

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF AIRAH

SEPTEMBER 2019 · VOLUME 18.8

RRP \$14.95

PRINT POST APPROVAL

NUMBER PP352532/00001

Ecolibrium

Fantastic voyage

UNSW's new Science and
Engineering Building
is worth exploring.





STEADFAST AND TRUE

Based in Adelaide, Matthew Stead, M.AIRAH, is the CEO of Resonate Consultants and Ping Services.

Ecolibrium: When did you first decide you wanted to be an engineer, and how did you get to where you are today?

Matthew Stead: I was first introduced to engineering by my father, who explained the types of things that engineers did. That really grabbed my attention at a young age. I learnt more and more about engineering through high school and have been very happy about my decision.

I accidentally fell into acoustic engineering. The firm I joined as a graduate mechanical (Bassett Consulting Engineers and later AECOM) also did acoustic engineering. I am so pleased that I had the opportunity and was mentored by Dr Peter Swift and leading acoustic engineers.

Eco: How would you characterise your approach to work?

MS: My philosophy is to always deliver what I say I will. I have a strong commitment to my clients, and I love to help solve their problems.

Eco: Do you have a checklist you always follow at the start of a project?

MS: I don't have any checklists and I believe each project is unique.

I am definitely still working on projects, and over the past three or so years have almost exclusively been working on laboratory

and electron microscope projects around Australia. I have been fortunate to work on some of Australia's most impressive laboratories in terms of their noise, vibration and electro-magnetic field requirements.

Eco: Are you open to new ideas, or are the old ways the best ways?

MS: My team would probably say that I am always looking at new things. I find this very satisfying and like to explore new opportunities whenever I can.

Collaboration is one of the values I hold dear. It is also one of Resonate's values.

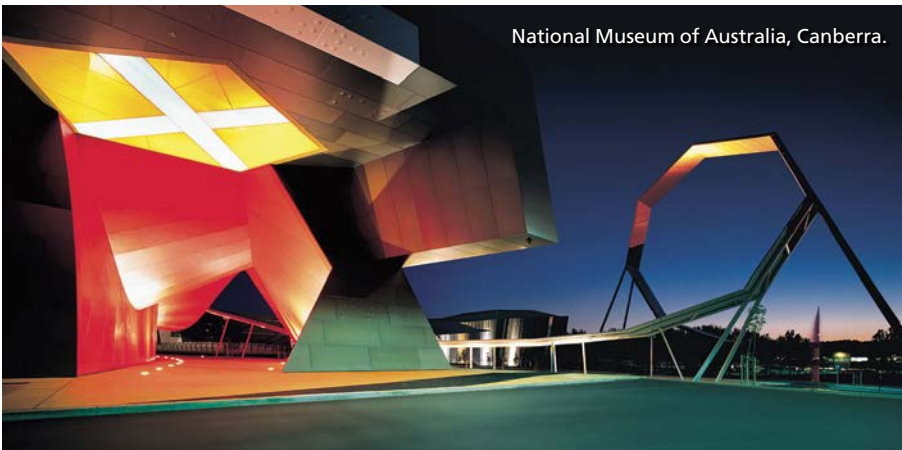
And as for old ways of doing things, I find it frustrating when I observe people battling away – and not being efficient – especially when they could easily seek support and learn from their peers.

”

My philosophy is to always deliver what I say I will



Sydney Nanoscience Hub.



National Museum of Australia, Canberra.

Eco: What are your favourite projects you have worked on and why?

MS: My favourite projects are the National Museum of Australia in Canberra, the University of Sydney Nanoscience Hub and Eastlink in Victoria.

These projects have all involved significant design challenges, involved great teams and resulted in outstanding outcomes.

Eco: Whom do you admire and why? Do you have a mentor? Do you gain any satisfaction from mentoring others?

MS: I was employed by Dr Peter Swift in my first role. There are many characteristics and values that I hold dear now that I believe were generated by Peter.

Michael Browne has been an outstanding mentor, but more around running and growing a business. I have learnt many, many things from Michael.

Eco: Are there interesting, funny or quirky facts you could share with us about your work?

MS: In acoustics one of the things that I find most contradictory is that when we do a great job no one notices.

Eco: What advice do you have for emerging engineers who wish to follow in your path?

MS: In my experience the engineering profession can provide so many varied opportunities. I strongly encourage engineers to research the available fields and pursue what interests them. I am very biased in recommended acoustics. Additional information can be found on the industry and technical society websites (aac.org.au and acoustics.asn.au)

Eco: What's the most important lesson you've learnt throughout your working life?

MS: I have learnt many lessons – mainly by making mistakes. The two key things are,

one, always make sure that engineering advice is practical and can be built, and, two, if you are doing a complex calculation do it two ways – one simplified – and compare the answer. Don't always trust the complex calculations.

Eco: What's next for you, and what are your goals for the future?

MS: I am looking forward to seeing Resonate Consultants continue to expand and flourish. The company is now seven years old and has lots and lots of opportunities.



Eco: What does AIRAH membership mean to you?

MS: I have been an AIRAH member for a long time. I believe in supporting and learning from our technical societies. This is a very important role.

Eco: Describe yourself. What are your defining characteristics?

MS: I like to do what I say I will do. I like to think I am a calm and considered individual.

Eco: : If I wasn't an engineer, I'd be a ...

MS: An architect

Eco: Do you have hobbies or diversions?

MS: Cycling is my main diversion, apart from my family.

Eco: My most valued possession is ...

MS: 1975 BMW 2002 (apart from my family).

Eco: Tell us something about yourself others might not know.

MS: Even though I fly every one or two weeks I still have a fear of flying.

Eco: In five years I'd like to be ...

MS: Still enjoying what I am doing. ■

Making some noise

Resonate Consultants was recently named in the Australian Financial Review's top 10 most innovative professional services firms in the country list, alongside Deloitte, Accenture and Aurecon.

"Our work on new innovation, AuralEyes, meant we pipped 400 other companies to the post," says CEO Matthew Stead, M.AIRAH. "AuralEyes simulates the audio levels and sound character predicted for a project, either during project construction and post implementation."