



BACKWASH

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

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Know-how for Horticulture™

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IRRIGATION AUSTRALIA – summer issue out this month. Keep an eye out for the summer issue of Irrigation Australia magazine featuring meters and metering, energy in irrigation, and pumps and pumping. Technical features for the autumn 2009 issue are innovation in irrigation, education and professional development, and the advertising feature is recycled water. For information on advertising contact Brian Rault, phone 03 8534 5014, email brian.rault@halledit.com.au

BOARD NEWS

New CEO appointed. The IAL national board announced the appointment of Chris Bennett as CEO. Chris, who has a background in horticulture and aquaculture took up the reins last week and is settling into his new role. His contact details are phone 02 9476 0142, email chris.bennett@irrigation.org.au

Alison farewells IAL. Farewell to Alison Carmichael who is leaving the industry after having worked with IAA, ANCID, IAL and a number of irrigation sector organisations since 1996. Alison leaves to take up a CEO role with the Association of Building Sustainability Assessors next week. She has made a substantial contribution to the industry in this time and will be greatly missed. Alison has made many good friends in

the industry and she has asked that we pass on her thanks to all those who have worked with her and been such a terrific support for her over the years. Her contact details are phone, 0414 287 079 and email, carmich@bigpond.net.au.

Next Board meeting. Will be in Sydney 5 December. This will be a review and planning exercise for board members, IDOs and representatives of regions and special interest groups.

Board meetings 2009. Dates have been set for 2009 board meetings: 27 February, Melbourne; 22 May, Bunbury, to coincide with Sales Training Course and IDO meeting; 21 August, Brisbane; October (TBC and to coincide with conference at Swan Hill); and 4 December, Sydney – planning for 2010.

IAL diaries. You should all receive your 2009 IAL diaries soon. This was a new initiative and has been very well received. Please send any feedback to Jann O'Connor, email jann.oconnor@irrigation.org.au so that next year's issue can be even better.

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

Peter Toome – chair
Matthew Durack - vice chair
Ian Atkinson
Scott Barber
Colin Campbell
Trevor Guest
Des Horton
Ian Moorhouse
Karen Murday
Tom Vanderbyl

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. Next meeting. 11 November at Urrbrae Horticulture Centre. Committee meeting at 4.00 pm, followed by a members' night from 6.00 to 9.00 pm. The

member night will provide current and prospective members with an update on progress of the range of various initiatives that have been undertaken by the committee, in particular the SA region IDO during the last 5 to 6 months. Hear updates of our negotiations with other bodies such as SA Water and our proposals for certification of systems and rebates. Manufacturers will also be present to display the latest water saving products. Finger food and refreshments will be available. The night will provide an opportunity for any non members to hear what the IAL is doing in support of their industry and to consider supporting the efforts through becoming actively involved. RSVP 08 8336 5799.

For information about the committee contact Noel Johnston, email.

Noel.johnston@samdbnrm.sa.gov.au

South East Queensland. The next meeting is Tuesday 11 November 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 There will be a regional break-up evening on November 27. All are welcome to attend.

Darling Downs. For information about the next meeting contact David Wigginton, email david.wigginton@spin.net.au

Far North Queensland. For information about the next meeting contact Geoff Chailon, phone 0438 779 196.

Northwest NSW. The committee is in the early stages of investigating the possibility of initiating an association with NSW TAFE to develop a spray irrigation, furrow irrigation and micro irrigation training and evaluation site at a TAFE farm in Moree. The committee has also asked Barnaby Joyce to attend for a discussion on the Murray Darling Basin and irrigation. For information on regional activities contact Peter Taylor, email ptaylor@smk.com.au

Melbourne and Southern Victoria Region. Next meeting is Monday, 17 November, 5.30 for 6.00 pm, at Reece Irrigation Offices, 546 Swan Street, Burnley. The IAL thanks Reece Irrigation for the use of their facilities for this meeting, and encourages members to attend. Please contact Des Horton by email on dhorton@citywestwater.com.au to confirm your attendance

Western Australia. Western Australia. Next regional meeting is Tuesday, 18 October 7:30 am 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.

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.

Welcome to new members for October:

St George Landscape Gardening Supplies
Five Star Watering Systems
Deps Pty Ltd
Horticultural Australia

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Irrigation Efficiency courses 2009. 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. Courses run on demand. For information contact Catherine Parbery, IAL head office, phone 02 9476 0142, email certification@irrigation.org.au.

