

BACKWASH

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

November 2009 No 11
www.irrigation.org.au



Know-how for Horticulture™

IN THIS ISSUE

Regional News
For the Diary
Industry News
SAWM Update
Irrigation Standards
Handy Links
Products
Regional contacts

Irrigation Australia journal. Summer's bumper edition is out this month. Technical feature is better decision making - irrigation tools; advertising feature is pumps. Plus all the regular columns and technical articles.

BOARD NEWS

AGM to be held as a teleconference. The association's AGM will be held Monday 30 November at 1.00 Eastern Daylight Saving Time. The formal meeting will be held at the Stamford Plaza, Sydney Airport. In a new initiative, the meeting will also be teleconferenced to a number of key regional sites to allow easier access to the meeting for members. For more details, see the meeting notice on the IAL website.

<http://www.irrigation.org.au/assets/pages/34128F61-1731-7D47-82358117F2A13853/AGM%20Notice%2020091.pdf>

IAL to establish Professional Development Committee. This new committee will provide review and strategic advice to IAL and help facilitate and provide high quality irrigation training, qualifications and certification services to the irrigation industry and its clientele. For more information go to the [Terms of Reference](#) on the IAL website. There were over 20 expressions of interest from members wishing to contribute on the committee, a tremendous result. The Committee will be formed and announced shortly. However, it is also intended that all those who expressed interest will be provided with an opportunity to contribute, where specific skills are required.

Irrigation Qualifications Review. The opportunity to comment on the proposed Irrigation Qualifications for the new Agrifoods Training Package is open until 23 November. Some initial comments have already been sent to Agrifoods. Please send your comments to IAL to assist us in providing a coordinated industry response. You can also provide comments direct on the Agrifoods website. To view the documentation go to website http://www.agrifoodskills.net.au/display_page.php?id=344

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

Certified Irrigation Agronomist. If you are based in NSW and have spent some time in the irrigation industry building your skills here is a chance to get not only Certified as an Irrigation Agronomist but to also get a Diploma in Agriculture by having your current skills and knowledge recognised. Tocal College has limited funded places currently available. For information contact Ken Ryall, phone 02 4939 8815.

Northern Territory - Certificate III in Irrigation and Certified Irrigation Installer. River Murray Training will commence training early next year. For more information go to RMT website <http://www.r-m-t.com.au/programs/irrigation/irrigation-cert-iii.html>

Irrigation Efficiency courses 2010. 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. Dates for courses for 2010 will be out soon. Watch this space or go to the IAL website <http://www.irrigation.org.au/index.cfm?event=public.page&pageuid=3A3D2AA5-1708-51EB-A6B76F5407434232>

Solutes MasterClass. Focusing on the use of recycled water for irrigation, the MasterClass will provide that latest information and techniques for managing and understanding the impacts of salts and nutrients associated with recycled water. Melbourne 18-19 November, presenters will be Dr Richard Stirzaker, Steven Falivene and Dr Anne-Maree Boland. For information contact Deb Atkins, phone 0415 135 457 or register here

<http://www.irrigationfutures.org.au/events.asp?ID=186>. Early bird registrations close 3 November.

60th IEC Meeting and 5th Asian Regional Conference, 6-11 December 2009, New Delhi.

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". For information go to conference [website](#)

Centre for Groundwater Studies. Check out course for 2009 at the CGS [website](#)

INDUSTRY NEWS

Opportunity to tender for site assessments. Sydney Water has just released a tender document seeking professional services to undertake between 100 and 200 site assessments for its Irrigation and Landscape Efficiency Project (ILEP) as part of a Hawkesbury-Nepean River Recovery Program. The program, funded by the Australian Government through the Water for the Future program, aims to improve the irrigation efficiency of parks and sporting facilities managed by councils, schools and universities in Sydney Water's areas of operations. The assessments will investigate the physical characteristics of each site, including soil profile, turf selection, management practices and irrigation infrastructure. Tenders close 9:30am 3 December 2009. The tender document (Tender 0510023386) is available for purchase and download at www.tenders.nsw.gov.au/sydneywater .

Regulate water brokers. National water broker Waterfind wants water brokers to be properly regulated despite the Commonwealth Government deciding that it isn't necessary. According to Waterfind, minimum standards should include: introducing a licensing regime for water brokers, brokers to conduct all trading activities through an independently audited trust account protected from creditors, brokers precluded from buying or selling water for profit on their own behalf' and brokers to hold professional indemnity insurance to protect their clients against any business negligence.

Prime Minister's Water Wise Award. The award aims to encourage and recognise significant savings in water efficiency by the commercial and industrial sector. If you or your company have been involved in a project or program that highlights good planning, good engineering and good science in a water-related area why not enter. This is a great opportunity to be recognised nationally for innovative projects and programs undertaken in the last 2 years. Nominations close 30 November 2009. Information and nomination form can be downloaded from the AWA website.

http://www.awa.asn.au/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Prime_Ministers_Water_Wise_Award&Template=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm&ContentID=14006

SAWM UPDATE

In October the SAWM Product of the Year for 2009 was announced. Winner was a portable high pressure cleaner for boats and other salt water gear called the Salt Slayer. It was selected, from a field of three which included the Irritrol soil moisture sensor and a shower water controller.

SAWM also announced a new campaign to highlight the energy savings associated with saving water. This has just been launched to add further interest to the 'Every Bucket Counts'

campaign, for which more than a quarter of a million buckets have been pledged in water savings to date through the online calculators. For more information visit the SAWM website

STANDARDS UPDATE

Jeremy Cape attended the recent ISO subcommittee 18 meeting on behalf of the Australian committee, ME-065. The most significant item to emerge from the meeting was the proposal from the Spanish delegation to begin work on an international standard for remote control and monitoring technologies for irrigation. Spain has been developing a draft European standard on this subject and proposed that this work be the basis for a potential ISO standard. When more information is received it will be passed on, initially to the members of the ME-065 committee. If you are interested in receiving this information contact Jeremy Cape, email jeremy@capeability.biz

HANDY LINKS

Check out the latest issue of Distilled, the National Water Commission's monthly enewsletter <http://www.nwc.gov.au/www/html/171-subscribe.asp>

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

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