

# BACKWASH

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

August 2008

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



Know-how for Horticulture™

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## ONLINE NOW

Papers from Irrigation Australia Conference 2008 are online.

<http://www.irrigation.org.au/index.cfm?/resources/2008-conference-papers>

Also online are Certified Irrigation Designers and Certified Irrigation Auditors –  
Landscape <http://www.irrigation.org.au/index.cfm?/training-and-certification/certified-irrigation-professionals-listings>

## BOARD NEWS

**July board meeting.** The IAL board met in Sydney on 28 July. This was the last meeting of the current board before the elections to be announced at the AGM Tuesday 16 September. Thanks to Cotton Australia's Adam Kay for making their boardroom available for the meeting.

**Board acknowledges contributions.** At the board meeting Jolyon Burnett was thanked for his contribution as CEO of IAA and IAL and to the merger process. The significant contribution of Stephen Mills as chair of ANCID and the inaugural chair of IAL was also acknowledged.

**ICID meeting.** IAL will not be formally supporting representation at the ICID International Executive Council meeting in Lahore in October. Current DFAT rulings for Pakistan are Level 4 for Lahore and Level 5 for regional areas and the board will not support travel under these conditions.

**Date claimer: IAL AGM, workshop and industry dinner.** The 2008 IAL AGM will be held in Canberra on the morning of Tuesday 16 September. It will be preceded by an industry dinner the Monday evening before and followed by a workshop on irrigation innovation. More details will be available soon, but as parliament is sitting at the same time, those who plan to go might like to make early travel arrangements.

**NPSI/IAL Travel fellowship.** With sponsorship from the National Program for Sustainable Irrigation, IAL is offering a \$10,000 travel fellowship for a young irrigation industry person. Travel is to be completed by August 2009. Applications close Friday 29 August 2008 and the winner will be announced at the above mentioned industry dinner. For more information contact IAL head office, phone 02 9476 0142, email [info@irrigation.org.au](mailto:info@irrigation.org.au).

**Irrigation Australia journal out in August.** The spring edition of the journal will be mailed mid August so keep an eye out for it. Featured are a wrap up of Irrigation Australia Conference and Exhibition, an interview with Jolyon Burnett, who recently resigned as CEO of IAL, a feature on recycled water, as well as all the regular columns.

**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.

## **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 12 August at Urrbrae Horticulture Centre, room R.01 (Irrigation training room). Office bearers for 2008-09 will be elected at this meeting. Congratulations to new executive: Max Curnow (Chairman), Peter Le Riche (Deputy Chairman), Richard James, Don Marriott (Secretary) and Richard James (Treasurer). Also to committee members Noel Johnston, Peter Toome and Peter Moller

**South East Queensland.** The next meeting is Tuesday 12 August 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](mailto:david.jessen@irrigation.org.au)

**Darling Downs.** For information about the next meeting contact David Wigginton, email [david.wigginton@spin.net.au](mailto:david.wigginton@spin.net.au)

**Northwest NSW.** Big event for the regional committee is the *Energy in Irrigation* to be held 27 August at Goondiwindi. Topics on the program include carbon trading, purchasing options for electricity, costs of overhead irrigation systems, as well as site inspections. Great lineup of speakers from the irrigation and the energy supply industries. For information contact Peter Taylor, email [ptaylor@smk.com.au](mailto:ptaylor@smk.com.au)

**Melbourne and Southern Victoria Region.** All previous IAA and ANCID members. Like to see some action on: water restrictions, IAL being better consulted on water policy for Melbourne, regulation requiring irrigation installers and others to be licensed, organisation of local training and accreditation opportunities? Or would you like to help set the local irrigation agenda and make positive things happen in the irrigation sector? Come to the regional meeting Wednesday 13 August and have a say!! Start: 5.30 pm for 6.00 at Reece Irrigation Offices, 546 Swan St, Burnley. Sixteen parking spaces on site and free parking on the street after 5.30 pm. Agenda includes: possibility of restricted tank licences for certified irrigation installers, the push towards certified irrigation installers only on irrigation projects and introducing turf and landscape associations on board with certified installers. Drinks and a light snack provided courtesy of Reece Irrigation, One-Stop Sprinklers, Water Management Services, Vic Irrigation, and City West Water. Please RSVP to Des Horton, email [dhorton@citywestwater.com.au](mailto:dhorton@citywestwater.com.au) by Thursday 7 August.

