

The Institution of Engineers, Australia
 Sydney Engineering Heritage Committee
 Oral History Program
INTERVIEW TAPE LOG

Interviewee: Michael BERMAN

Tape Numbers: IEA SYD: AGP 1

Interviewer: Glen PRESTON

Number of Tapes: 1

Place of Interview:

Date of Interview: 20 October 1998

Restrictions on Use: None

Log prepared using : Genexxa CTR-96 compact cassette recorder

This interview is part of the Oral History Project of the Engineering Heritage Committee of the
 Sydney Division the Institution of Engineers, Australia.

Tape: IEA SYD: AGP 1 , Side A		
TAPE COUNTER	SUBJECT	NAMES & KEYWORDS
0 - 40	Born 6 Oct 1937 in Sri Lanka outlines school and University studies leading to BSc in 1961 as Civil Engineer.	Sri Lanka.
42 - 58	Employment at Ceylon University (6 months) then Ceylon Cement Company until May 1965.	Ceylon University. Ceylon Cement Company
58 - 101	June 1965 arrives London. Joins J D and D M Watson Consultants specialising in Public Health. Transfer to Yorkshire and describes work on sewage treatment with Watson, and later with Leeds firm Cussons, Consultants; describes Activated Sludge Process and methods used in UK for effluent disposal at that time.	J D & M Watson UK. Cussons. Activated Sludge.
101 - 189	Emigrates to Australia 1968 and after work with Gutteridge Haskins & Davey, joins Sydney Water Board. Marries 1970 and gives details of family. Wife many years nurse in Sydney hospitals; three children all to become university graduates.	Gutteridge Haskins & Davey. Sydney Water Board.
189-280	Due for retirement after 28 years with Board, presents views on environment from 1970 to present time. UK Royal Commission Standards (not applicable to Australian conditions).	E.I.S. Studies. Sewage Policies. UK royal Commission

		Standards. Warragamba Dam.
280-353	Deals in detail with Sydney Water contamination incident 1998, aspects of catchment management, testing, political, regulatory and technical aspects of control of water quality and specification standards for water treatment (exclusion of Cryptosporidium for example).	Sydney Water. Water contamination scare 1998. Cryptosporidium.
End Side A.		

Tape: IEA SYD: AGP 1 , Side B		
TAPE COUNTER	SUBJECT	NAMES & KEYWORDS
0-40	Further discussion about Cryptosporidium and Giardia. No testing facilities in the past for these species. Sydney Water funded testing. Water Treatment Works at Prospect.; water quality.	Cryptosporidium. Giardia. Sydney Water. Water Treatment Works at Prospect.
42-58	The question of future modification of treatment plants, impact on cost structure; repercussions would be felt around Australia because of "pay for use" water rates system; challenge for Government as to how to address problem; no clear cut solution.	Treatment Plants Cost structure "Pay for use" water rates.
58-101	Interest in business improvement began after the reorganisation of Board in 1984 and corporatisation in 1994, which required better performance from Board; originally 14,000 employees now reducing to 2,000; better business practices; water contamination, study on how to handle crisis; announcement of new managing director.	Reorganisation and Corporatisation of Board. Reduction of employees. Better business practices. Water crisis study. New managing director.
101-189	In 1980 Board took over rundown secondary treatment plants in Blue Mountains; won Institution of Engineers Excellence Award for study on impact of effluent on Blue Mountains, biological and chemical testing program; diversion tunnel in Blue Mountains; reduction of treatment plants; Rouse Hill, attempted non-potable use of sewage, projections haven't been achieved; development of Rouse Hill and new areas; future water plans for Sydney;.	Treatment plants in Blue Mountains. Institution of Engineers Excellence Award. Diversion tunnel in Blue Mountains. Rouse Hill development. Future plans for Sydney.
189-280	Problems with leakages in mains system; northside tunnel for discharge of stormwater; mention of Warragamba Dam; techniques for underground repairs; majority of work done by contractors.	Leakages. Northside tunnel. Underground repairs. Contractors.
	Thanks expressed to interviewee.	
End side B, End of Interview		