

BACKWASH

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

April 2008
www.irrigation.org.au



Know-how for Horticulture™

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IRRIGATION AUSTRALIA 2008 CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION – 18 DAYS TO GO

Register now for Irrigation Australia 2008 Exhibition. If you haven't registered for the exhibition and conference yet there is still time. For exhibition goers, registration is free and can be done easily online at <http://www.irrigationaustralia.com.au> Do it now while it is top of mind! For conference goers, register www.irrigationaustralia.com.au

Record number of exhibitors. There will be more exhibitors at Irrigation Australia 2008 than ever before. Don't miss your opportunity to attend the industry's one-stop shop for new products and to see new irrigation technologies.

Minister to open Irrigation Australia 2008. The Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong, will be opening *Irrigation Australia 2008 Conference and Exhibition* 20 May and presenting the keynote address. This is an ideal opportunity to hear firsthand the Government's position on the implementation of the \$10 billion National Water Plan and a new agenda in urban water and demand management.

Advertising opportunity. IAL will be distributing 2009 diaries to members later this year. Target Media are producing the diaries and will be phoning around seeking

advertisers. If you are interested in getting in early or want a prime position in the diary call Sharlene Barnes from Target Media, phone 1800 129 950, email swbarnes@paradise.net.nz

Meet your organisation's staff. Almost all the IAL staff will be in Melbourne and members are encouraged to come to the IAL stand and meet them.

BOARD NEWS

EGM 19 May Melbourne. All members should now have received the notice of meeting for the Extraordinary General Meeting on May 19 and a copy of the annual report for 2007 and the draft constitution. The draft constitution has been modified to address comments and concerns raised by members during the consultative period from February to April. The Boards look forward to meeting as many members as possible at the EGM. Members unable to attend should complete the proxy form and fax it to the national office before the week of the conference. It is important that your voice is heard. IAL fax is 02 9476 0792.

Strategic directions for IAL. The Board has developed a strategic directions document for discussion by members and to help the incoming Board in September develop the first strategic plan for Irrigation Australia Limited. The document will be released at the EGM in Melbourne and will be available on the IAL website. It aims to clearly and simply outline IAL's positioning and role with respect to other organisations working in irrigation. It sets out the core goals and activities of the association and will direct the activities of IAL staff and resources.

Water plan discussion paper. The Board has commissioned a discussion paper on the new national water plan; "Water for the Future", that results from all states now signing up for the federal government's water reform agenda. This paper will also be released at the conference and made available to members on the website. It is hoped it will stimulate understanding and informed discussion of the new government's policies and encourage members to find commercial opportunities.

IAL info. Contact the IAL national office for information about Irrigation Australia. Your IAL interim board members are:

Stephen Mills – chair
Peter Toome - vice chair
Colin Campbell
Elaine Gardiner
Matthew Durack
Trevor Guest
Peter Boettcher
Stewart Ellis
Karen Murday

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.

New staff for IAL. Welcome to new appointments to IAL, Mark Quayle and Tim Gilbert.

Mark has been appointed as the IDO for SE Queensland. He will be working with the Australian Centre for Lifestyle Horticulture at Redlands and the Queensland Water Commission and QNRW on urban irrigation issues. Email contact is mark.quayle@irrigation.org.au.

Tim Gilbert returns to IAL in the role of national industry development manager for the Irrigation Suppliers Special Interest Group. His responsibilities will be working on urban demand management across Australia and specifically water restrictions and permanent water conservation measures to encourage a consistent, science-based approach. Email contact tim.gilbert@irrigation.org.au

REGIONAL NEWS

News on activities from regional committees 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 committee activities are below. Contact your region to see how you can get involved or contact the 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

South Australia. For information about this month's regional committee meeting contact Noel Johnston, [email](#)

South East Queensland. Congratulations to Michael Barker who was elected as chairperson and to Jerry Smith, vice chairperson, at last month's AGM.

The next meeting is Tuesday 13 May 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 david.jessen@irrigation.org.au

Darling Downs. Next meeting is Wednesday May 7 at 5.30 pm at Stahmanns lunch room, cnr McDougal Street and Industrial Avenue, Toowoomba. Agenda is informal, although there are some items listed for discussion. Includes a short walk around Stahmanns Factory – with samples of cake and nuts. Cake and coffee will be provided. See you there! For information contact David Wigginton, phone 07 48311711, mobile 0427 789 498, email wiggind@usq.edu.au

North Queensland. Date of next meeting to be advised. To region has also farewelled Barbara Moloney, who provided support services. Barbara has headed south to Melbourne; good luck with the move and with your new profession from IAL.

