

# BACKWASH

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

April 2008

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



*Know-how for Horticulture™*

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Board news
- Irrigation Australia Conference and Exhibition
- Regional News
- Membership
- Professional development
- Around Industry
- Job spot
- People
- Awards
- For the Diary
- Irrigation Standards
- Handy Links
- Regional contacts

**New online Products and Services Listings.** IAL members in classes B, C, D and E were emailed their logon name and password to enter products and services into the new online listing. Members wishing to be listed on the website should login as soon as possible and complete the information. To see the new service go to the IAL website [www.irrigation.org.au](http://www.irrigation.org.au)

## BOARD NEWS

**Change at the top for IAL.** The board has, with regret, accepted Jolyon Burnett's resignation as CEO of IAL which comes into effect 1 August. Since 2001 Jolyon has been the driving force behind the growth of IAA, culminating in the merge with ANCID in 2007 to form Irrigation Australia Ltd. He has taken the organisation from a small association with no staff to the robust industry peak body that it is today with a staff of 11 and still growing. Jolyon has done a remarkable job of increasing the profile of the industry with governments, statutory bodies and other related associations and leaves the organisation in a much better state than he found it. Jolyon will be taking up the

position of CEO for the Australian Macadamia Society. While Jolyon is on leave (1 to 23 June) Jann O'Connor will be acting in his role.

Kim Russell, who was EO of ANCID before the merger of the two organisations, and who continued to work on special projects for IAL, will also be leaving IAL. The board thanked Kim for his efforts and wished him well in his new endeavours.

Stephen Mills, current chairman of IAL, has also announced that he will be retiring from the board. Stephen, who was at the helm of ANCID for 10 years and the inaugural year of IAL, has made a huge commitment to the associations and the irrigation industry at a time of great change.

**New constitution passes muster.** At a well-attended EGM held in Melbourne last month, IAL's new constitution was passed with an overwhelming majority of votes. This completes the administrative process involved in the merger of the IAA and ANCID. Also accepted at the EGM were new membership categories which are aimed at simplifying the membership structure of IAL. Notices of fees based on the new categories will be sent out this month.

**AGM and new board.** The AGM of the IAL will be held 16 September in Canberra. At the AGM the new board will elect a chairperson and deputy chairperson. Members are encouraged to nominate for the board. It is very important at this early stage in the life of IAL that we have the best board possible for your association's future. You will be receiving information about the elections and nomination process from IAL head office late June / early July.

## **IRRIGATION AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION 2008**

**Conference and Expo maintain the standard.** Irrigation Australia lived up to its high standard, with record numbers of people attending the conference, workshops and expo. Feedback was unanimously positive with exhibitors agreeing that the expo was a great opportunity to meet with clients and foster new business. The conference featured high quality presentations on many technological and policy issues that surround the irrigation industry today. And the workshops that examined topics as diverse as sub surface drip to urban irrigation design proved a great hit with those who attended.

**MacLean ledema winner.** A thoroughly deserving winner of the 2008 MacLean ledema award, announced at the conference dinner, was Geoff Connellan. Geoff has a long history in the irrigation industry, lecturing at what was then Burnley College in Melbourne and then University of Melbourne. He also served on the IAA board for a number years. Congratulations Geoff.

**Best new product.** Winner of the best new product award, sponsored by Rural Press, was the Irritrol 101SMS Soil Moisture Sensor from Toro. The sensor activates automatic watering systems only when the soil dries out. Every 12 minutes the sensor measures

moisture content, switching the system on when water is needed and switching it off when it is not, saving both water and money. The judges said it was chosen from a strong field of contenders.

**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.

**New staff for IAL.** David Chester has been appointed IDO in SA. He will be working 3 days a week. To contact David phone 0418 942 290, email [david.chester@irrigation.org.au](mailto:david.chester@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](mailto:petergiles@oasisirrigation.com.au)

**South Australia.** This month's meeting is 3.30 pm 10 June at a venue to be advised.

A successful AGM and industry dinner was held 15 May at Urrbrae Horticulture centre, and a new 12-member committee was elected. The SA committee would like to acknowledge the contribution made over many years by Kevin Meissner, who resigned from the committee this year. Office bearers for the coming year will be elected at the June meeting. For information contact Noel Johnston, email [noel.johnston@samdbnrm.sa.gov.au](mailto:noel.johnston@samdbnrm.sa.gov.au)

**South East Queensland.** The next meeting is Tuesday 10 June 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.** For information about the next meeting contact David Wigginton, email david.wigginton@spin.net.au

**Far North Queensland.** Planning is underway to deliver the IAL Irrigation Efficiency Training Course and the Certified Irrigation Operators course in July. These courses will be tailored to suit both urban and rural irrigation sectors. For information about the courses contact Merv Jessen, phone 07 5482 8030, email merv.jessen@irrigation.org.au

**Northwest NSW.** 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](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 7:30 am Tuesday 17 June 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).