**Western Australia.** The next State Executive meeting will be held at 7:30 am Tuesday 19 August 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

If you haven't renewed your membership yet, don't forget, and encourage others also. For a membership application form, go to [www.irrigation.org.au](http://www.irrigation.org.au).

Welcome to new members for July:

Colin Brodie, Water Efficiency Pty Ltd, Mandalong NSW  
Lachlan Campbell, Lachlan Campbell Irrigation, Hillston NSW  
Geoff Connellan, Cower Plenty Victoria  
Joseph Fahim, Watermart Industries & A1 Irrigation, Dural NSW  
Vince Gallagher, Gallagher Installations Pty Ltd, Quinns Rock WA  
Peter Giles, Oasis Irrigation, Palmerston NT  
John Harvie, Irrigation Systems Australia Pty Ltd, Mildura Victoria  
Peter Keynes, Renmark SA  
Bhaveshbhaj Kunadiya, Altona Victoria  
David Norman, Wellington NZ  
Craig Northey, Moree NSW  
Casey Proctor, Lachlan CMA, Cowra NSW

David Reibel, Pallamallawa NSW  
Myles Sevil, Rain 4 U, Pymble NSW  
Nan Soergel, Dept Transport/Energy/Infrastructure, Adelaide SA  
Keith Sproule, Mid-West Irrigation Pty Ltd, Orange NSW  
Craig Stewart, Dianella WA

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Agri-Food Skills International Fellowship.** Apply for the Agri-Food Industry Skills Council and International Specialised Skills Institute Inc inaugural international fellowship. The fellowship is aimed at established, highly capable and experienced industry practitioners who may have broad technical expertise or a record of achievement in their fields. It will promote the acquisition of new skills, knowledge and innovative ideas overseas, and to see these findings delivering benefits to the Agri-Food Industry in Australia. The fellowship is valued at \$10,000 and will enable the award winner to undertake an overseas study program. Entries close 5 September. Go to website [http://www.agrifoodskills.net.au/display\\_announce.php?id=2](http://www.agrifoodskills.net.au/display_announce.php?id=2)

**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>

**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.

**NPSI/IAL Travel fellowship.** With sponsorship from the National Program for Sustainable Irrigation, IAL is offering a \$10,000 travel fellowship for a young irrigation industry person. Travel is to be completed by August 2009. Applications close Friday 29 August 2008 and the winner will be announced at the above mentioned industry dinner. For more information contact IAL head office, phone 02 9476 0142, email [info@irrigation.org.au](mailto:info@irrigation.org.au).

**Free day for cotton growers and staff.** The third day of the Cotton Conference at the Gold Coast 12-14 August, will feature a free, hands-on, irrigation day for irrigators and their staff, supported by the Department of Agriculture Fisheries & Forestry (DAFF). Topics will include: managing through drought, farming with limited water in dryland and irrigation systems, selecting cotton types for hotter temperatures, and commercial trait development for drought management and water use efficiency. For information go to <http://crdc.com.au/index.cfm?pageID=31&displayNewsID2=16>

**NCEA irrigation training.** NCEA is running irrigation training. The workshop fees include workbook, morning/afternoon teas and lunches.

Irrigation Production and Salinity Workshop, 27 – 28 August 2008, TBA (Toowoomba or Townsville)

Surface Irrigation Optimisation Workshop, 3 – 4 September 2008, USQ Toowoomba

Centre Pivot/Lateral Move Workshop, 17 – 18 September 2008, USQ, Toowoomba

Travelling Gun Irrigator Workshop, 8 – 9 October 2008, USQ, Toowoomba

For information contact Craig Baillie [bailliec@usq.edu.au](mailto:bailliec@usq.edu.au)

**Groundwater Short Courses.** For information on upcoming courses and workshops go to [www.groundwater.com.au](http://www.groundwater.com.au)

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

**Catch Cans.** To order catch cans go to [www.irrigation.org.au](http://www.irrigation.org.au)

## **AROUND INDUSTRY**

**Local experts help horticulture irrigators with decision making.** Horticulture Australia Limited in partnership with Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry have contracted local organisations to help horticulture irrigators in the southern Murray-Darling Basin access financial and agronomic information for making business decisions in the face of reduced water availability. Growers are able to access one-on-one, free, confidential sessions with local Extension Providers who have a background in horticulture or finance. The project is being run until the end of October in Sunraysia, the Riverina, South Australia and the Goulburn Valley and Swan Hill region. For more information go to the HAL website, [www.horticulture.com.au/mdbdroughtinfo](http://www.horticulture.com.au/mdbdroughtinfo)