Northwest NSW. Next meeting is 29 May at Moree.

The region is busy organising for a field day to be held 27 August at Goondiwindi featuring *Energy in Irrigation*. Topics on the program include fuel consumption and costs for electric and diesel motors, cost of pumping water, options for measuring energy efficiency of pumps and application methods, carbon banking in agriculture, carbon markets, carbon traps, bore pumping, bore pumps, bore construction (screen design, bore diameter), payback/replacement economics for pumps, biodiesel, ethanol, cost of energy, and potential changes in greenhouse gas emission politics. Great lineup of speakers from industry and the energy supply industry. For information contact Peter Taylor, email 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

Western Australia. The next State Executive meeting will be held at 7:30 am Tuesday 13 May 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.

If you currently don't receive WA's quarterly magazine, *The Overflow*, and would like to, please send your postal address to Doug Hall.

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.

Welcome to new members for April:

Robert Caldwell, Forbes, NSW

Tim Carey, WaterGuys Pty Ltd, Moorabbin, Victoria

Chris Edwards, East Ballina, NSW

Leonard & Robyn Grimshaw, Tableland Pump & Irrigation Repairs & Service, Yungaburra, Queensland

Peter McManamon, Grampians Wimmera Malley Water, Horsham, Victoria

Keith Molyneux, Cowpasture Horticultural, Edithburg, SA

Daryl Stevens, Arris Pty td, Richmond, Victoria
Claire, Thorstensen, South East Queensland Water Corp Ltd, Brisbane, Queensland
Jim Waring, Cockatoo, Victoria

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CID Exam Preparation Course. The CID program is not course based but IAL will be conducting a two-day course to prepare people for the Certified Irrigation Designer (CID) exams. ***The course is specifically aimed at those people who are sitting either their Step 2 or Step 3 Exams.*** The course will run on Sunday and Monday, 18 and 19 May at CAE, 253 Flinders Lane, Melbourne. Course fee is \$600 (GST Free) and is immediately before Irrigation Australia 2008 Conference and Exhibition in Melbourne. For more information and a registration form contact Jann O'Connor, phone 02 9476 0142 or visit our [website](#)

Irrigation Efficiency courses 2008. This course provides training for three units of competency from the Certificate III in Irrigation: RTE3605A – troubleshoot irrigation systems; RTE3607A – measure irrigation delivery system performance; and RTE3611A – operate pressurised irrigation systems. The course trains people who are involved in operating or managing landscape irrigation systems to evaluate their systems for efficiency, adjust irrigation schedules if necessary, conduct basic maintenance on equipment and know when to get expert help. For information and to enrol go to the website. Before enrolling make sure you read the Student Information.

Next course: Being held in Perth 20 & 21 August 2008.

Other courses run on demand. For information contact Catherine Parbery, IAL head office, phone 02 9476 0142, email certification@irrigation.org.au.

CID exams advance notice. The next round of CID exams will be held 18 June 2008. For more details contact Catherine Parbery, phone 02 9476 0142, email <mailto:certification@irrigation.org.au>

Please note the final round of exams for 2008 will be held 22 October 2008.

Get with the program, become a Certified Irrigation Operator. For the first time, IAL is delivering CIO workshops in Melbourne and Sydney this winter. For people with some experience in operating pressurised irrigation systems in public open space, sports grounds, bowling greens and golf courses who would like to develop and formalise their skills in system operation. Good practice in irrigation system operation, measurement, maintenance and troubleshooting, soils and the environment is the easiest way to do more with less and is an important tool for maintaining our amenities with limited access to water and when working with recycled water. Program runs as three 2-day workshops: Session 1 - Irrigation systems and soil plant water relationships; Session 2 - Irrigation operations and maintenance; and Session 3 - Irrigation and the environment. Cost is \$1500pp inc. GST for 6 days training and potentially six competencies

Sydney 30 June/1 July, 23/24 July and 13/14 August at Oatlands House, Oatlands
Melbourne 16/17 July, 6/7 August and 27/28 August. Venue to be confirmed – likely to be either Doncaster or Northcote.