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 was 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 May:

Andrew Bingley, Queanbeyan, NSW  
Robert Caldwell, Forbes, NSW

Tim Carey, Waterguys Pty Ltd, Moorabbin, Victoria  
Andrea Chapman, Australind, WA  
Chris Davey, City of Charles Sturt, Beverley, SA  
Kerry Drinkwater, Brisbane North Institute of TAFE, Brisbane, Queensland  
Chris Edwards, East Ballina, NSW  
Paul Geurtsen, Wagga Wagga, NSW  
Paul Glover, Arcadian Group Pty Ltd, Cockatoo, Victoria  
Robyn Grimshaw, Tableland Pump & Irrigation Repairs, Yungaburra, Queensland  
Damien Hilliard, Beachside Landscapes, Secret Harbour, WA  
Manojbhai Kaswala, North Altona, Victoria  
John Martin, GMW Water, Horsham, Victoria  
Keith Molyneux, Cowpasture Horticultural, Edithburg, SA  
Ian Moorhouse, Tatura, Victoria  
John Paterson, Paterson Pump Consulting, Moama, NSW  
Neil Rawlings, Urban Virons Water, Flinders Park, SA  
Peter Richardson, Franklin Electric Pty Ltd, Dandenong South, Victoria  
Guy Roth, Narrabri, NSW  
Dr Daryl Stevens, Arris Pty Ltd, Richmond, Victoria  
Grant Tait, Allwest Reticulation Services, Attadale, WA  
Claire Thorstensen, SEQ Water Corp Ltd, Brisbane, Queensland  
Jim Waring, Cockatoo, Victoria  
Mark Watson, Cradle Coast water, Ulverstone, Tasmania

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Retail Training Course.** IAL with the support of Advanced Industrial Products, Davey, FHS, Grundfos, HR Products, Hunter, Iplex, Netafim, Philmac, Toro and Vinidex is again offering the opportunity for those employed in retail irrigation stores to attend a 13-day retail training school. The course covers a wide range of required knowledge and skills. The 2008 course runs from 27 July to 7 August and will be held in Caloundra Queensland. The course fee covers all tuition, some meals, airport transfers and all accommodation. The fee for IAL members with retail outlets is \$1,500 and for others \$4,500. Full details and enrolment forms will be available on the IAL website [www.irrigation.org.au](http://www.irrigation.org.au) 9 June.

**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 courses:** Being held in Brisbane, Melbourne and Perth 20 & 21 August 2008; Sydney 10 & 11 September; Adelaide 30 September & 1 October. 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).

**CID exams advance notice.** You can register for the next round of CID exams being held 22 October 2008. For more details contact Catherine Parbery, phone 02 9476 0142, email <mailto:certification@irrigation.org.au>

**Get with the program, become a Certified Irrigation Operator.** IAL is delivering a series of three irrigation workshops in winter 2008 in Melbourne and Sydney to help people become IAL Certified Irrigation Operators. The training will suit 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. More information is available in the IAL website [www.irrigation.org.au](http://www.irrigation.org.au) <http://www.irrigation.org.au/index.cfm?/training-and-certification/upcoming-courses> or for a complete enrolment package contact head office, phone 02 9476 0142, email [training@irrigation.org.au](mailto:training@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>

**Certification ID cards – got yours yet?** The certification ID cards, which were launched at Irrigation Australia 2008, have been a great success. If you haven't got yours yet, just send a digital photo to IAL head office and it will be mailed back to you, email [training@irrigation.org.au](mailto:training@irrigation.org.au) HO.

**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](http://www.rainbird.com.au) or email [info@rainbird.com.au](mailto:info@rainbird.com.au) for more information.

