



**Garry Tong**

1945-2013

Garry was born on April 16, 1945 in Warracknabeal, Victoria, Australia. He passed away unexpectedly on Sunday February 10, 2013, at the age of 67. He was with his family, on a daily jog at the Belair National Park, Adelaide.

Garry completed a Bachelor of Science in mathematics and natural sciences from the University of Melbourne in 1967 and a diploma in education in 1968. He received his B E (Civil) from Monash University in 1972. His postgraduate studies at the Delft University of Technology led to a Dip H E (Delft) in 1976. Garry continued his research in hydraulic engineering and finite element modelling at the University of Wales, Swansea leading to his PhD in 1981. This proved to be the foundation for the rest of his professional work.

In 1982, Dr. Tong founded Computational Fluid Mechanics, an engineering company based in Australia with a wide international client base. As owner, director, and principal engineer, he oversaw a great many projects with important environmental impact on the waterways of Australia. Notable amongst these were:

- Hydrodynamic and long term salinity modelling of the Coorong Lagoons, South Australia. The project provided three state government departments with modelling capability for the hydrodynamics and salinity of South Australia's Coorong, an elongated coastal lagoon system and wetland of international importance under the 1971 Ramsar Convention.
- Hydrodynamic modelling of tidal wetlands and flood channels within the Sydney 2000 Olympic site. This project provided guidelines for the development of tidal wetlands and floodways within the Sydney 2000 Olympic site.
- Hydrodynamic Modelling for Sydney's Three Deepwater Ocean Outfalls. In the early nineties, this job ranked as arguably the largest hydrodynamic modelling

exercise ever to have been undertaken for Australian coastal waters.

- Peel Inlet, Harvey Estuary and Dawesville Channel, Western Australia. The multi-million dollar Dawesville Channel was subsequently constructed and found to improve the flushing of the system as the modelling predicted.

International projects included a 2D hydrodynamic model of the Venice lagoon that was the forerunner to today's official model of the Venice Lagoon. Garry gained international recognition as a specialist engineer in Environmental Hydrodynamic Modelling & Geophysical Fluid Dynamics and provided expert input to a number of projects in China and Vietnam.

Throughout his professional life Garry remained passionately committed to the scientific integrity of his work and resisted the temptation to drift into management. He worked tirelessly to keep abreast of the developments in his industry and never stopped learning. He was actively planning a move to academia and had ambitions to write a textbook covering his field of knowledge. He would undoubtedly have succeeded in both these endeavours.

Those members of IAHR who had the privilege to know Garry will remember him as a profoundly intelligent consummate professional, a warm and generous human being, and a devoted husband and father. He is sorely missed by his wife, three daughters and the many friends he leaves behind.

By Dr John Weare OBE

