

# BACKWASH

YOUR MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER BROUGHT TO YOU BY IRRIGATION AUSTRALIA.

February 2008

[www.irrigation.org.au](http://www.irrigation.org.au)



Know-how for Horticulture™

## IRRIGATION POLICY IN AUSTRALIA – WHAT DO YOU THINK?

IAL Travelling Scholarship winner, Kimberley Graham, is interested in your views on irrigation policy in Australia. This short survey will only take 5 minutes to fill out and will help Kimberley with her project. Click [here](#) to start.

## IRRIGATION AUSTRALIA 2008 CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

**Register now for Irrigation Australia 2008 Exhibition.** Registrations are now open for Irrigation Australia 2008. For exhibition goers, registration is free and can be done easily online at [www.irrigationaustralia.com.au](http://www.irrigationaustralia.com.au) Do it now while it is top of mind! Exhibition space is almost sold out and there promises to be new products, technologies and discussion for anyone involved in irrigation. For conference goers, a registration brochure and conference program will be included with your February edition of *Irrigation Australia* magazine. For more information about the exhibition and conference go to [www.irrigationaustralia.com.au](http://www.irrigationaustralia.com.au)

**Snapping Water at Work: national photo competition.** Time to go through your irrigation photos and choose your favourite photo for the Irrigation Australia Photo Competition for 2008, being sponsored by Irrigear Stores Ltd. The competition will be held as part of Irrigation Australia 2008 Conference and Exhibition. There are four categories - people and irrigation; irrigation and the environment; irrigation efficiency, rural; and irrigation efficiency, urban. Each of the category winners will receive a \$500 prize, while the overall national winner will receive an additional \$2,000 and the runner up an additional \$500. Entries close 28 March. For details and to enter go to [www.irrigation.org.au](http://www.irrigation.org.au) or email [jann.oconnor@irrigation.org.au](mailto:jann.oconnor@irrigation.org.au)

## BOARD NEWS

**Board to meet in Adelaide.** The IAL board will to meet in Adelaide 6 February. On the agenda is finalisation of a new constitution for the association to be put to members at an extraordinary general meeting at IRRIGATION AUSTRALIA 2008 Conference and Exhibition, 19 May. The draft constitution will be posted on the website for members' consideration from the week of 11 February.

**Fees aligned with financial year.** Members whose fees fall due in the first and second quarter of 2008 will receive invoices for six and three months respectively. The IAL is moving to a financial year for membership fees from 1 July 2008. All members will be sent invoices for 08/09 fees early in July.

**Member access to website.** As part of the redevelopment of the IAL website (if you have not looked lately try [www.irrigation.org.au](http://www.irrigation.org.au)) members will be given access to their membership and contact details on-line. Corporate members will be able to provide details of their products and services and sales representatives contacts for inclusion in an online products and services directory. The IAL site currently receives around 50,000 hits a month and, with targeted marketing of the directory to follow, this should prove a valuable sales avenue for members. All members will be contacted by email in the next month and provided with login details. Make sure your company details are up to date.

**Meeting with Minister Penny Wong.** The IAL will meet with the new Minister for Water, Penny Wong, in February and we look forward to continuing the constructive relationship the IAL has with the Australian government. Your association is currently:

- help the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage & the Arts (DEWHA) develop a policy on expansion of the Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme to irrigation equipment
- helping the National Water Commission to understand capacity constraints in the rural water provider sector
- helping DEWHA develop certification and training for meter installers and inspectors as part of the national rollout of irrigation metering
- working with most jurisdictions, including Queensland, SA, WA, NSW and ACT, on developing better urban irrigation water conservation measures
- working with NSW, Queensland and WA governments to improve best practice and irrigation industry development in both rural and urban sectors
- working with ICID on a range of international initiatives and working groups
- working with Austrade to identify and meet import and export opportunities for Australian businesses

- working with licensing authorities in three states to review and rationalise urban water licences.

Through IAL members are also represented on: the National Water Commission (NWC) Stakeholder reference group, the NWC urban water advisory group, the Smart WaterMark Steering Committee, the DEWHA Metering Expert Group , the Australian Water Industry Information Advisory Committee, and many other bodies directly affecting the irrigation industry at national, state and regional level.

Get involved with your regional committee to make sure you stay informed and get the most out of the network!