**No let up to drought in MDB.** In July MDBC reported that the drought was getting worse with June inflows the lowest on record (95 GL) and autumn inflows only just above the record lows of 2007. The long term average is 680 GL. Inflows during autumn this year were 200 GL, just above the lowest on record of 195 GL in autumn 2007. The long term average is 806 GL. As a result the prospects for irrigation and the environment in 2008-09 remain grim. And in morbleak news, MDBC reported that the most recent seasonal climate outlook issued by the Bureau of Meteorology shows a shift in the odds towards drier than average conditions in across the Murray-Darling Basin from July to September. A copy of the latest Drought Update is available at [www.mdbc.gov.au](http://www.mdbc.gov.au)

**Water decisions by COAG.** At the Council of Australian Government (COAG) meeting held last month, the states and federal governments agreed to: establish a new, independent Murray-Darling Basin Authority to ensure comprehensive and consistent trading arrangements across the basin; basin-wide management and planning, through new structures and partnerships; lift the cap on water that can be traded out of a region each year from 4% to 6% by end of 2009; grants to the states for water infrastructure projects amounting to \$3.7 billion  
<http://www.coag.gov.au/meetings/030708/index.htm#water>

**Consultation time extended on ACCC rural water rules.** The deadline for submissions to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) on developing the water market and water charge rules for the Murray-Darling Basin has been extended to allow more stakeholder input. Under the *Water Act 2007*, the ACCC will advise Minister Penny Wong on draft rules to give farmers flexibility to trade their water access rights and help ensure more efficient and sustainable water use across the Murray-Darling Basin. The ACCC has a three stage process; consulting on an issues paper, a position paper, and then a draft report and rules, before providing its final advice on the rules to the Australian Government. For information on timelines for consultation, go to website [www.accc.gov.au](http://www.accc.gov.au).

**Dams up in SE Queensland.** Jubilation in southeast Queensland this week as average dam levels topped the 40% mark. As a result the Queensland Water Commission have changed restriction levels from extreme to high, which means garden watering has changed from buckets and watering cans only (during specific hours ) to allowing watering with handheld hoses (again, during specific hours.) This is a small concession, but one that will send an encouraging message about water use to many gardeners, as a hand held hose has not been able to be used for over two years.

**Water saving software wins Imagine Cup.** Last month a team of four university students from Tasmania and Victoria who developed a computer program designed to save water for Australia's drought-stricken farmers won the Imagine Cup. The cup is a major international technology prize sponsored by Microsoft. The team beat entries from more than 200,000 students from 100 countries. Their SOAK (Smart Operational Agricultural ToolKit) gives farmers a virtual image of their farms and the ability to work out how much moisture is in their fields and what their dam storage levels are. The four team members are now talking to Hewlett Packard about developing the software further and selling it to farmers around the world.  
<http://imaginecup.com/about/news.aspx>

**Drinking water first priority in southern basin.** With the water outlook having gotten worse between April and June, the federal and affected state governments have announced that special water sharing arrangements to secure the human needs of Adelaide and other towns that rely on the Murray River will stay in place throughout 2008-09. Water available for

households, irrigators and the environment is at record low levels across much of the basin. A joint statement released by the governments in July summarised the situation as: hot and dry conditions in autumn 2008 in the southern basin have resulted in diminished tributary inflows and increased water losses; inflows could remain well below average even with above average rainfall in 2008-09 because the dry state of the catchments has reduced run-off; several years of above average rainfall is likely to be required if the system is to fully recover; the Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for July to September shows increased chances of drier conditions in the southern part of the Murray Darling Basin.

**Family First's Murray solution.** Family First Senator Steve Fielding has announced that he could save the River Murray within 12 months and at a cost of just \$300 million. His solution is to build a 30 km tunnel from the Upper Yarra Dam to Lake Eildon to feed the Murray River with water and provide irrigation water. The tricky bit comes in replacing the water that Melbourne loses under this scheme (it gets most of its water via the Yarra Dam). The answer? A \$2 billion pipeline from Tasmania to Victoria.