Adelaide: 1 & 2 April 2009 and 8 & 9 September 2009
Brisbane: 1 & 2 April 2009 and 8 & 9 September 2009
Melbourne: 1 & 2 April 2009 and 8 & 9 September 2009
Perth: 1 & 2 April 2009 and 8 & 9 September 2009
Sydney: 1 & 2 April and 8 & 9 September 2009
Townsville: To be advised in the New Year

CID exam schedule 2009. Certified Irrigation Designer exams are held three times throughout Australia in February, June and October. Dates for 2009 are as follows:

19 February 2009: closing date for applications, 23 January 2009
18 February 2009: closing date for applications, 22 May 2009
15 October 2009: closing date for applications, 18 September 2009

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 HO.

Water reuse SIG meeting. The water reuse special interest group will meet 9 December in Brisbane for an informal dinner. Dr Daryl Stevens will be the guest speaker and he will outline the National Water Recycling Guidelines and the new methods for determining water classes. Anyone interested in water reuse issues are invited. For information contact chairman, Hoffensetz (Netafim Australia), email ghoffensetz@netafim.com.au

Evapotranspiration Masterclass. The CRC for Irrigation Futures is holding an ET Masterclass in Brisbane 3 and 4 November featuring Professor Jim Shuttleworth from the Department of Hydrology and Water Resources, University of Arizona. The course is aimed at researchers, educators, irrigation advisors, policy staff and postgraduate students. An information brochure can be downloaded from the CRCIF website. Spaces are limited so contact Deb Atkins, phone 02 4570 1763, email deborah.atkins@irrigationfutures.org.au ASAP to register.

Groundwater Short Courses. 36th Australian Groundwater School Monday 3 - 7 November 2008, DPI&F Conference Centre, Brisbane, QLD

http://groundwater.com.au/images/stories/courses_and_conferences/courses/flyer-agws-08.pdf

For information on all 2009 courses go to

http://groundwater.com.au/images/stories/courses_and_conferences/cgs%20groundwater%20short%20course%20program%202009.pdf

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

Catch Cans. To order catch cans go to www.irrigation.org.au

STATE ROUNDUP

Murray Irrigation to cut jobs. The lack of water for irrigation over the last few years has resulted in Murray Irrigation moving to cut jobs. The company, which employs around 120 staff, is planning for about 30% less water than in the past with the result that some positions will go. This will have flow-on effects in Finley, Deniliquin and

Wakool.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/10/15/2391858.htm?section=business>

Water market price drops 20%. Water prices in the Southern MDB temporary market dropped by 20% in the first two week of October, to around \$400/ML. According to Waterfind the market is very unpredictable. The prices are much different from this time last year when they were as high as \$1200/ML.

Water restrictions restart. Gold Coast residents are facing a return to water restrictions after a seven-month suspension. Drier weather caused the dam level to dip below the 95% on October 13, the trigger point originally specified by Gold Coast City Council for an automatic return to restrictions. Residents can still wash cars, boats and houses, water gardens or top up pools, but only within the times prescribed under Target 170 High Level Restrictions. Restrictions for businesses have not been relaxed. They will continue to comply with water efficiency and other permanent water conservation measures.

River Murray inflows. About 400 GL flowed into the River Murray system during September 2008 (excluding Snowy Hydro and Menindee Lakes), compared to 210 GL received in September 2007. But the figure was still well below the long-term September average of 1 600 GL. The July to October period is critical for River Murray system inflows, because about 65% of the total annual inflow is received during these months. From July to September this year 980 GL of inflows have been recorded. The Murray-Darling Basin Commission predicts about 175 GL will be recorded this month, which would give a total of 1 155 GL for this critical period. The long-term average for the period July-October is 5 740 GL.

South Australia. SA allocations up. River Murray irrigation allocations increase from 11 to 15% this month as the result of a slight improvement in water availability to South Australia. Extra inflows into the River Murray system during September have resulted in enough water being available for South Australia to make this further allocation and to reserve some water for critical human needs in 2009-10. The increase compares to the 16% allocation available to irrigators in November 2007. For information, go to website www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/assets/files/MR_allocations15Oct2008.pdf

Water purchases program review. A review by Hyder Consulting of the first round of the Federal Government's Murray-Darling Basin water purchase program has found it was efficiently run and good value. The government says it will be using the review to improve future water purchase processes. Recommendations and findings included: improved communication of environmental benefits and priorities of the purchases; many sellers of water entitlements were able to use the money to pay off debt, invest in water-efficient infrastructure or invest in off-farm activities; the water purchase had very little impact on regional production and income in the last financial year; the impact of water entitlement purchasing is likely to vary from region to region, depending on the types of irrigation activities in the area and how individual sellers use the proceeds from their sale; and some irrigators found it hard to put a price on their water entitlements.