To enrol go to IAL website www.irrigation.org.au
<http://www.irrigation.org.au/index.cfm?/training-and-certification/upcoming-courses> For more information contact Alison Carmichael, phone 0414 287 079, email alison.carmichael@irrigation.org.au

Keeping your certification up to date. If you hold IAL certification in any category you will need to show periodically that you are keeping your knowledge and skills up to date. You can do this by earning the required CPD points in the required timeframe for your certification to remain active. There are two different, though similar, sets of CPD guidelines. One set is for Certified Irrigation Designers which are assessed annually and the other is for all remaining certifications, assessed every two years. IAL will conduct random audits of 5% of all CPD returns each year. Details about these requirements are available on the IAL website
<http://www.irrigation.org.au/index.cfm?event=public.page&pageuid=3B813FF2-1708-51EB-A6C6FB6D98EA24EB>

What do you think? Are these requirements: adequate?; too onerous?; irrelevant?
Contact Alison Carmichael with your suggestions at email
Alison.carmichael@irrigation.org.au

Irrigation Efficiency. We've had queries from some members about the rebadging this year of what was previously called the Certified Irrigation Auditor – Landscape course to the Irrigation Efficiency. A number of people are concerned that this downgrades those skills of those who were awarded the certification. This is not the case. Rather, as more council and sportsground staff have done the course it has become clear that, while the course did equip participants to do a simple evaluation of their own system, much more extensive experience is required for people to promote themselves as being able to do professional audits. It was decided that for this reason the course would be changed to reflect what it is currently most being used as, i.e. an introduction to auditing systems. As a way of recognising the significant skills that are involved in a professional audit IAL is developing a new certification for professional system auditors. This will be ready in 2009 and those people in the industry with a CLIA or Certified Irrigation Auditor - Landscape will be able to apply and be assessed.

Rain Bird Academy. From 23 to 24 June Rain Bird is holding a professional training camp for gold course and turf site supers, and irrigation contractors and dealers at the Gold Coast. Qualified trainers will be presenting sessions ranging from irrigation system troubleshooting to golf central control software to basic irrigation design to irrigation efficiency. Download an enrolment form from www.rainbird.com.au or email info@rainbird.com.au for more information.

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](#)

Applications open for Nuffield Scholarships. Applications opened 1 April 2008, for the Nuffield Australia Farming Scholarships, which will give 16 of Australia's primary producers the chance to travel internationally and investigate key issues in agriculture. The scholarships are valued at \$25,000 and are for travel in 2009. They are only available to practicing farmers or farm managers. Winners will be selected for their farming and leadership capabilities, and potential to make a valuable contribution to Australian agriculture. Applications close 30 June 2008. Application forms are available from Nuffield Australia, phone 03 5480 0755, email enquiries@nuffield.com.au, website www.nuffield.com.au

Study Tour – UAE (Dubai), Israel and Spain. The Recycled Water in Horticulture program is organising a tour to Dubai, Israel and Spain to examine the use of alternative water sources in agricultural, urban and industrial contexts. As part of the tour, marketing opportunities to overcome barriers to the adoption of alternative water source innovations and broader sustainability issues will also be investigated. Expressions of interest must be received by 1 May 2008. Interested? For information email studytour@arris.com.au or go to website www.recycledwater.com.au/studytours

Austrade mission to US. As part of its new Clean Technology strategy, Austrade is organising a Water Management Mission to the United States from 8-19 June 2008. Significant opportunities exist in the US for companies providing product and service solutions related to water management. The Mission will visit three US cities which are critical hubs for water resource management; Atlanta (Georgia), Phoenix (Arizona) and Washington DC. This is a great opportunity for vendors and service providers working in the water management field - at the international, federal, state, industrial, agricultural and residential level - to learn about the political framework and business landscape and meet with key influencers and potential partners/customers in the US water industry. For information go to <https://www.austrade.gov.au/USWaterMission>

Groundwater Short Courses. Upcoming courses and workshops include: 6th ASR National Workshop: Management of Aquifer Recharge, Storage and Treatment; 17th Getting to Know Groundwater and Surfacewater; and 35th Australian Groundwater School. For more information go to [website](#)

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

AROUND INDUSTRY

New water plan balance wrong. IAL is concerned that the Federal Government's recently announced funding priorities in its water plan are not balanced. In particular it is concerned that the government is putting too much emphasis on buying water rights and not enough money into improving on-farm and water delivery system efficiencies to help solve the water crisis. The \$12.9 billion plan will invest in water over 10 years and includes \$1.5 billion of new money for urban investment. Allocations under the previous government's National Plan for Water Security have been altered, increasing to \$3.1 billion the amount of money available for buying back water licences.