**Water prices going up.** Waterfind reported that the average price of temporary water in the Southern Murray-Darling Basin in June was \$522/ML, an increase of 21% since May and a continuation of the upward price trend toward the end of season. This is the first year that prices increased towards the end of the season, with the closing price being close to the average for the entire season. This was most likely driven by limited supply as licence holders searched for water to carryover or to top up accounts. To download the report, go to [www.waterfind.com.au/docs/waterreport.pdf](http://www.waterfind.com.au/docs/waterreport.pdf)

**Climate set to get hotter and drier.** A new joint report from CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology concludes that hot periods and low rainfall years may occur much more often in future in Australia. It predicts that climate change will force farms and towns along the Murray and lower Darling rivers to live with 41% water within 20 years with food production and wetlands ecosystems to bear the brunt of change. The report estimates water diversions for irrigation projected to be cut by 30 % in South Australia, 32% in NSW and 18% in Victoria. <http://www.csiro.au/multimedia/DroughtReport.html>

**To buyback or not?** The Federal Government disagrees with a number of groups, including the Wentworth Group, that it should complete buybacks of water before it funds farm modernisation. According to the Wentworth Group, not doing this risks having upgraded but abandoned farms in the Murray-Darling Basin. The government says that only farmers committed to a longterm, viable business will get funding. <http://www.theage.com.au/national/murray-water-plans-timing-flawed-canberra-told-20080720-3i92.html?page=2>

**Wanna bet?** Reports that Darwin-based bookmakers, Centrebet, have opened their books for people to bet on rainfall in Australia and New Zealand. It took bets on which state would receive the most rain in April in Australia, and which New Zealand city. And Sportingbet Australia is looking at the possibility of wagers on highest and lowest temperatures and rainfall in each state. It's not limited to Australia either. In the US you can have a flutter on global warming while in the UK you can bet on where the highest summer temperature will be!

**Recycled water for SE Tasmania.** Irrigators in Tasmania's Coal River district will have access to additional water under a \$10.5 million recycled water scheme funded by the Australian Government. The South East Tasmania Recycled Water Scheme, developed by Clarence City Council, will increase the amount of recycled water available for irrigators and reduce the amount of wastewater discharged into the Derwent Estuary. Stage 1 of the scheme will connect

the Rokeby sewage treatment plant to the existing Coal River irrigation area to make available an additional 730 ML a year of recycled water. A 900 ML buffer dam will also be built to store recycled water when demand for irrigation is low. This will allow additional water to be made available to the Coal River irrigation area when required.

## **AROUND INDUSTRY**

Water conservation group Aqua Guardian, an Australian-owned, unlisted company, listed with the Australian Stock Exchange last month with a \$3.75 million initial public offering. The company's main product is Aqua Armour, a UV-resistant plastic module designed to cover water storages to reduce evaporation. <http://www.aquaquardianguard.com>

**Hughie wins product of the year.** Last month SAWM announced that the Hughie Sink was the winner of its first Product of the Year Award. The Hughie Sink is an innovative greywater collection device that makes re-using water around your home easy. For more information visit [\(Website\)](#)

**The lowdown on Government support.** Looking for support for your business? SmartCompany have put together a comprehensive list of State and Federal Government grants available. It also looks at the costs involved and the obligations imposed by State Government grants. <http://www.smartcompany.com.au/Premium-Articles/Top-Story/20080723-Free-money-for-growth-part-two.html?source=cmail>

## **JOB SPOT**

**Irrigation Surveyor/Designer/Engineer.** Planright is a private consulting firm, providing irrigation and agricultural engineering, water brokerage services, surveying, and civil engineering design to private customers and Government instrumentalities throughout the Goulburn Murray region. It is looking for experienced irrigation surveyors/designers to work on a large range of projects currently underway within the region. Works will involve participation in a broad range of projects carried out by the company's irrigation speciality. If you have: experience in survey, design, drafting of irrigation projects; knowledge of relevant standards; proven ability to liaise with clients and authorities; experience in the use of software design packages such as Autocad, one of these roles could be for you. Closing date for applications is 31 August 2008. For information contacts Peter Leahy or David Barraclough, phone 03 5824 1322, email [results@planright.com.au](mailto:results@planright.com.au)

## **PEOPLE**

**Steve Peck goes to Total Eden.** Former IAA board chairman and long time association member, Steve Peck, has departed from Hydroscapes Australia after 22 years as its principal. Steve, who is based in Perth, has taken up a new position with Total Eden. As well as being intimately involved with IAA and IAL at a state and national level, Steve served on many government bodies including the former Waters and Rivers Commission. His email address remains for the time being as [steve@hydroscapes.com.au](mailto:steve@hydroscapes.com.au)

**Boss for Murray Darling Basin Authority.** Robert Freeman, currently the chief executive of the South Australian Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation and deputy president of the Murray-Darling Basin Commission, has been appointed to the role of chief executive of the new Murray Darling Basin Authority. A key task for the authority will be to

develop a new basin plan, including a sustainable cap on surface and groundwater extractions. Robert will start in the new role on September 8.

