Another Rhodes Scholar in the making? Eliza Wagg (Mike's daughter) compares her new mobile phone with an old favourite.

(right) Gumby farewells Craig Badger, the man who fired the apogee rocket on A1 at 3.52pm, 30 August, 1985.





# Australian Industry reaps the benefit from the B-Generation

*Australian companies are becoming increasingly involved with the building of the next generation of AUSSAT satellites. The following two stories describe just two of these contracts awarded by Hughes Aircraft Co, as part of their contract to AUSSAT to include eight per cent input from Australian industry for the B-Generation.*

When the first AUSSAT-B satellite is launched the Orroral Valley Ranging Facility south-east of Canberra will monitor its orbital height of 36 000 kilometres by bouncing

a laser beam off a precision optical array on its surface.

Even at the speed of light, the beam will take about a quarter of a second to make the 72 000km round trip. It is no mean technical feat to detect its return, the beam will be vastly weakened in intensity after passing twice through the Earth's atmosphere.

## **Moving Target**

The great distance causes a second problem. Even though the satellite will be in geostationary orbit, the return beam must be displaced slightly in the direction of the

Earth's rotation, just as a hunter tracking a moving target with his rifle must shoot slightly ahead to compensate for the time the bullet is in transit.

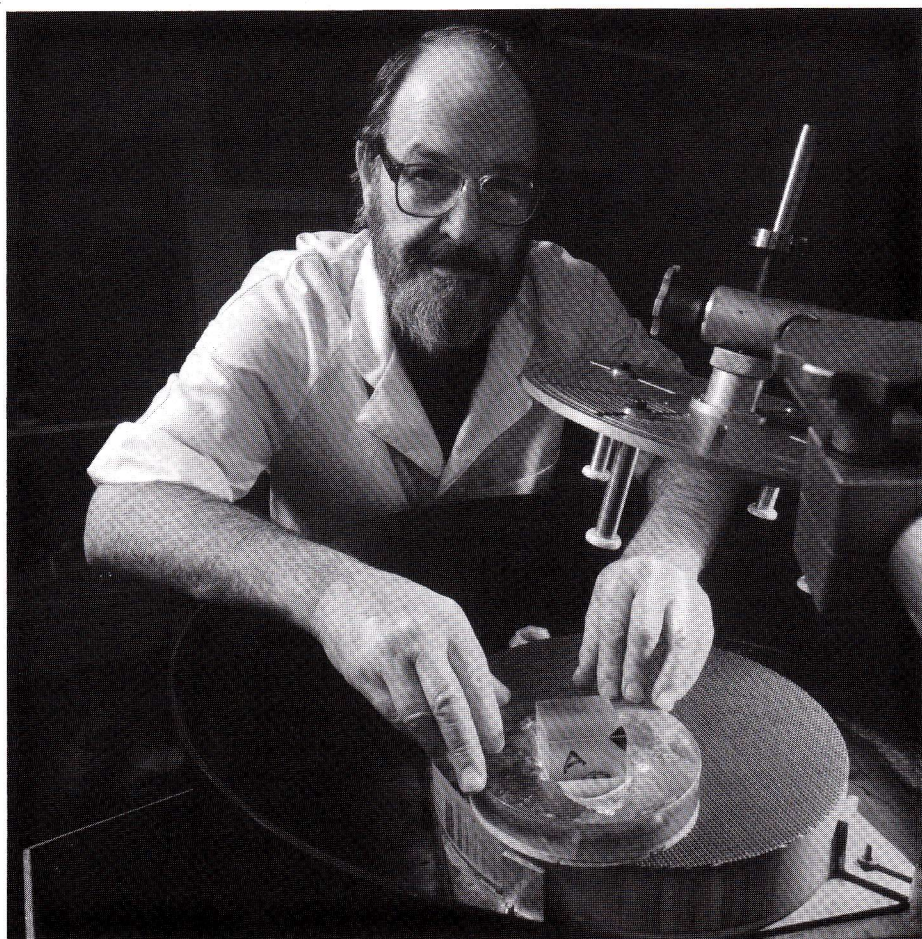
A small company in the Melbourne suburb of Hawthorn, James Optics Pty Ltd, is making three sets of optical arrays for the AUSSAT-B satellite for British Aerospace Australia, which has an offset contract with the primary manufacturer, Hughes Aircraft Corporation.

James Optics was established in 1968 by British-born William James, who entered the field of precision optics as an amateur astronomer making his own telescopes in Melbourne during the 1950's.

In 1960 he decided to make optics his career and gained more formal experience with the British astronomical optics manufacturer Cox, Hargreaves and Thompson and Imperial College in London.

Returning to Australia in 1965 to join the optics group in the University of Tasmania's Dept of Physics, he designed an 0.4 metre telescope for the University's new observatory, and made all the mirrors and lenses for it.