**IAL info.** Contact IAL National Office for information about IAL or your interim board member:

Stephen Mills – chair      Peter Toome – vice chair      Peter Boettcher

Karen Murday

Colin Campbell      Russell Cooper      Matthew Durack

Stewart Ellis      Elaine Gardiner      Trevor Guest

Rod Carr from the Department of Environment and Water Resources is the government observer and Des Horton and Tony Oaks have been co-opted until the new constitution is finalised.

***Irrigation Australia magazine.*** The autumn edition of *Irrigation Australia* magazine will be distributed this month so keep an eye out for it. The feature is pumps and pumping. As well there is a complete listing of active certified professionals in the industry and the usual regular columns.

## **REGIONAL ROUNDUP**

News on activities from regional committees from around Australia. You can keep up with IAL and industry news in your area and have your say about the future of your industry by attending local events and meetings. Brief reports of regional activities are given below. Contact your region to see how you can get involved or contact IAL head office to find your local IAL regional representative.

**NT.** For information on activities in NT or to get involved with the local committee, contact Peter Giles at Oasis Irrigation, phone 08 8932 4141, email [petergiles@oasisirrigation.com.au](mailto:petergiles@oasisirrigation.com.au)

**South Australia.** Next meeting is 3.30 – 5.30 pm 5 February at Philmac Pty Ltd 47 Deeds Rd North Plympton. Meeting will be followed by dinner with the National Board at 6.30pm in Glenelg, venue to be advised. Members are invited to the dinner. Contact Don Marriott, phone 8336 5799, to reserve your place.

**South East Queensland.** Next meeting is Tuesday 12 February at Landcentre, Woolloongabba starting at 5.15 pm. Please come along and have your say. For information contact the secretariat, phone 0413 334 679, email [secy.seq@irrigation.org.au](mailto:secy.seq@irrigation.org.au).

**Darling Downs.** For information about the next meeting and regional activities, contact David Wigginton, phone 07 48311711, mobile 0427 789 498, email [wiggind@usq.edu.au](mailto:wiggind@usq.edu.au)

**North Queensland.** Date of next meeting to be advised. For information about the committee's activities contact Barbara Moloney, phone 07 4721 5811, email [barbara.moloney@irrigation.org.au](mailto:barbara.moloney@irrigation.org.au)

**Northwest NSW.** Next official committee meeting will be in February. For information about the next meeting contact Peter Taylor, email [ptaylor@smk.com.au](mailto:ptaylor@smk.com.au)

**Melbourne.** For information about the region's next meeting contact Des Horton, phone 03 9313 8508, email [dhorton@citywestwater.com.au](mailto:dhorton@citywestwater.com.au)

**Western Australia.** The next State Executive meeting will be held at 7:30am Tuesday 12 February at the Metro Inn, South Perth. For more information on WA activities contact Doug Hall, phone 08 9474 9089, mobile 0407 701 513, or email [doug.hall@irrigation.org.au](mailto:doug.hall@irrigation.org.au).

## MEMBERSHIP

The formation of irrigation Australia Limited is an exciting development for members of the IAA and ANCID. Your membership will be automatically transferred to the new organisation. Membership renewals will be sent out in June 2008 for a new financial year membership cycle. It is also an ideal time to encourage colleagues, customers, suppliers and even competitors to join the new body and support the Australian irrigation industry in these challenging times. For a membership application form, go to [www.irrigation.org.au](http://www.irrigation.org.au).

Welcome to new members for December and January:

Jim Cuthbertson, [Irrigation & Water Supply Consultants](#) Yass NSW

Dustin Meijer, Warner Queensland

Ray Nawell, City of Gosnells WA

Kylie Stephens, Winnellie NT

## MEMBER USE OF IAL LOGO

**IAL logo and you.** IAL encourages you to use the IAL logo to identify that you are a financial member. There is a special version of the logo for this purpose, "Member of IAL". If you are using another version of the IAL logo, or an IAA logo, please replace it as soon as you can. Any

financial member wishing to get a file of the new logo and directions on its use should contact Catherine Parbery, phone 02 9476 0142, email [Catherine.parbery@irrigation.org.au](mailto:Catherine.parbery@irrigation.org.au)

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**CID exams advance notice.** CID Exams 20 February 2008 – applications for exams are now closed. The next round of CID exams will be held 18 June 2008. For more details contact Catherine Parbery, phone 02 9476 0142, email [certification@irrigation.org.au](mailto:certification@irrigation.org.au)

**Irrigation Efficiency course.** The Irrigation Efficiency Course is aimed at anyone responsible for or operating a commercial or public irrigation system. The program provides training in basic irrigation system operation and scheduling and the process for determining the uniformity and efficiency of the system. With increasing scrutiny of system operation and often regulatory requirements to meet water saving targets, the course is a must for sporting bodies, local councils and irrigation contractors.

