



BACKWASH

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

February 2009 No 2
www.irrigation.org.au



Know-how for Horticulture™

IN THIS ISSUE

- Board news
- Regional News
- Membership
- Professional development
- State Roundup
- Around Industry
- For the Diary
- SAWM Update
- Irrigation Standards
- Handy Links
- Regional contacts

IRRIGATION AUSTRALIA magazine – autumn edition out this month. Catch a sneak peek into the future with our innovation in irrigation feature. And look at what's happening with recycled water in our advertising feature. Plus all the regular columns. Great reading you can't afford to miss.

Technical features for the winter 2009 issue are water markets, standards and best practice, and climate change. Advertising feature is design management and consulting. For information on advertising contact Brian Rault, phone 03 8534 5014, email brian.rault@halledit.com.au

BOARD NEWS

Strategic plan being developed. The December strategic planning forum was attended by over 30 participants, including the Board, Regions, Special Interest Groups, IDOs and key staff. The Board is particularly keen to ensure that IAL grows and develops to its full potential with its wider support and member base from the amalgamation of IAA and ANCID. The combined input from participants has provided

the foundations for the strategic plan and the business plans currently being developed. The next step will be to present the strategic plan to members through regional meetings to ensure everyone has an opportunity to discuss and comment firsthand. For information contact Chris Bennett, email chris.bennett@irrigation.org.au

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 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 is Tuesday 3 February at Urrbrae Horticulture Centre Room R.01. enter at Gate D. **Please note:** Please note that C.E.O. Chris Bennett will be attending and an invitation is extended to all members to attend and meet him. For information about the committee contact Noel Johnston, email. Noel.johnston@samdbnrm.sa.gov.au

South East Queensland. The committee finished a successful year in 2008 by hosting their Christmas Dinner 2 December at Fitzy's on Brisbane's south side where IAL members and their partners celebrated the region's achievements. For information on

regional meetings 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. For information about the next meeting contact Geoff Chaillon, phone 0438 779 196.

Northwest NSW. For information on regional activities contact Peter Taylor, email ptaylor@smk.com.au

Melbourne and Southern Victoria Region. Melbourne and Southern Victoria Region. For information about regional activities contact Des Horton, email dhorton@citywestwater.com.au.

Western Australia. Western Australia. The WA region has set its meeting dates for the first half of this year: to be held at the Metro On Canning, South Perth from 8.00 to 10.00am. Dates are: 17 February, 17 March, 21 April, 19 May, and 16 June 2009. For information 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 December and January:

Mick Adams, Civcon Water Services Pty Ltd, Headtherbrae NSW
Bernie McMullen, Bathurst NSW
Tom Murphy, Dareton NSW
Craig Picklum, Mudgee NSW

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 info@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: May 2009 - dates to be advised

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

19 February: registrations closed

18 June 2009: closing date for applications, 15 May 2009

15 October 2009: closing date for applications, 11 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>

Recycling special interest group. The Water Recycling Special Interest Group held a presentation evening in Brisbane 9 December last year. The 20 people who attended heard from Dr Daryl Stevens from Arris Pty Ltd about the Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling, Horticultural Australia Limited (HAL) recycled water projects, and a general overview of the recycling water industry. Participates stated it was very informative to understand the background to risk-based assessment and what can be done to overcome those risks from a practical point of view. HAL has also developed a website www.recycledwater.com.au specific to water recycling issues, quarterly electronic newsletter and blog site. The group would like to hold future events like this in other states in 2009. For more information contact Guy Hoffensetz ghoffensetz@netafim.com.au

Online training starts this month. River Murray Training will be starting online training for the skills required for registration as a Certified Irrigation Manager and Certified Irrigation Agronomist 18 February. For details contact Barb McPherson, phone 08 8582 3658, email barbmc@r-m-t.com.au

NPSI/IAL Travel Fellowship Award. A heads up for you to think of someone to nominate for the NPSI/IAL Travel Fellowship Award. The award is presented each year

to a young scientific achiever in irrigation working in research or development. Nominations will open later this year and will be announced in Backwash and IAL website. The winner will be announced at Irrigation Australia 2009 National Conference, being held 18 to 20 October this year.

Rain Bird summit. In partnership with Smart Approved Water Mark, Rain Bird will conduct its tenth 'Intelligent Use of Water Summit' Thursday 19 March 2009 in Melbourne. International and local panellists will present their views in the morning session followed by lunch and three afternoon sessions on: water-efficient landscape design; alternative water sources (reclaimed/non-potable water) for irrigation; the relationship between water and climate change. Venue for the free event is the Grand Hyatt Melbourne. For more information, contact Rain Bird Australia, Freecall 1800 424 044 or email jwsmith@rainbird.com.

