

## Monash Engineering – 2008 Early Career Alumni of the Year

### MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

#### **Dr Richard Mills**

Dr Richard Mills is an outstanding graduate of Monash University, having received the Ford Prize award (top 3<sup>rd</sup> year Mech U/G student in 1990) and Dodds award (top Mech U/G student in 1991) before continuing on to do a PhD within the Mechanical Engineering Department, graduating in 1998. Richard conducted his doctoral dissertation under the supervision of Dr. John Sheridan on the topic "Vortex Interaction in Flows Over Bluff Bodies", with the key findings also published in the Journal of Fluid Mechanics as well as the Journal of Fluids and Structures.

Richard then joined Schlumberger in 1998, and has had various key international positions with them over the past decade. Schlumberger is the world's leading supplier of technology, project management and information solutions to the oil and gas industry, and for over 80 years has been the leading service provider to the industry. Schlumberger employs over 80,000 people from more than 140 countries, and operates in over 80 countries, making it a true multinational company. Key to Schlumberger's success is its focus on R&D, and with over 25 centres worldwide, Schlumberger invested over \$800 million in R&D in 2008.

Richard joined Schlumberger as a Wireline Field Engineer, and after completing his initial training in Singapore and Indonesia, worked for 18 months at Moomba in central Australia and then Darwin for 12 months, before relocating to work in Trinidad & Tobago for two years. Richard progressed rapidly through the Schlumberger management development program, and within 4 years of joining the company was managing an operations base in Trinidad & Tobago with over 60 employees, with key clients including BHP Billiton, BP and BG. From there, Richard moved on to take up a technical position at one of Schlumberger's main Engineering Centers based just outside of Paris, followed by a position managing a manufacturing centre located on the island of Curacao in the Caribbean.

In 2008 Richard moved to the Schlumberger Cambridge Research Centre in the UK, to take up a position as the Program Manager of the Flow Measurements Group within the Fluid Mechanics Department where he has been able to combine his field and management experience at Schlumberger with his previous Fluid Mechanics research background.