Dates: Sydney 19 & 20 February 2008, Brisbane 20 & 21 February 2008; Perth 11 & 12 March 2008; and Melbourne 16 & 17 April 2008.

Other courses run on demand. For information contact Catherine Parbery, IAL head office, phone 02 9476 0142, email [certification@irrigation.org.au](mailto:certification@irrigation.org.au) or go to the [website](#)

**Waterwise Garden Irrigator Program.** The Waterwise Garden Irrigator Program (WGIP) continues to be rolled out across WA. There are now over 110 registered WGIP Installers representing over fifty businesses. Owners of residential properties are now able to access a new WA Government Waterwise Rebate for domestic irrigation systems. However, to be eligible for the rebate, the irrigation systems must be installed by a WGIP Installer and meet irrigation system specifications developed by the WA Region of Irrigation Australia. To become a WGIP Installer, you must complete an application, pay an annual fee, attend a training session and pass two exams. Four training sessions planned for February and March: Wednesday 13 February 2008; Wednesday 27 February 2008; Wednesday 12 March 2008; and Wednesday 26 March 2008.

All four training sessions will be held at the Water Corporation (Leederville) commencing at 6pm. If you are interested in attending book your place by contacting Doug Hall (ph: 08 9474 9089; mobile 0407 701 513; or email [doug.hall@irrigation.org.au](mailto:doug.hall@irrigation.org.au)).

**Metering certification scheme.** IAL is developing a certification scheme for people who will select, install, maintain and validate meters for non-urban irrigation metering. Information about this project is now available on a new webpage on the IAL site under Training and Certification. Documents include a description of the project, an early discussion paper on metering occupations and skills and a report from a small workshop held in January that developed the ideas contained in the paper. More consultation will take place during February. If you would like to be in the consultation loop drop Alison Carmichael, project manager, an email registering your interest, email [alison.carmichael@irrigation.org.au](mailto:alison.carmichael@irrigation.org.au)

**Centre Pivot and Lateral Move Training.** The CRC for Irrigation Futures will be conducting 2-day courses on centre pivots and lateral moves. The first two-day course being held in Moree 28-29 February. For more information and application forms click [here](#).

**Hydraulics and Irrigation for On-site Wastewater Management.** Two-day training courses be held in Richmond, NSW, 21-22 February 2008 and Melbourne, 25-26 February 2008. For information go to the Centre for Environmental Training, phone 02 4954 4997, email [mail@environmentaltraining.com.au](mailto:mail@environmentaltraining.com.au)

**National industry recognition; something for everyone.** In 2006 your association expanded its certification program for irrigation practitioners who are dedicated to best practice and supporting sustainable water use. Certification is now offered to irrigation managers, operators, contractors, installers, agronomists and retailers. Take advantage of \$100 application fee until 30 March 2008. Certification applications received before 30 March will need to be accompanied by \$100; after that the fee of \$200 will apply. For information go to [http://www.irrigation.org.au/ci\\_moci.html](http://www.irrigation.org.au/ci_moci.html)

**Urban Best Management Practice Guidelines.** The essential guide for the commercial irrigation sector. Your concise guide to best management practice for designing, installing, maintaining, and operating irrigation systems in an urban setting. The Guidelines now include a handy checklist for assessing system compliance. Get your copy now from the IAL: \$22.00 inc. GST for members and \$33.00 inc. GST for non members. Call 02 9476 0142 to order your copy. A simpler document aimed at the home gardener has also been produced. This would be suitable for IAL members to distribute to the general public and domestic customers and a print ready version can be downloaded from the IAL website at <http://www.irrigation.org.au/download/standards/Home%20Gardener%20FINAL%20web.pdf>

**Groundwater Short Courses.** For more information on the CGS courses go to <http://groundwater.com.au/short-courses.html>

## AROUND INDUSTRY

**Water as critical as climate change.** In January the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2008 held in Davos, Switzerland, was told that global crises from escalating demand for fresh water and inadequate supply are as urgent as efforts to tackle climate change, and are more complicated. According to an expert panel, water stress poses a risk to economic growth, human rights, health, safety and national security.

