



IADC Australasia Chapter 50th Annual General Meeting

The IADC-AC owes its existence to the formation of the Oilwell Drilling Contractors Association of Australia (ODCAA) back in 1964.

The original Constitution and Rules of ODCAA were adopted by the founding members at a meeting held in Sydney on 9th December 1964. The companies were:

- Australian Drilling Company Pty Ltd
- Delta Drilling Company
- Drilling Contractors (Australia) Pty Ltd
- Forasol SA
- Oil Drilling and Exploration Ltd
- Reading & Bates (Australia) Pty Ltd
- Richter Bawden Drilling Pty Ltd

It is pleasing to note that several of the current members of the IADC-AC can trace one or more of the above companies in their corporate lineage.

The Constitution and Rules set out the requirements for convening an Annual General Meeting, the first of which was held in 1965. The Chapter meeting on Tuesday 19th May 2015 in Melbourne marks the significant milestone of being the 50th consecutive AGM, which this year coincides with the IADC's 75th anniversary.

ODCAA provided leadership to the drilling sector of the Australian E & P industry from its inception through the 1990's. However, the members and office holders recognised the ever-increasing internationalisation of the E&P business in a shrinking world where oil companies and contractors alike were more likely to be part of a global organisation. This contrasted the more local nature of the original pioneers who established the Australian oil and gas fields in areas like the Cooper Basin and Bass Strait. With this in mind, the officers of ODCAA gained agreement across the membership to initiate discussions with the IADC on forming a Chapter. The result of these discussions was the creation of the IADC-Australasian Chapter as a direct continuation of ODCAA.

This was formalised in March 1993 at a ceremony held in conjunction with the annual APEA (APPEA) conference in Queensland. The final AGM of ODCAA encompassed the inauguration of the IADC-AC and this event was attended by Dr Lee Hunt, IADC President and Alan Spackman, Vice President - Offshore from IADC Houston (pictured)

Following the inception of ODCAA and during the 1960's and 1970's one specific area of concern arose which affected the Australian oil and gas drilling sector. This was the lack of local well control training which necessitated sending personnel to Singapore or further afield, or mobilising a portable training simulator and instructor to deliver the specialised training in Australia. In 1979, two prominent executives of ODCAA – Dick Dumbrell and Roy Richter convinced the membership as well as their oil company clients of the need to provide such a facility in Australia.

Funding arrangements by way of donations from ODCAA members and the major oil companies allowed for the purchase of a Digitran full scale Rig Floor Simulator from the USA, complete with well control teaching manuals and materials. Negotiations with several institutions took place before agreement was reached with the University of Queensland to house the simulator and offer courses within UQ Department of Mining and Metallurgical Engineering. The first course delivered by the ODCAA Well Control School (OWCS) was conducted in April 1981.

Subsequently, OWCS operations at UQ were wound down and the IADC-AC reached agreement with the School of Petroleum Engineering at the University of New South Wales to take over the simulators and assume responsibility for delivering well control training in Australia. This led to the formation of the National Drilling and Well Control Programme which commenced operations on 1st January 1998. The NDWCP has expanded the range of training available to the Australian E&P industry with the acquisition and installation of full-scale drilling simulators permanently located in training facilities in Perth and Brisbane.

The OWCS and NDWCP have ensured the vital training and assessment of competency in well control of thousands of rig crew, drilling engineers and industry professionals.

The IADC-AC continues the fine tradition started by the visionary pioneers of the Australian oil and gas drilling industry over 50 years ago. During this time, the industry has seen huge changes, challenges and technological advances. By encouraging and facilitating the member companies and their personnel to meet, interact and engage on issues affecting the Australian drilling industry, the IADC-AC truly meets the vision set by the IADC, where its members:

Connect, Collaborate and Create.



Pictured above L-R: Jim Durrant, Secretary/Treasurer; Ted Pittman, Vice Chairman; Terry Vinton, Past Chairman; Dr Lee Hunt, IADC President; Dennis Patten, Chapter Chairman



Past & Present Chairman pictured above L-R: Neil Dean, Garry White, Terry Vinton, Derek Morrow and Luke Smith at the 50th Anniversary AGM held in Melbourne 19.05.2015



50th Anniversary Group Photo

Derek Morrow (IADC), Gene Gaz, Garry White, Andrew McDonald, Luke Smith (Chairman-Onshore), Megan Scott (Treasurer/Secretary), Mike Maguire, Neil Dean, John O'Brien & Terry Vinton