Stop water sales in Murray. In April, Murray Irrigation was called on by Murray Valley Community Action Group to stop selling water to the Federal Government until a satisfactory policy outcome has been reached. The group said that if governments continued to take water from sellers there would be a major collapse of agriculture in the basin. <http://theland.farmonline.com.au/news/nationalrural/agribusiness-and-general/general/article/83843.aspx>

Slow progress on water planning. In its 2007 Biennial Assessment and its 2008 update report to the Council of Australian Governments on progress in water reform, the National Water Commission found while NWI parties have made good progress in implementing agreed water planning processes, the rollout of completed water plans has been slow. Delays have occurred due to the need for adequate consultation, insufficient time to source the required science, and resource constraints. No jurisdiction can yet claim to have a fully effective water planning system. http://www.nwc.gov.au/publications/newsletter/nwc_newsletter_27.html

View from the summit. IAL Board member, Stewart Ellis, attended the 2020 Summit in April, along with Stephen Mills, IAL chair. According to Stewart one of the aspirations expressed at the summit was that "by 2020 Australia would be the worlds' leading green and sustainable economy and the health of our river and groundwater systems will be managed to achieve ecological sustainability, supporting food and fibre production and resilient communities". To achieve these ambitions a very considered rollout of the national plan, Water for the Future, is needed and the very real challenge is to address the third party impacts of large amounts of water leaving communities which were built on the back of irrigated agricultural production. To produce more food using less water is a real and ongoing challenge and means finding the right balance between Government buybacks for environmental water and that made available for food and fibre production. Vibrant rural and regional communities also need to have confidence that they have a future and that the country properly values the clean green food they produce from irrigated agriculture.

Urban water consumption drops. A just-released National Water Commission report on the performance of the urban water sector highlights the success of urban water conservation strategies, with the largest water providers reporting a near 20% reduction in the volume of water supplied per residential property over the last five years. It shows

that governments and water utilities across Australia have invested significantly to boost urban water supply with total capital expenditure of almost \$2 billion for the largest water utilities in 2006-07. The report also shows that the largest providers increased use of recycled water by 31% last year as the result of the significant investment in new recycled water schemes. http://www.nwc.gov.au/nwi/national_performance_reports.cfm

BoM releases climate tools. Two new tools to monitor rainfall and climate issues have been released by the Bureau of Meteorology. The tools have been developed by BoM and the Managing Climate Variability program in response to a study on farmers' seasonal forecasting needs. The tools show rainfall scenarios for most recording stations in Australia. <http://www.bom.gov.au/watl/>

Drought not over in Queensland. Despite lots of images on TV of floods in Queensland earlier this year, rain actually missed a many areas. As a result farmers are reported to be facing another tough year, for some there fifth or sixth dry year, in areas where summer rains failed to refill dams and aquifers and shore up winter production. The area from Biloela to Gatton to Dalby missed out on rains this summer, and storages in the Upper Burnett and parts of the south east are at worse levels now than they were 5 years ago when exceptional circumstances were declared.

Waterfind suggestions to 2020 Summit. Water company, Waterfind, suggested three policies to participants of the 2020 Summit that would help the future development of environmental markets and rural communities in Australia. They were: the development of a national food plan that sets the direction for agricultural production; building a genuinely collaborative approach to environmental markets between different sectors of the community; and the creation of a national environmental register, holding information about all ownership rights and trades, to improve transparency and administrative processes in environmental markets.

Water market rules issues paper. An issues paper has been released by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission is seeking submissions to its recently released issues paper on the development of water market rules. The rules will form a key component of the *Water Act 2007*, which creates new institutional and governance arrangements to address the sustainability and management of water resources in the Murray-Darling Basin. Submissions need to be received by 9 May. <http://www.accc.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/815050/fromItemId/142>

Water plan funding must pass 3 tests. The Federal Government announced in April that funding for projects under the National Plan for Water Security would be subject to three tests. The tests are: a need to return substantial flows to the river system, whether projects would be value for money, and whether they were able to contributing to a long-term sustainable future for regional economies and communities in the context of climate change and reduced water availability into the future.