**Water group meets.** The CoAG Working Group on Climate Change and Water met for the first time in Sydney in January. Its role is to ensure an effective response to climate change and sustainable water use across Australia. The Working Group set in place a process to deal with climate change issues, including to roll existing state based targets into a single expanded national Renewable Energy Target. A sub group was also established to review and streamline a set of climate change measures across jurisdictions, to complement Federal implementation of the emissions trading scheme. In water the focus will be on: taking action on climate change; using water wisely in regional and urban Australia; securing water supplies that don't rely

entirely on rainfall; and supporting healthy rivers and land. The Working Group will report to CoAG in March.

**More rain needed in southern Basin.** While the recent rain in the northern part of the MDBC was very welcome, it wasn't enough to solve the water shortages along the Murray River in the south of the basin. Rain in the north has meant that there are good flows moving down the Darling River and into Menindee Lakes, where storage had increased to 232 GL by late January. A total of 400 GL is expected (total storage in Menindee Lakes is about 1700 GL). While there had been good rainfalls in mid January in the southern half of the Basin along the Murray and its upper tributaries, the response in streamflows has been small. This will probably result in only 50 to 80 GL of extra water, equivalent to less than 1% of the total system storage. According to MDBC it will take sustained heavy rainfall to provide a significant increase in inflows and hence lift storage levels. For the latest information see [www.mdbc.gov.au/subs/river-info/weekly-report/current\\_wr.pdf](http://www.mdbc.gov.au/subs/river-info/weekly-report/current_wr.pdf)

**Northern Australia Land and Water Taskforce to get a makeover.** The Federal Government has decided to give the Northern Australia Land and Water Taskforce a makeover by elevating its role and adding to its expertise. Previously membership was comprised of party political representatives and had an emphasis on considering agricultural development opportunities in Northern Australia. Its role will be changed so that it looks at development opportunities available in Northern Australia that impact on land and water resources, e.g. agriculture, mining and tourism. Current will be invited to continue their work on the Taskforce, and new appointments made by the Government.

**Infrastructure plans.** The Federal Government approved the establishment of *Infrastructure Australia* last month. Infrastructure Australia is a statutory advisory council that will develop a strategic blueprint for Australia's infrastructure needs, including water infrastructure, and "ensure future projects are determined by economic, social, and environmental needs". Its priorities will be to conduct audits to determine the adequacy, capacity and condition of nationally significant infrastructure, including transport, water, communications and energy. It will then develop a priority list to guide investment.

**Community consultation in Victoria.** The Victoria Government announced last month that it would be working with communities in northern Victoria to develop the Northern Region Sustainable Water Strategy with the aim to achieve further reforms to the water market, including pricing ([media release](#))

**Queensland water monitoring data released.** The public can now access up to date data from 400 monitoring stations across Qld catchments on the Department of Natural Resources and Water website. The data involves stream height, flow and quality information remotely accessed by telemetry. Depending on the station, data is available for the last 24 hours and the last 7 and 14 days. Historic reports are also available for the period the station has been in operation. The site can be accessed at [website](#)

**Fairbairn dam fills but others in Queensland close to empty.** Queensland's second biggest dam (Fairbairn near Emerald) filled last week after being below 20% four months ago with

irrigators facing zero water allocation this water year. The full dam provides water security for three years for Emerald irrigators. However, the rains have not yet reached most of the Burnett or replenished water storages in the southeast. All major storages in the Burnett are still below 20% capacity. The Lockyer storages are still empty, and Moogerah Dam on the Warrill has risen to just 15%, although Maroon dam in the Logan catchment a few kilometres away is up to 51%. More rain is still needed in much of the southern half of the State before the drought can be declared over.

## **JOBSPOT**

**Territory Manager.** Vinidex, manufacturer and distributor of specialist plumbing and irrigation products with Production, Warehousing and Distribution facilities throughout the country and the Asia-Pacific Region, requires a territory manager in the irrigation sector for its SA operations. To join the company's successful sales team where you will be required to: establish a customer base and maintain excellent business relationships with existing clients, identify new business growth for Vinidex through new and existing clients, achieve or better budgeted sales in various product areas, implement national and regional improvement strategies, and participate in various industry promotional activities.