**The Mathematics of Water Supply & Pricing.** This event includes workshops and short courses. Being held 14 to 16 July. For information and to register go to [www.amsi.org.au/water.php](http://www.amsi.org.au/water.php)

**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](mailto:enquiries@nuffield.com.au), website [www.nuffield.com.au](http://www.nuffield.com.au)

**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**

**States asked to improve efforts.** The National Water Commission has called on the states to step up efforts to improve the collection and sharing of data on water resources above and below ground. The aim is to provide better information for planning decisions. The states were also encouraged to invest more in systems for managing rivers and dams. For information go to website <http://www.nwc.gov.au/news/index.cfm>

**Southern M-D Basin conditions worsen.** The SA Government said in May that water resource conditions have continued to worsen across the southern Murray-Darling Basin. This means that, based on the current water resource outlook for 2008-09 from the Murray-Darling Basin Commission, the most likely initial allocation when the water year begins on July 1 will be zero. Water will be available to licensed users who carried over water from the current water year for use in 2008-09. The State Government is investigating all possible options to make a small initial allocation to other irrigators and will be making an announcement 16 June.

**Murray-Darling Association puts numbers on buyback.** According to the Murray-Darling Association, the \$3 billion announced by the Federal Government to buy back water allocation will conservatively purchase between 1200 and 1500 GL of water. This

is approximately 15% of all known water extractions currently in place for both general and high security licences. The association says that while this will provide some short term financial gain for a few it will deliver some long term pain for communities without careful planning and well managed structural readjustment.

**More numbers on buyback.** Waterfind has put some additional numbers on the buyback. It estimates that it will take 47 years to buy back the 1500 GL, unless the Federal Government buys back every drop of water offered for 14 years. To read the report <http://www.waterfind.com.au/?gclid=CNrbuLW41JMCFSUaagodUGqQiQ>

**Improving knowledge about water in Australia's north.** Research to provide a better understanding about irrigation and the water systems of northern Australia was recently released at the Irrigation Australia conference in Melbourne. A key recommendation was that the area's unique and diverse ecological systems need special care to retain their integrity. Use of the water resources should be within a strategic, ecologically, culturally and economically sustainable framework.

**Water for Bowen.** The Bowen community in North Queensland has been invited to examine the proposed route for infrastructure for the multi-million-dollar Water for Bowen project. The project will supply up to 60,000 ML a year to the Bowen area from the Burdekin River. It will also provide a long-term, secure solution to dwindling groundwater supplies and open up opportunities for future development.

**No diversions from north to south.** A recent study by GHD Consulting for the Queensland has advised that while it would be technically possible to divert water from the Tropical north to southeast Queensland, the costs would be astronomical (\$13.9 billion) ([Website](#))

**ACCC says states have failed on free water market.** Competition regulator, the ACCC, has accused the states of failing to deliver on a 15-year-old promise to facilitate a free market for water. State governments had agreed to set up a free market underpinned by a national register of water entitlements. But the ACCC said that it had been stymied by seasonal and political factors, including the over-allocation of water in some regions. It also says that long delays and exit fees continue to undermine trading and warned irrigation companies imposing large fees on farmers who sell their water rights were erecting barriers to trade.

**Federal budget for water.** A number of water-related announcements were made in the Federal Budget. These included: \$1 billion over six years to help secure water supplies through desalination, recycling and stormwater harvesting; \$2.3 billion in funding to tackle climate change through initiatives across government over four years; \$250 million for consumers and surf lifesaving clubs to install rainwater tanks and greywater systems; \$254.8 million to increase the security of water supplies in cities and towns as part of the *Water for the Future* plan; and bringing forward \$400 million in funding to accelerate water purchase and infrastructure projects in the Murray-Darling Basin. For details go to website

[www.environment.gov.au/wong/2008/pubs/budmr20080513a.pdf](http://www.environment.gov.au/wong/2008/pubs/budmr20080513a.pdf)

**Desalination costly for environment and budgets?** According the Environmental News Network a study released in April raises several concerns about the environmental impact and cost effectiveness of the widely touted technology to convert seawater to fresh water. The study concludes that desalination plants pose a risk to marine species when the water is collected from ocean areas, as Annwell as when the salty discharge is deposited into coastal estuaries. Download details of publication <http://www.nap.edu>

**Water restrictions continue in Brisbane.** With storage dam levels in Brisbane around the 37% mark and falling, level 6 water restrictions remain in place. Garden watering is still limited to nine hours per week by means of a bucket or watering can. About 200,000 tanks have been installed in homes in the greater Brisbane area. Mark Quayle, IDO for IAL and the Australian Centre for Lifestyle Horticulture will shortly be embarking on a education program to stimulate the use of this water and irrigation equipment from tanks in gardens in Brisbane.