Northern agriculture push endorsed. Despite criticism of poor management and decision making about irrigation in northern Australia in the past, some scientists,

including CSIRO's Water for a Healthy Country Program's chairperson, Don Blackmore, are now saying that farming in the north is possible without the mistakes of the past being repeated. With the long-term outlook for water supplies in the southern Murray-Darling reducing as a result of climate change, it is being predicted that 20% of southern irrigated agriculture could go out of production because of lack of water. In this context expansion into the north is being looked at seriously.

Emissions plan not good for Murray. According to Wentworth Group scientist, Mike Young, the Federal Government's plan to introduce an emissions trading scheme won't improve things for the River Murray. According to Mike, the forests that will be planted as a result of any scheme will potential extract huge amounts of water out of the system that would have gone into the river. CSIRO estimates indicate that plantation forestry could reduce flows in the Murray-Darling system by 500 to 700 GL by 2020. Suggestions to overcome the issue are that expansion of forestry as well as farm dams, and groundwater and salinity interception schemes all be accounted for, and that there be a rule requiring water entitlements equivalent to the estimated impact of planting trees or building a farm dam.

Irrigation exit fees for Murray irrigators. In April Murray Irrigation joined Murrumbidgee Irrigation and Coleambally Irrigation Cooperative Ltd and reinstated a compulsory termination fee of \$380/ML on all water sold out of its area. The company said it was doing this as a way of protecting itself from the impact of the water being taken out of the district, mainly as a result of the Federal Government's environmental water buyback process. Murray Irrigation is worried that the buyback will leave fewer irrigators bearing the cost of maintaining the irrigation system.

VFF says water plan prepared "without consultation". There were reports in the press last month that the Victorian Farmers Federation agreed with a Victorian Auditor General's Office report that the recent Victorian Water Plan was prepared without adequate consultation. According the VFF this was a key reason for the protests and backlash from irrigator and community groups. As well, the report recommended that the government should publish details of estimated savings to be achieved by the Foodbowl Modernisation Project.

Taskforce to lead northern development. The Federal Government announced in April that it will transfer the \$20 million Northern Land and Water Taskforce to the newly created Office of Northern Australia and broaden its terms of reference to include a sustainability focus. The government says that this shows how serious they are about attracting and encouraging development opportunities across the north to deliver social, environmental and economic benefits.

Draft water market regulations released. The Federal Government released draft water market regulations as part of the process of amended the 2007 Water Act. While the date for feedback closed 1 May, you can read the draft proposals at <http://www.environment.gov.au/water/>

JOB SPOT

Part Time Clerical Administration Assistant. The WA branch of IAL is seeking an enthusiastic person to join our team as part of the expansion of its operations and support for the Industry Development Officer. Please contact Tim Hodgkins, phone 08 9309 3588 to enquire about this position or send your resume to tim@amiad.com.au

Trainee Irrigation Designer. Netafim Australia Pty Ltd is looking for a Trainee Irrigation Designer to join their design team at the Adelaide office. For details [click here](#)

ICID executive positions. ICID is inviting nominations for President and three Vice Presidents for the term 2008-2011. Nominations will be considered at the 59th meeting of IEC to be held at Lahore on 17 October 2008. Nominations, which must be submitted by IAL, close 17 June 2008. For information contact Jolyon Burnett

MARKET PLACE

Tender. The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts is inviting tenders from providers to apply approved methodology to assess water losses in irrigation water delivery systems. Submissions close 5 June 2008. For information go to <https://www.tenders.gov.au/?event=public.ATM.list&keyword=irrigation+water+delivery&submitButton-1=Search>

AWARDS

Rain bird seeks nominations for 2008 Intelligent Use of Watertm Award. The Rain Bird award recognises persons or organisations whose innovation, leadership, ingenuity and overall commitment to improved landscape water efficiency has raised the standard for outdoor water conservation. Both consumers and professionals are encouraged to submit their nominations by completing a nomination form at <http://www.rainbird.com/iuow/award.htm>. The deadline for nominations is June 30, 2008.

WatSave Awards. ICID is inviting nominations for 2008 awards. The awards recognise outstanding examples of water saving and conservation practices. Closing date is of nominations from the National Committees (through IAL) is 30 June 2008. Go to ICID website for information.