## FOR THE DIARY

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**Riverland field days.** The field days will be run 17 and 18 September at the Barmera field day site. Featured are the Improving Irrigation Efficiency projects at Irrigation Efficiency Avenue. The avenue consists of irrigation related businesses dedicated to irrigation technology and efficiency.

**Free day for cotton growers and staff.** The third day of the Cotton Conference at the Gold Coast 12-14 August, will feature a free, hands-on, irrigation day for irrigators and their staff, supported by the Department of Agriculture Fisheries & Forestry (DAFF). Topics will include: managing through drought, farming with limited water in dryland and irrigation systems, selecting cotton types for hotter temperatures, and commercial trait development for drought management and water use efficiency. For information go to <http://crdc.com.au/index.cfm?pageID=31&displayNewsID2=16>

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Centre Pivot/Lateral Move Workshop, 17 – 18 September 2008, USQ, Toowoomba

Travelling Gun Irrigator Workshop, 8 – 9 October 2008, USQ, Toowoomba

For information contact Craig Baillie [bailliec@usq.edu.au](mailto:bailliec@usq.edu.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](#)

**Onsite and Decentralised Sewerage Conference.** Being held 12 to 15 October 2008 at Benalla, Victoria. Conference theme is *Achieving best practice by 2012: how do we do it?* For information go to website [www.awa.asn.au](http://www.awa.asn.au)

## SAWM UPDATE

Last month's meeting of the SAWM Expert Panel approved seven products, including a biological unit to reduce the amount of water used in men's urinals by up to 95%. Approved products are: Hoselink Premium Starter Kit with Flow Controller, Enviro-Fresh Sani-Sleeve System, Microscape irrigation dripline system from Plastro Asia Pacific, Sydney Water's 'Love Your Garden' program, VapourGuard from Plastipack Ltd, The Australian Car Wash Association's Car Wash Water Saver Rating Scheme, and Magic Glaze Waterless Car Wash from Beyond 2000 Car Care. For more information visit the web site [www.smartwatermark.info](http://www.smartwatermark.info) or contact the national office: 02 9290 3322 or [info@smartwatermark.info](mailto:info@smartwatermark.info).

## STANDARDS

To come

## HANDY LINKS

**Bureau's three new ways to access rainfall outlooks.** The Bureau of Meteorology has launched three 3-month rainfall outlook products that give new insights into the chance of rainfall for the coming season. They are: maps showing the rainfall amount that has a 25%, 50%, and 75% chance of falling over the coming season; maps showing the chance of different amounts of rainfall falling, from 10 up to 700 mm; and tables showing the chance of various rainfall amounts for more than 260 towns across Australia. The products are available on the Bureau's rurally-focused Water and the Land (WATL) website, [www.bom.gov.au/watl](http://www.bom.gov.au/watl)

**Final drafts non urban water meter testing on website.** The final drafts of NMI M 10-1, NMI M 10-2, NMI M 11-1, NMI M 11-2 and the corresponding Test Report Formats (NMI M 10-3 and NMI M 11-3) have now been published and are available from the National Measurement Institute (NMI) website. Included in these documents are procedures for showing compliance with the endurance testing requirements.  
<http://www.measurement.gov.au/index.cfm?event=object.showContent&objectID=A01F8FAA-BCD6-81AC-1F389B53DEB1409B>

**New website details water purchases.** A new website has been set up to provide information on the Australian Government's water entitlement purchases. The new website contains information on purchases made as part of the Government's \$50 million water entitlement buyback to help return Murray-Darling Basin rivers to health. Included are aggregated data about the purchases, including volumes, entitlement type, amount spent and water source. A link to the *Restoring the Balance in the Murray-Darling Basin Program* website is available at [www.environment.gov.au/water](http://www.environment.gov.au/water).

**The lowdown on Government support.** Looking for support for your business? SmartCompany have put together a comprehensive list of State and Federal Government grants available. It also looks at the costs involved and the obligations imposed by State Government grants. <http://www.smartcompany.com.au/Premium-Articles/Top-Story/20080723-Free-money-for-growth-part-two.html?source=cmailer>

## **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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