## **JOB SPOT**

**Area Manager – West Australia, Irrigation Sales and Marketing.** Nelson Australia has recently been appointed as a Hunter distributor, significantly expanding its distribution of landscape and commercial products, and resulting in it opening a distribution and logistics operation based in Perth. Reporting to the Sales and Marketing Director, the Area Manager – West Australia will be responsible for managing the company's dealer and end user relationships, in the agricultural, mining (mainly dust suppression), turf and landscape markets. Instigating sales and promotional activities, field days, training and technical support are all part of this key role. Experience within the irrigation industry would be highly advantageous. Proven commercial experience in a sales or marketing role are essential. If this sounds like you please email your confidential application to [tony.shepley@nelsonirrigation.com.au](mailto:tony.shepley@nelsonirrigation.com.au) or fax 1300 856 369. Deadline date for applications is Monday 16 June 2008.

**ICID executive positions.** ICID is inviting nominations for President and three Vice Presidents for the term 2008-2011. Nominations will be considered at the 59<sup>th</sup> meeting of IEC to be held at Lahore on 17 October 2008. Nominations, which must be submitted by IAL, email [jann.oconnor@irrigation.org.au](mailto:jann.oconnor@irrigation.org.au), close 17 June 2008.

## **PEOPLE**

**G-MW appoints managing director.** Goulburn-Murray Water appointed David Stewart as Managing Director of GMW in May. David has more than 25 years of experience in the private and public sectors, including 13 years with G-MW. His key tasks will be managing the effects of the drought and the challenge of delivering a \$2 billion investment in upgrading the irrigation network.

**New Philmac appointment.** Philmac has appointed David McCully to the position of Regional Sales Manager in Queensland. David will be responsible for Philmac's Queensland sales team and will help in further developing the company's sales capabilities in the region. David has 20 years of experience in sales, management, distribution and customer service in the irrigation industry.

## **AWARDS**

**Rain bird seeks nominations for 2008 Intelligent Use of Water™ 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**

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**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](mailto:nincid@icid2009.org); [nincid@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nincid@yahoo.co.uk) or [dbmadu@icid.org](mailto: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](http://www.WaterSmartInnovations.com)

## STANDARDS

**Call for comment on draft standard.** The International Standards Organisation (ISO) technical subcommittee with the responsibility for developing irrigation equipment

standards has distributed a new draft standard for irrigation sprayers to member countries asking for comment. For the past five years Irrigation Australia Limited has been represented by Jeremy Cape at the ISO standards committee meetings. He is coordinating comments from interested parties and sending an Australian response back to the ISO secretariat. The draft standard can be downloaded from the IAL website and comments and queries should be sent [tojeremy@capeability.biz](mailto:tojeremy@capeability.biz). Comments should be made by Tuesday June 13.

## LINKS

**Environment most important issue for Australia.** The environment (including climate change/global warming, water resources, drought, famine) is the most important problem facing the World and Australia, according to pollsters, Roy Morgan. As a World problem, 35% (up from 14% in 2006) of Australians consider the environment the biggest problem, ahead of economic issues (24% up 5%) and terrorism, wars, safety and security (14% down from 32% in 2006). 30% (up from 8% in 2006) of Australians consider the environment the biggest problem facing Australia, ahead of economic issues (23% up 3%) and social issues such as education, drugs, and other societal problems (11% unchanged). Concerns about terrorism are now only seen as a major issue of Australia by 3% (down 9%). For detail go to website [www.roymorgan.com/resources/pdf/papers/20080505.pdf](http://www.roymorgan.com/resources/pdf/papers/20080505.pdf)

## REGIONAL COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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## **ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER**

Backwash is a monthly newsletter published by Irrigation Australia reporting on developments in the irrigation and related industries. For more information or to contribute article ideas contact [anne@naturallyresourceful.com.au](mailto:anne@naturallyresourceful.com.au)

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