Integrated Water Supply Solutions Study Tour. The aim of the tour 25 May to 5 June is to explore challenges, opportunities and solutions available to water authorities in Australia. It will look at all aspects of managing the integration of a variety of water sources, including desalination, recycling, stormwater, ground and reservoir water. Tour will visit Melbourne, Perth, Darwin, Singapore, Brisbane, Gold Coast. Expressions of interest required by 7 February 2009. IWA members \$9,750 (plus GST), non members \$10,250 (plus GST). For information go to website www.recycledwater.com.au/index.php?page=iwa-study-tour, phone 03 9421 1701, email studytour@arris.com.au

Centre for Groundwater Studies. The centre has a busy program of short courses for 2009. Coming up 16 March in Melbourne is the First Landfills and Contaminated Lands: Risk Assessment and Groundwater Management course. For information go to website <http://groundwater.com.au/images/stories/courses_and_conferences/courses/flyer-1st-landfills-contam-lands.pdf>
For information about courses this year go to website <<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

Catch Cans. To order catch cans go to website <http://www.irrigation.org.au/index.cfm?event=public.page&pageuid=81A11158-1731-7D47-82303B0378C514CD>

STATE ROUNDUP

Murray allocations up – slightly. River Murray irrigation allocations will increase from 15 to 18% from February 1 following a slight improvement in the volume of water available to South Australia. The extra 20 GL available to SA – on top of the volume to be reserved for critical human needs for 2009-10 – will be used to increase irrigation allocations.

Water position paper from ACCC. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission is looking for submissions in response to its position paper on the development of rules for charges for recovering the cost of water planning and water management activities. When finalised, these will be considered by the Federal Government. According to the ACC it proposes to develop enforceable rules to require the publication of water charge information and voluntary model rules for reporting on water. Submission deadline for responses is 27 February. To download a copy of the paper go to website www.accc.gov.au

Northern Basin tender opens. A second round of water entitlement purchases in the northern Murray-Darling Basin has just opened and will run until 30 June. Irrigators upstream of Menindee Lakes are invited to submit offers to the Australian Government to sell their water entitlements. This tender complements the 2008-09 southern Basin tender, which opened in October 2008 and runs until June this year. The Federal Government has committed \$400 million to water purchases in the northern Basin. Program guidelines are available at www.environment.gov.au/water or by calling 1800 218 478.

New national groundwater centre. Last month the Federal Government announced \$30 million support for a new National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training. The centre is jointly funded by the Australian Research Council and the NWC, with \$30 million in additional contributions from the 20 organisations involved. Other partners involved in the new \$60 million centre include the University of New South Wales, the University of Queensland, the Australian National University, CSIRO, Geoscience Australia, and the NSW and SA governments.

Inventions wanted. INNOVIC's Next Big Thing Award 2009 is now open. Inventors can win a share of \$60,000 cash and prizes and \$100,000 of promotion for your invention, including a 6-week exhibition of finalists at Melbourne Museum. Enter now at website www.nextbigthingaward.com Applications close 16 March 2009.

Murray Irrigation fights to keep water. The Land reports that Murray Irrigation Limited has launched two initiatives aimed at keeping water in the Murray Valley irrigation region. In the first initiative irrigators are being offered the opportunity to sell water through MIL acting as an on-seller of bulk water. The second is Waterbank, the aim of which is to keep water in productive agriculture in the region. According to the report, they will also counter MIL irrigator shareholders selling water to the Federal Government, which has taken a major role in the water market in the region.

Rebates for rainwater tanks and greywater systems. The Federal Government has just announced that Australian households will be eligible for a rebate of up to \$500 each for the purchase of a rainwater tank or a greywater system. The National Rainwater and Greywater Initiative is part of the government's \$12.9 billion *Water for the Future* program. Rebates are available for the purchase and installation of a new rainwater tank which is connected for internal re-use of the water for toilet and/or laundry use or the purchase and installation of a permanent greywater treatment system. A \$400 rebate is available for a 2,000 - 3,999 L tank and a \$500 rebate is available for a tank greater than 4,000 L. Guidelines and application form are available from www.environment.gov.au/water or by calling 1800 808 571.

FOR THE DIARY

Irrigation Efficiency courses 2009. This 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 or contact Catherine Parbery, IAL head office, phone 02 9476 0142, email info@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: May 2009. Dates to be advised

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

19 February 2009: registrations closed
18 June 2009: closing date for applications, 15 May 2009
15 October 2009: closing date for applications, 11 September 2009

Sharing the Knowledge: Irrigation Efficiency Techniques for irrigators by irrigators. Hear four irrigators describe techniques they have implemented to improve irrigation efficiency. Moree – 3 February. Moree Services Club at 2 pm; Narromine – 4 February. Narromine RSL at 9 am; Griffith – 4 February. Gemini Hotel at 3 pm; Wentworth – 5 February. Sundowner at 9 am; Deniliquin - 5 February at Deniliquin RSL at 3 pm; and Bega – 6 February at Bega RSL at 9 am. Presented by NSW Irrigators Council with the support of the NSW Government's Natural Resources Advisory Council.