William set up a business in Melbourne three years later to meet a need in Australia for the manufacture of precision astronomical optics and prototype optics for research, industry and defence. His reputation has grown since then - he specialises in making large reflectors for



**William James teflon polishing a cube for use on the AUSSAT-B corner prism project.**



professionally-used telescopes and for the occasional dedicated amateur astronomer.

The AUSSAT-B project is an unusual job for James Optics. It demands an array of 14 precisely shaped cube corner prisms, an optical device familiar to surveyors and whether they know it or not, to motorists. A cube-corner prism, with its three internal faces set at 90 degrees to each other, has the remarkable property of reflecting any light entering it directly towards its source. Laser-based surveying instruments employ cube-corner prisms as targets, and tiny arrays of cube-corner prisms are used as reflectors in car tail lights, as well as in reflective road signs.

The 14 prisms on AUSSAT-B will be mounted on the satellite's Earthward-pointing surface. The multiple prisms offer a large target for the diffracted laser beam, but are also arranged in such a way that they produce a doughnut-shaped return beam of light that is several hundred metres across when it reaches the ground, making it more readily detectable

#### **Slight offset**

Each cube corner is cut from a master cube of high-purity optical glass; even slight inhomogeneities in the bulk material can bend or scatter the light as it enters and leaves the prism. Instead of the three faces of the prism intersecting at perfect right angles, they are offset by a miniscule angle, about 0.8 arc seconds, to

produce the necessary offset to compensate for the Earth's motion.

A diamond saw is used in cutting the master cube and then a single prism is sliced from one corner, a procedure taking about a week. The window face of the prism - the one through which the laser beam enters - must be ground extremely flat. The three internal faces are not coated, because the prism works on the principle of total internal reflection; the beam bounces off each face at an angle that prevents any light escaping from the prism's confines.

Each prism is coated with a thin layer of a transparent, electrically conductive material called indium tin oxide, which

effectively earths it through the satellite's metal body, preventing arc-overs of static electricity resulting from charged solar particles. Arc-overs generate a radio signal that can distort the data being transmitted through the satellite.

#### **Outstanding work**

Although William does not possess even the basic academic qualification of a degree, he was made a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Physics for his outstanding work in optics, and was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for services to Applied Optics.

*(Reprinted from "Link Magazine", Victorian Department of Industry, Technology and Resources)*

## **CSIRO wins on-board antenna contract**

CSIRO has won the contract to design an on-board antenna for the second generation of AUSSAT satellites.

The contract, worth \$250 000 was awarded to the CSIRO's Division of Radiophysics by the Hughes Aircraft Company. This is an important segment of the 8% of total price of the satellites which AUSSAT specified in its Request For Tender to go to Australian industry.

CSIRO will build a prototype satellite antenna which will take Australia a step closer towards its aim of eventually exporting a range of space-qualified hardware.

Antennas based on the prototype will be fitted to each of the two satellites to produce shaped beams covering Western Australia, the North-West Shelf and the Christmas and Cocos Islands.

This contract to CSIRO follows the work done by them for the development of the high performance beams during the reconfiguration of the satellites late last year.



## Redex Bash

Pictured above is the 1961 EJ Holden AUSSAT partly sponsored in the annual Redex Variety Club Bash from Broome to Bourke, and one of the drivers, Edward Jewell-Tait.

Covering a distance of over 6000km, the Holden suffered no mechanical difficulties at all, and only one flat tyre (in a car park in Derby!).

It was the 18th car overall to finish and the fifth highest money raiser for handicapped and underprivileged children.

Of course, finishing within the top 20 had nothing to do with



bribing officials at the start of each day (sometimes \$5000)

to get a two hour start on the tail-enders.

## Tracking Superbird

Launch supports are so exciting. At least, I'm sure they are for those twiddling knobs and who know what's going on. Non-technical people like me find them a little

overwhelming, but thanks to explanations from the Belrose Boys, I managed to get the drift of things.

The loud speaker in the Satellite Operations Centre crackles regularly, and on this occasion the Mission Controller from Ford Aerospace in Palo Alto was just a tad difficult to understand.

Perth MCES acquired Japan's first commercial satellite around 35 minutes after liftoff on an Ariane Rocket, followed by Belrose 15 minutes later. Andrew Edwards and his team of orbital analysts had worked out when acquisition should occur, and the satellite controllers soon picked up the signal (after more twiddling of knobs).

Suddenly signals on screens started to jump frantically and John Natoli's face relaxed. Before long, the signal was fixed and the TTAC antenna began to move slowly following the satellite's flight over the Southern Hemisphere.

AUSSAT continued to track the satellite for the next six days.

