

BACKWASH

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Know-how for Horticulture™

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WINTER JOURNAL

Interesting in advertising or contributing an article to *Irrigation Australia*, the only journal in Australia to deal with both urban and agricultural irrigation? Technical features for the winter 2009 issue are standards and best practice, and climate change. To contribute an article contact Anne Currey, phone 0414 878 175, [email](#) Advertising feature is design management and consulting. For information on advertising contact Brian Rault, phone 03 8534 5014, [email](#) Deadline 24 April 2009.

BOARD NEWS

IAL Board goes west. As part of its decision to meet in regions to better communicate with members and learn about local issues and concerns, the IAL board will hold its next meeting in May will be in Bunbury, south of Perth. Board directors will meet with local members over dinner. Also on the agenda are general meetings in both Perth and Bunbury with Chairman, Peter Toome, and CEO, Chris Bennett, outlining plans for the future development of the organisation and associated activities. More details closer to the event.

IAL's growing influence on water policy. IAL is increasingly being requested to help water authorities develop policy. In particular, as urban authorities look beyond restrictions and develop policies based on efficient irrigation, IAL is being asked to help. While still early days, IAL is currently heavily involved in helping define "efficient irrigation" and "good practice", and possibly help with audits to determine if individual installations comply with these definitions. While the specific situations and requirements vary, the general trend is a move away from restrictions and towards a more sustainable way of using available water wisely to achieve

good results in urban and domestic areas. This is a major change in policy approach, and one which should provide much better outcomes for members and the general public.

IAL info. Contact the IAL national office for information about your association, phone 02 9476 0142, [email](#).

REGIONAL NEWS

To find out what's happening in your region click on the links. Check out regional contacts as well as when your regional committee's next meeting is, and other activities and events. [North Queensland](#), [South East Queensland](#), [Darling Downs](#), [North West NSW](#), [Sydney](#), [Central and Far West NSW](#), [Melbourne and Southern Victoria](#), [South Australia](#), and [Western Australia](#).

MEMBERSHIP

If you know someone who is interested in joining the IAL let them know it's as easy as downloading the membership form from the IAL website and filling it in. For an application form, go to [IAL website](#)

FOR THE DIARY

Irrigation Efficiency courses 2009. Do you manage an irrigation system and want to measure how efficient it is? Complete the IEC and you will be able to evaluate your system. Training in Certificate III in Irrigation competencies: troubleshooting irrigation systems; measuring irrigation delivery system performance; and operating pressurised irrigation systems. Courses in all capital cities in September, and in Sydney, Brisbane and Townsville in May. Course [schedule](#)

Certified Irrigation Designer exam prep course. Make sure there are no surprises when you do the CID exam. A two-day exam preparation courses for the Step 2-3 exams for CID exams will be held in Sydney 28 and 29 April 2009, and a one-day exam course in Sydney 30 April 2009. For more information and to enrol click [here](#).

CID exams 2009. They are only held twice a year so don't miss your opportunity to become a CID. Being held in Australia in capital cities (can be organised in regional centres): 18 June 2009: closing date for applications, 15 May 2009; 15 October 2009: closing date for applications, 11 September 2009. For information and to enrol click [here](#)

Irrigation Training Courses 2009. Industry designed and presented training for retail staff. With support from Advanced Industrial Products, Davey, FHS, Grundfos, HR Products, Hunter, Iplex, Netafim, Philmac, Toro and Vinidex, IAL is running two 13-day retail training courses: in Bunbury, WA from 9-21 May [more](#); and in Caloundra, Qld from 25 July to 6 August 2009 [more](#).

Irrigation: meeting the challenge, Irrigation Australia Conference. This year's conference is being held in Swan Hill 18 to 21 October 2009. A great opportunity to meet people in the industry from all over Australia and find out the latest on topics like data management, modernising irrigation systems, groundwater management, competing irrigation need and urban irrigation. For information about the conference and call for papers click [here](#).

60th IEC Meeting and 5th Asian Regional Conference, 6-11 December 2009, New Delhi. An opportunity to take a look on the other side of the fence and see what is happening with

irrigation and water management around the world. Theme is "Improvement in Efficiency of Irrigation Projects Through Technology Upgradation and Better Operation and Maintenance". If you are interested in submitting a paper, deadline for abstracts is 30 April 2009. For information go to conference [website](#)

CRCIF Evapotranspiration Master Class. If you are a researcher, post grad student, irrigation adviser or policy developer then this course is for you. Find out the latest in ET research and practice. Presented by Wayne Meyer, Jim Wallace and Keith Bristow, Adelaide 7-8 May. For information and to register click [here](#)

Canetrends Working Field day. Theme is irrigation. A great opportunity to exhibit. Tegege Hall and Environs 30 April. For information contact Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd, phone 07 41512555

Symposium: Agricultural Technologies in a Changing Climate. An international symposium being held in Brisbane in September 2009. Topics include irrigation, water and environmental management; plant production, handling and processing; information management. For information go to [website](#)

Centre for Groundwater Studies. Courses presented through the year by experts in groundwater management and studies. For information about courses this year go to [website](#)

JOB SPOT

CEO NZ Irrigation Association. If you are looking for an opportunity to become involved in the NZ irrigation industry in a senior management position then this job could be for you. [More](#)

INDUSTRY

Catch up on what happened at the Rain Bird Intelligent Use of Water Summit held in Melbourne last month. Watch a webcast at this [website](#)

SAWM UPDATE

The Smart WaterMark independent Technical Expert Panel reviewed 18 applications at its March meeting of which 7 were approved and 11 requested for further information. The next Expert Panel meeting will be held in June with a closing date for applications of 29 May. For more information visit [website](#)

STANDARDS UPDATE

In a big step forward, and after representations by IAL, Standards Australia is to establish an official Australian committee to provide feedback and input to the international standards committee on irrigation equipment. If you are interested in standards or joining the committee contact coordinator, Jeremy Cape, [email](#). Membership provides the opportunity for people to comment on standards.

HANDY LINKS

[Circle of Blue](#). Looking for solutions and innovative responses to the drought in the Murray-Darling Basin. Circle of Blue is affiliated with the Pacific Institute.

[Queensland Water Commission Efficient Irrigation for Water Conservation Guideline](#). Developed for the introduction of Medium Level restrictions and permanent water conservation measures. The guideline promotes the SAWM as one way of identifying water efficient products and practices, and has a requirement for drippers used for lawn irrigation to be certified by a Certified Irrigation Professional.

PRODUCTS

Check out the IAL's [bookshop](#) and order your publications, Space Pro software and catch cans. Some publications also available for free [download](#).

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 send an [email](#).

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