Groundwater Short Courses 2009. The Centre for Groundwater Studies offers a variety of short groundwater courses nationally around Australia and also in New

Zealand. For 2009 CGS Groundwater Short Courses go to website www.groundwater.com

WaterSmart Expo. The future of water in an uncertain climate will be further explored at the second WaterSmart Expo in Narromine on 6 and 7 March 2009. Exhibitors and sponsors are being invited to be part of this proactive industry event that will start with a series of field trips across the Central West catchment in February, leading up to the two-day Expo in March with displays, seminars, exhibitor demonstrations, a forum and networking dinner. Exhibitor/sponsor enquiries: Jessica Brown, Central West Catchment Management Authority on 0438 128 966 or jessica.brown@cma.nsw.gov.au.

NPSI/IAL Travel Fellowship Award. A heads up for you to think of someone to nominate for the NPSI/IAL Travel Fellowship Award. The award is presented each year to a young scientific achiever in irrigation working in research or development. Nominations will open later this year and will be announced in Backwash and IAL website. The winner will be announced at Irrigation Australia 2009 National Conference, being held 18 to 20 October this year.

Rain Bird summit. In partnership with Smart Approved Water Mark, Rain Bird will conduct its tenth 'Intelligent Use of Water Summit' Thursday 19 March 2009 in Melbourne. International and local panellists will present their views in the morning session followed by lunch and three afternoon sessions on: water-efficient landscape design; alternative water sources (reclaimed/non-potable water) for irrigation; the relationship between water and climate change. For more information, contact Rain Bird Australia Freecall 1800 424 044 or email jwsmith@rainbird.com.

Integrated Water Supply Solutions Study Tour. The aim of the tour 25 May to 5 June is to explore challenges, opportunities and solutions available to water authorities in Australia. It will look at all aspects of managing the integration of a variety of water sources, including desalination, recycling, stormwater, ground and reservoir water. Tour will visit Melbourne, Perth, Darwin, Singapore, Brisbane, Gold Coast. Expressions of interest required by 7 February 2009. IWA members \$9,750 (plus GST), non members \$10,250 (plus GST).

For information go to website www.recycledwater.com.au/index.php?page=iwa-study-tour, phone 03 9421 1701, email studytour@arris.com.au

PEOPLE

Rain Bird appoints area sales managers. Rain Bird Australia announced last month that two of its area sales managers have been promoted and entrusted with additional responsibilities. Greg Smith, currently Area Manager Golf in New South Wales and Queensland, has been promoted to Senior Area Manager Golf & Services. Marcus Turpin, Area Manager Turf for Western Australia, has been promoted to Area Manager Turf (WA) and Marketing Program Manager.

SMART APPROVED WATERMARK

The Smart WaterMark's independent technical expert panel recently approved a number of new irrigation products including: Rain Bird Australia's PRS-Dial sprinkler valve and 1800PRS sprinkler series; the Irrisys Pump Guard; and Queensland Water Commission's "Efficient Irrigation for Water Conservation Guidelines". Closing date for the next application round is 6 March. For a full list of approved products and services, or more information about the Smart WaterMark, visit: www.smartwatermark.org

STANDARDS UPDATE

Israeli members of ISO TC 23 SC18 are keen to develop collaborative research with members from Australia on a new method for evaluating filters. Any readers interested in finding out more about the clogging capacity method are invited to contact Jeremy Cape, email jeremy@capeability.biz

HANDY LINKS

Watering web tool for Sydney gardeners. Sydney Water launched a website, the WaterRight Gardens web tool, to help gardeners use water more wisely and save money at the same time. The site tells them how often and how much to water, as well as when to stop watering because of rainfall or seasonal weather changes. To check it out go to website www.sydneywater.com.au.

Irrigation of Amenity Horticulture using Recycled Water. A comprehensive guide to irrigation of amenity horticulture using recycled water has been produced by Arris. It can be downloaded free by going to <http://www.irrigation.org.au/assets/pages/6E9E6203-1708-51EB-A65470E3F41123EB/Amenity%20Hort%20Arris%20Recycled%20Water%20FINAL.pdf>

Measuring dripper uniformity. The dripper uniformity calculator is an online assessment tool that is used to generate maps of dripper application rates across an irrigation block. This can help irrigators understand and manage the variation on their block. The calculator requires block information (obtained from GPS or Google Earth) and a measure of flow rates from at least 20 emitters.

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
pg@oasisirrigation.com.au

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

You have received this issue because you are on the IAL database. You will continue to receive Backwash free of charge unless you decide to unsubscribe.

To Subscribe or Unsubscribe

To subscribe free of charge to Backwash or to be removed from the mailing list, please send an email to: info@irrigation.org.au

PRIVACY NOTICE

This e-mail may contain personal information as defined in the Privacy Act 1988, or confidential information. Please do not disclose personal information in this e-mail, other than that of the sender, to another party without the consent of the sender.

If you are not the intended recipient, or believe that you have received this e-mail in error, please do not print, copy, retransmit, disseminate, or otherwise use the information. Also, please notify the sender that you have received this e-mail in error, and delete the copy you received. Thank you.

Backwash is compiled by Naturally Resourceful Pty Ltd
© Copyright Irrigation Australia Limited