**Megan Horrocks**



From left: Dave Hollingsworth, John Natoli, Warren Cole, Peter Elliott, Duncan Henry, Ian Partis and Andrew Edwards (having a quick snooze)



# Network Operations News

Why is someone picking on us? The rain just keeps coming down without any real thought about those people who operate Ku Band satellite equipment.

As we have mentioned that word so often during past reports, every attempt will be made to refrain from using it, except in exceptional circumstances.

Some people can really strike it lucky. Just to give an example of this, what about our own Brian Flynn? He left Australia on 13 April on a two-month overseas holiday with his wife Rae. The highlight of his tour is a train trip across Russia on the Trans Siberian railway. What some people will do to miss work. Brian will have some real tales to tell us when he returns.

At this point, you may be wondering what happened to the network during the past month. Well, 10 customer networks did not meet their availability targets. This was due to a variety of equipment faults coupled with that word "\_\_\_\_" again. For those people interested in statistics, the

network availability was 99.55% spread over 63 different service categories.

Two additional services were added to our network during the month. Santos expanded their TMES service with the addition of two voice services. Shell re-established their TMES service also using two voice channels. Occasional TV service requirements were not as high as the previous month. Our charming Booking Clerk, Melissa, was instrumental in arranging 393 services during the month using our new OSIS booking system. All of our customers were informed of the Sun Transit phenomenon which occurred during April.

Another new data base system has been introduced into the Network Management Group, it is known as SDIS. (Service Docket Information System.) This data base is used by the NOC to enter all interruption and service difficulty reports made by our customers or detected by AUSSAT staff.

This data is then used to track service availability and reliability as well as indicating

trends on equipment performance. This enables AUSSAT to be more responsive to our customers needs and reduces the need to keep vast amounts of paper. This was another team effort co-ordinated by Chas Pearson from Network Operations.

Information Systems provided the analysis and coding functions which were excellently performed by Liz Buckley and Margaret Fisher. Staff from the NOC also provided valuable input and feedback during development of the system. Our thanks to Chas, Shea Cosgrave and Wayne McInnes for their interest and contributions.

It was sad to see Dina Karafilis leave our Department. Dina was the Secretary for Network Operations and due to a medical problem, she made the difficult decision to leave AUSSAT. We will miss Dina as she was so cheerful and also a very good secretary, and wish her good health and good luck for her future.

Also departing is Bruce Boardman. Bruce is a Senior Communications Officer at Belrose who has performed very capably both in the NOC and Technical Services areas during the past four years. He has obtained a position of Service Manager with a well known organisation and with his experience and knowledge, we know he will do a good job. Good luck Bruce.

**Ray Reynolds**

## City to Surf

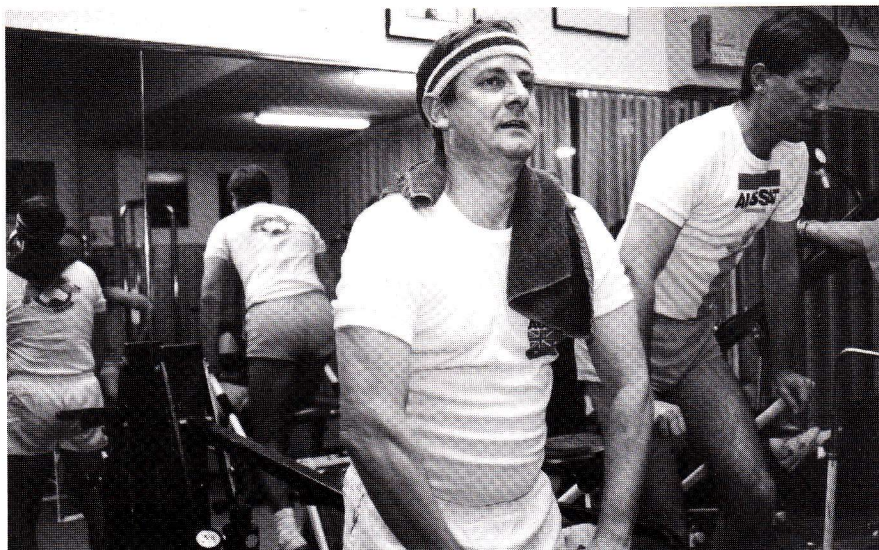
Once again AUSSAT will be entering a team in the City to Surf for both men and women. Now is the time to start training for this 14km event to ensure that your fitness level is ok (please, no more casualties this year).

Roger Donnelly has developed a data base of AUSSAT athletes to ensure that you will hear of events well in advance to assist with training and organisation.

If you are interested in being included in this data base, or in entering the City to Surf please contact Roger at Belrose or Bruce Mayberry at Head Office.



