

# BRETT MILLS

**Brett was born in 1958 in Southport on the beautiful Gold Coast in Queensland Australia.**



**My first real interest in things non terrestrial occurred as a youngster with my mothers stories of min min lights down the back of Granddad's cane farm in Proserpine North Queensland, (Granddad used to shoot at them without results). Ball lightning traveling beside the family car at 80 km/h for approximately 2 km; and UFO lights whizzing around in the clear winter night sky during one children's party on the Gold Coast in the mid 1960's. These early experiences aroused my interest in things unknown or at least unconfirmed.**

**In 1976, my perfect life of surfing, boating and fishing ended when the University of Queensland confirmed my enrollment in the Civil Engineering Degree course, a four year sentence with hard labor in Brisbane. 1979 was graduation year and a Degree in Civil Engineering was awarded with Honours 2A. Despite my engineering thesis having specialized in sedimentation and erosion on a coral island, (Heron Island on the Great Barrier Reef), to earn money and gain experience in the real world I accepted an offer of employment with a medium size engineering consultancy in Brisbane. Over the next 5 years excellent experience was gained in the structural design and inspections of all types of building structures from high rise office structures, shopping centres, industrial buildings and residential buildings.**

**To widen my engineering experience, in 1986, I commenced work with a combined group of Engineers and Architects and over the next three years was responsible for many different structures in both Australia and Papua New Guinea. To work side by side with Architects was a great experience and really of benefit to a myopic Engineer. The structural design experience in New Guinea was terrific because of the earthquake design loading and because of material and skill shortages experienced in a developing country.**

**In 1988 I commenced business as Mills Associates Consulting Civil & Structural Engineers, and since then have been the responsible structural engineer on a wide variety of structures both mundane and highly interesting. I am a Member of the Association of Consulting Engineers Australia, a Member of the Institution of Engineers Australia and on the National Professional Engineers Register, and a Registered Professional Engineer in Queensland.**

**My role on the advisory board of SETI is to keep the feet of my esteemed scientist colleagues firmly on the ground when their heads, and minds, are away in space. My initial responsibility will be for the structural engineering input needed to design and supervise the relocation of the 60 footer Project Tantalus dish at the Boonah Space Centre.**

**The new installation will require me to design the base to which the**

**Antenna will be mounted on. After obtaining the soil tests and survey information I will be able to design the base so it will be able to withstand the enormous forces that could be applied to the installation during a Cyclone (Hurricane for all you northern hemisphereans). The last thing we need is for the dish to fall over one night just as we had the detection of the century.!**