FOR THE DIARY

Irrigation Australia Conference and Exhibition 2008. To be held 20 – 22 May 2008 at Melbourne Exhibition Centre. The biggest irrigation event in the Southern Hemisphere. Don't miss it! The latest in irrigation technology and services will be on show at the exhibition. A great lineup of over 60 speakers, including Minister for Water and Climate Change, Senator Penny Wong. For bookings or information, contact Event

Manager Robby Clark, phone 02 9556 7992, email irrigation@eft.com.au or visit [website](#)

CID Exam Preparation Course. The CID program is not course based but IAL will be conducting a two-day course to prepare people for the Certified Irrigation Designer (CID) exams. ***The course is specifically aimed at those people who are sitting either their Step 2 or Step 3 Exams.*** The course will run on Sunday and Monday, 18 and 19 May at CAE, 253 Flinders Lane, Melbourne. Course fee is \$600 (GST Free) and is immediately before Irrigation Australia 2008 Conference and Exhibition in Melbourne. For more information and a registration form contact Jann O'Connor, phone 02 9476 0142 or visit our [website](#)

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Please note the final round of exams will be held on 22 October 2008.

Professional development for irrigation trainers. IAL is running a one-day professional development workshop for irrigation trainers, Monday 19 May, in Melbourne before Irrigation Australia 2008 Conference and Exhibition. Covers innovative approaches to delivering irrigation training and familiarisation with the new IAL learning pathways and resources. Cost is \$150 and includes lunch and a copy of the CIO manual and evidence guide. For information and an application form go to [website](#).

Rain Bird Academy. From 23 to 24 June Rain Bird is holding a professional training camp for gold course and turf site supers, and irrigation contractors and dealers at the Gold Coast. Qualified trainers will be presenting sessions ranging from irrigation system troubleshooting to golf central control software to basic irrigation design to irrigation efficiency. Download an enrolment form from www.rainbird.com.au or email info@rainbird.com.au for more information.

Groundwater Short Courses. For more information on the CGS courses go to [website](#)

Call for papers: 3rd African Regional Conference. Being held in Abuja, Nigeria, 11 to 17 October, 2009. Conference theme is *The Role of Irrigation and Drainage in Food Security: towards attaining the millennium development goals in Africa*. Submit a 200-400 word abstract electronically by 30 June with the following information at the top of the page: paper title; author and co-author names and affiliations (contact author first); address, phone, fax and e-mail for each author. Use author's name as filename. Email to D. B. Madu; nincid@icid2009.org; nincid@yahoo.co.uk or dbmadu@icid.org. Go to website <http://www.icid2009.org> for more information.

WaterSmart Innovations Conference and Exposition. Being held in Las Vegas 8 - 10 October. Presented by the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) WaterSense Program, WaterSmart Innovations will serve to broaden the knowledge of innovations in urban water efficiency and water conservation including products, programs and outreach. For information and to register go to www.WaterSmartInnovations.com

SMART APPROVED WATERMARK

Hear about the scheme's latest developments, ask questions and tell us what you think about Smart Approved WaterMark at the scheme's first annual Smart Approved WaterMark forum for industry stakeholders. The forum will be held in conjunction with the Irrigation Australia 2008 Conference and Exhibition, 11am – 12.30pm on Thursday 22 May at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. You must register your participation by Monday 12 May 2008 as venue space is limited. Please contact the national office by phone 02 9290 3322 or email info@smartwatermark.info The full agenda and more information on the forum can be found at www.smartwatermark.info/forum.

LINKS

New website for Philmac. The website features: interactive product selection, virtual installation guides featuring installation solutions for urban, rural, mining, municipal and plumbing fittings; careers section; enhanced dealer location. Check it out at www.philmac.com.au

ICID News Update. The latest ICID News Update (*April 2008*) is on the ICID website at http://www.icid.org/nup2008_4.pdf>

National Performance Report 2006-2007 for rural water utilities. The National Performance Report 2006-07 rural water utilities was prepared jointly by the National Water Commission and the state and territory governments. The National Performance Report 2006-07 Rural Water Service Providers reports the performance of the thirteen largest rural water service providers across five states.
http://www.nwc.gov.au/nwi/national_performance_reports.cfm

REGIONAL COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

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