The successful applicant will need: to have experience in sales or related industry, exceptional written and communication skills, to be self motivated with a passion to deliver results, effective customer management skills to ensure customer loyalty, strong and effective negotiation skills, to be a results focused team player who can deliver what you promise, and be able to work autonomously with minimal supervision. An appropriate salary package including vehicle will be negotiated depending on your experience and qualifications. If you feel you can contribute your skills to this innovative and growing company send your resume with cover letter to [applications@vinidex.com.au](mailto:applications@vinidex.com.au)

**Sales representative.** Netafim Australia has an opportunity for a highly motivated person to join the Mildura sales team and take responsibility for servicing and developing its client base in the Mildura/Sunraysia region. The right candidate will have a strong technical orientation, be passionate about learning and educating others in micro-irrigation products and applications and be able to establish and maintain effective working relationships with our dealers and end users. You will be rewarded with a great national sales team environment and training and development support. An attractive base salary, superannuation, fully maintained company car and incentive program will be negotiated with the successful applicant. Send your confidential application to the HR Manager, Netafim Australia, PO Box 248, Laverton 3028 or email it to [recruitment@netafim.com.au](mailto:recruitment@netafim.com.au) by 7 February 2008.

**Industry Development Officer – Urban Irrigation.** Irrigation Australia and the Australian Centre for Lifestyle Horticulture are seeking an IDO to help facilitate improved urban irrigation practice. The IDO will work with lifestyle horticulture industries to run seminars for the public, implement a program of irrigation audits and implement professional certification. The successful applicant will have excellent written and verbal communication skills, be highly motivated and able to work with minimal supervision. Knowledge and experience in urban irrigation is desirable. A background in project management and working with small businesses

and organisations to implement change would be an advantage. The position has funding until December 2010 and may be extended beyond that. Location is ACLH office at Cleveland but the position location can be negotiated to suit the right applicant. Closing date is 22 February 2008. For information email [info@irrigation.org.au](mailto:info@irrigation.org.au)

**Irrigated Crop Management Service Consultants.** Rural Solutions SA, Department of Primary Industries & Resources SA is looking for ICMS consultants. If you are interested in working as a member of an award winning irrigation and water use efficiency service, this could be for you. As a member of ICMS you will contribute to the provision of the professional development and delivery service offered by the team, which includes services in soils and irrigation system performance and scheduling. The team also develops and deliver irrigation related training courses. Closing date is 15 February 2008. For position descriptions go to <http://www.ruralsolutions.sa.gov.au> Applications must address capabilities profile in the Position Description to be eligible for consideration. For information contact Tony Adams, phone 08 8595 9142 or 0417 088 829, email [adams.tony@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:adams.tony@saugov.sa.gov.au)

## AWARDS

**MacLean Iedema Award nominations.** Every two years, coinciding with Irrigation Australia the MacLean Iedema Award is presented to an individual or group making a significant contribution to irrigation in Australia . Nominations are now open for this prestigious award. Nomination forms and further information are on the IAL [website](#).

**Photo competition.** For those of you who can't resist taking irrigation photos, here's your opportunity for fame (and a bit of fortune). Entries are open for the IAL's 2008 photo competition, sponsored by Irrigear. Four categories: irrigation and people, irrigation and the environment, irrigation efficiency – rural, and irrigation efficiency – urban. For an entry form go to the IAL [website](#).

## PEOPLE

**Jeff Parish awarded gong.** Congratulations to Central Irrigation Trust CEO, Jeff Parish, who was awarded an Order of Australia Medal last month. Jeff was honoured for his contribution to the irrigation industry and to efficient resource management and his efforts in developing and implementing water delivery services.  
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/01/28/2148057.htm>

## FOR THE DIARY

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## SMART APPROVED WATERMARK

Do you have a water saving product or service? Smart Approved WaterMark is Australia's water saving labelling program for products and services which are helping to reduce outdoor water use. The scheme's independent technical Expert Panel will next be meeting 10 April. Closing

date for applications is Friday 14 March. For more information on the scheme visit [www.smartwatermark.info](http://www.smartwatermark.info) or call the national office, phone 02 9290 3322.

## HANDY LINKS

**ReWater.** A new edition (Edition 16, Summer 07/08) of the quarterly newsletter, 'ReWater: water recycling in Australia ', is now available at [www.recycledwater.com.au/rewater](http://www.recycledwater.com.au/rewater)

**Catch Cans.** To order catch cans go to [website](#)

## REGIONAL COMMITTEE CONTACTS

North Queensland  
Geoff Chaillon  
[gchallion@typac.com.au](mailto:gchallion@typac.com.au)

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