Watering our rivers – a new crop for Australian irrigators? With the Australian Government spending \$3.1 billion dollars buying permanent entitlements to water our rivers, this could be a new potential “crop” for irrigators. Over the next few years the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH) will end of with around 10% of the 24,000 GL of entitlements in the Murray Darling Basin. An option may be to treat the environmental use of water in the same way as many of our successful irrigators are doing and use the temporary markets to support its needs. An option is for the CEWH to use the temporary market to buy real water to “irrigate” a riverine ecosystem in real need. With a bit of creativity the temporary market could allow for productive water to be temporarily traded to meet specific environmental outcomes, as well as the reverse. The irrigation industry could also enter this new market in a more proactive fashion by contracting to deliver “Environmental Outcomes” as opposed to the direct sale of water. This would create a new product on an irrigator's P&L sheet and deliver to the river outcomes with clear environmental specifications. This approach would offer some real opportunities for the “Multi-Purpose” use of water the CRC IF has been advocating. Read the full article at <http://www.irrigationfutures.org.au/news.asp?catID=17&ID=785>

Irrigation innovation – beyond 2010. The report from this workshop, organised by IAL, CRCIF and NPSI, and held in Canberra in September, can now be downloaded from the CRCIF website [workshop report](#). The aim of the workshop was to kick off a process to develop a ten-year irrigation innovation strategy.

Nominations for McKell Medal. Nominations are open for the McKell Medal, which recognises innovation and excellence in natural resource management in Australia. Nominations close 16 November 2008. For information go to website <http://www.daff.gov.au/natural-resources/landcare/mckell>

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

FOR THE DIARY

Irrigation Efficiency courses 2009. 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. Courses run on demand. For information contact Catherine Parbery, IAL head office, phone 02 9476 0142, email certification@irrigation.org.au.

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Groundwater Forum. A national forum on groundwater has been organised by IAL and National Groundwater Users and Managers. Location is Gemini Hotel, Griffith NSW, and date is 3 to 4. For information contact Lee Furness, phone 03 5821 7811, mobile 0427 646 019.

SMART APPROVED WATERMARK

Every Bucket Counts. Australians are being challenged to save at least one million buckets of water through the new 'Every Bucket Counts' campaign launched as part of National Water Week. The campaign is designed to bring people to the smartwatermark.org web site, alert them to possible water savings through three online calculators and encourage them to make pledges to save water. For more information visit www.smartwatermark.org

Next Panel Round. Information on applying to get the Smart WaterMark label for your water-saving product or service is available from the scheme's industry website at www.smartwatermark.info or contact the national office on 02 9290 3322. The independent technical Expert Panel next meet in December, with the closing date for applications 21 November.

STANDARDS UPDATE

With support from HAL, the CRCIF and IAL, Jeremy Cape will be attending ISO TC23SC18 meeting, being held in Los Angeles the first week of November, as Australia's representative. For the first time, standards development in Australia will be

discussed as part of the meeting's agenda. A full report on the meeting will be available at the end of the year. For information contact Jeremy Cape, email Jeremy@capeability.biz

HANDY LINKS

Protecting wetlands. A new report by the Australian Conservation Foundation and the Inland Rivers Network says that the Murray-Darling Basin's internationally recognised wetlands are under severe threat. Read the report here http://www.acfonline.org.au/uploads/res/Ramsar_paper_final_201008.pdf

GM-W drought response website. Goulburn-Murray Water has launched an updated drought response section on its website to provide irrigators, industry and the wider community with latest information on water resources, access and delivery and trading issues. The site includes all of G-MW's local operating plans that guide local system operations and run the systems as efficiently as possible. www.g-mwater.com.au/customer-services/drought-response

Queensland Water Supply Act. What does it mean? Simmonds and Bristow have factsheets on their websites that explain some of the implications of the new act. Go to website to download the factsheets.

<http://www.simmondsbristow.com.au/Home/ResourceCentre.aspx>

Christmas shopping. The true spirit of Christmas is giving not receiving. Give someone a gift that everyone will good about, and that will help save lives. The WaterAid online shop has lots of options for gifts that keep on giving. <http://shop.wateraid.org/>

REGIONAL COMMITTEE CONTACTS

North Queensland

Geoff Chaillon

gchallion@typac.com.au

Darling Downs

David Wigginton

wiggind@usq.edu.au

South East Queensland

Michael Barker

waterforce3@bigpond.com

NSW North West

Peter Taylor

ptaylor@smk.com.au

Sydney
Pat O'Shannessy
Patrick.O'Shannessy@toro.com

Central and Far West NSW
Ken Rogers
ken.rogers@dubbo.nsw.gov.au

Melbourne
Des Horton
dhorton@citywestwater.com.au

South Australia
Max Curnow
maxc@hrproducts.com.au

Western Australia
Greg Stewart
greg@totaleden.com.au

Northern Territory
Peter Giles
petergiles@oasisirrigation.com.au

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

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