## Work out!

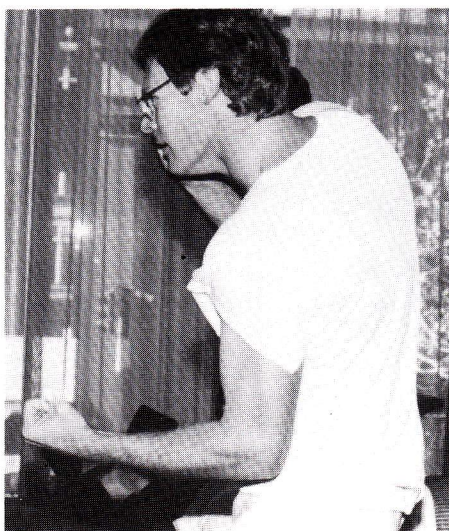


**Leighton Farrell and Mike Wagg working out**

As promised, here is the proof that some AUSSAT people are taking advantage of the cost savings and working out at Aerobic City.

There are around 16 staff who use the great facilities only a minute's walk from Head Office.

A walking example of what exercise can do is Leighton Farrell, Manager of Corporate Relations and Public Affairs. Around six months ago Leighton quit cigarettes and



**Chas Pearson letting out stress**



**Malama Docker as you've never seen her before!**

embarked on a fitness program worked out by the staff at Aerobic City. Since then he has lost seven kilos and almost two inches off his waist. (Eat your heart out Jenny Craig!)

"I suppose I started the program as a way to get my mind off smoking, and to trim the figure, but now it's far more than that. I feel so much fitter with a lot more energy and it undoubtedly has impacted on my work -

increasing productivity and reducing stress," said Leighton.

One of the first to discover the benefits of Aerobic City was MOBILESAT's Dan Simpson, who has been training there for over five years. Dan believes that the time he spends working out helps him to really enjoy his sport, such as tennis and sailing.

"It keeps me fit, and therefore I can play sport just for the fun of it, rather than just the exercise," he says.

Others who regularly work out (in either circuit or aerobics) include Mike Wagg, Lorna Miller, Lance McDonald, Janice Heggie and Malama Docker.

The cost to join for staff members is only \$328.00 a year, which includes a \$100 rebate from AUSSAT and group discount from the gym including a personalised program. If you are interested in joining Aerobic City, see Ben Visser for details.



## Living in Los Angeles

Well, the hot news flash from one of our team in Los Angeles is: "No comment."

It has nothing to do with the spacecraft that Hughes are building for us.

No. The "No Comment" statement comes from Senior Analyst **Brenton Hamilton** when asked about a recent visit he had made to the glitzy jackpot town of Las Vegas. We can only hope (no, Dean wasn't there) that Brenton escaped with his shirt still on his back.

I'm not quite sure just what it is that Brenton analyses, but he reckons he thoroughly enjoys LA - what with his visits to the city's nightclubs, Disneyland, Universal Studios and accommodation close to Manhattan Beach.

"It's coming on summer, so there should be plenty to do," Brenton imparted as I watched the pouring rain over the city.

Spacecraft Procurement Manager **Max Crisp** was able to enlighten me a little on what was happening in Los Angeles.

"We are starting to see some hardware in the shop," said Max who really wasn't talking about BBC.

"The spacecraft structure is being put together, as are some of the external panels and there has been extensive testing of full scale mock-ups of some of the payload. The design has been finalised and a series of critical design reviews are scheduled for July (with NEC who are making a good deal of the communications



**The LA Team (from left) Max Crisp, Brenton Hamilton, Brett Poynton, Dean Hope and Yolanda Mosely**

payload) and August (with Hughes)."

Even so, Max knows full well that all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy so he and a few others hired a 30ft yacht for a weekend and went sailing only to run into a violent storm.

"It was pretty hairy there for a while," says Max. Just wait for the critical design review!

Meanwhile, Principle Analyst **Dean Hope** reckons life at Hughes is a little different than at Belrose.

"I spend days at interminable meetings only to return to the office to face interminable paper work," says Dean who relaxes from his hectic schedule by riding his bike along stretches of the Californian coast between Palas Verdes and Santa Monica, "Nobody walks in LA," he says by way of explanation. Our other man in LA, Principle

Analyst **Brett Poynton**, apparently didn't want to talk to the Press so I can't reveal exactly what he does.

So I talked to **Yolanda Mosely**, a native Californian hired by AUSSAT to manage the office and be secretary, who offered this insight.

"Its very different working for Australians. They are more self sufficient - not babies like American executives for whom you are expected to handle a lot of personal affairs," said Yolanda.

"Here I'm left to concentrate on the things I was employed to do, such as the banking, managing the petty cash, supply etc. The space industry is new to me and I find it a very exciting and rewarding experience."

You know, I never did find out what Yolanda does in her spare time.

**Sean Allan**



## Snapped at Happy Hour

