

Email newsletter produced by THE Irrigation Association OF Australia LTD

BACKWASH



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April 2007, Number 4 < www.irrigation.org.au >

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AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the IAA will be held Tuesday 22 May, Lady Reid B Room at the Y Hotel Hyde Park, 7-11 Wentworth Avenue, Sydney commencing at 5.00 pm. Included on the agenda will be a special resolution to progress the merger of the IAA and ANCID. Look out for the notice about the AGM which will be sent to all members. If you can't make the meeting then sign your proxy to someone who will be there so your voice can be heard. Note that only members who are financial will be able to vote at the AGM although everyone is welcome to attend.

BOARD ELECTION

Nominations for the four board vacancies arising in May have closed and there is a strong field of 9 candidates. This is an excellent sign of a healthy association. It also means that members will have an opportunity to vote for directors and this is a responsibility that should be taken seriously.

Directors elected to the board have a legal obligation to act and make decisions in the best interest of all members, i.e. they must take an all-of-industry approach. Their role is to set the objectives and strategies of the association, to oversee the CEO, and monitor and assess the management and organisation performance and compliance. This means your board should comprise people who have appropriate skills such as knowledge of the industry, marketing, financial and business. I urge you to look for candidates that have a big picture vision for our industry and the strategic ability to set the course for its achievement.

BOARD NEWS

One association a step closer. At a joint meeting earlier this week, the Board of Irrigation Association of Australia (IAA) and the National Executive of the Australian Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (ANCID) agreed to recommend to their members that the two associations become one to be called Irrigation Australia.

Their decision followed extensive consultation with members both through direct communication and a series of open meetings covering all states. The recommendation to form the new organisation will be put to members of both organisations at their respective Annual General Meetings later this year: in May for the IAA and at in August for ANCID. There will also be an Extraordinary General Meeting of the combined memberships before the end of the year.

As well as powerful industry representation, Irrigation Australia will manage projects and activities currently worth over \$1.5 million. It will have a professional staff of 10, located in six offices around Australia.

Proposed mission for Irrigation Australia. It is proposed the new association will have a representative board elected from the various industry sectors. The joint boards have proposed the new association's guiding mission should be:

Irrigation Australia represents the interests of the irrigation industry in Australia and promotes and contributes to the development and expansion of a sustainable, innovative and professional industry by disseminating technological agronomic and other information for the benefit of the industry as well as the broader community.

Funding applications. The IAA has submitted three new applications to Horticulture Australia this funding year seeking support for the development of alternative water restrictions and long-term urban water conservation measures at a national level as well as potential additions to the IDO network in the regions. The outcome of these proposals will be known in July.

Water conservation campaign. The IAA has kicked off its campaign for science based water conservation with a mailout to over 700 members of both State and federal parliaments and a series of briefings for the media. Most members should have received copies of the information that provides an estimate of the size and value of the industry, an explanation of how irrigation can be part of the solution and examples of innovative new technology. Members also received a draft media release and some key messages for use at a local level.

Contact YOUR board directors. Directors of the IAA national board have been assigned portfolios. If you have a question or suggestion on one of the specific areas go to:
Trevor Guest to facilitate the establishment and adoption of best practice and certification in all sectors of the irrigation industry
Peter Toome to provide value for money and tangible benefits to existing and new members
Steve Peck to develop and maintain effective internal networks and communication
Matthew Durack to encourage and assist relevant, practical and strategic research to be funded and undertaken
Tony Addis to be the preferred source of industry information and advocacy
Ken Caldecott to provide leadership in industry training

Helen Fairweather to provide quality input to policy development on issues important to membership and the industry
Des Horton to ensure the association is efficiently governed, administered and resourced

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REGIONAL ROUNDUP

News on activities from regional committees around Australia. You can keep up with IAA 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 are given below. Contact your region to see how you can get involved or contact the IAA head office to find your local IAA 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 17 April at Urrbrae Hort centre, room R.01 (Irrigation training room) at 3.30pm.

Put in your diary the IAA SA region's AGM and annual dinner, Tuesday 8 May. Venue to be confirmed. Guest speaker will be Ian Atkinson, CEO CRC for Irrigation Futures, who will give us an insider's view of the CRF, and describe some of the research it is doing, particularly that relevant to the urban sector.

South East Queensland. Next meeting is the AGM, Tuesday 10 April at Landcentre, Woolloongabba starting at 5.15 pm. Please come along and have your say. For information contact the secretariat, phone 0413 334 679.

Special event. IAA Information Breakfast 24 April, 7:00 am for 7:30am breakfast at Brisbane Technology Park Conference Centre (Central Room) 1 Clunies Ross Court, Eight Mile Plains. This is a free breakfast aimed at promoting IAA national and regional activities including; education (general), workshop/certification program (Certified Irrigation Manager program), IAA initiatives/SEQ water, IAA/ANCID proposed partnership, and urban IDO proposal. So we can cater for this special event, RSVP by 5 pm Friday 20 April to IAA SEQ secretary, phone 0431 744 158, email secy.seq@irrigation.org.au or phone 0428 290 542 (S. Dyer).

Darling Downs. Next meeting 11 April at the Irish Club Hotel, Russell St, Toowoomba. This will be a general business meeting and will start at 5:30 pm. For information contact David Wigginton, phone 07 48311711, mobile 0427 789 498, email:wiggind@usq.edu.au.

Far North Queensland. Next meeting date to be advised. For information, contact Barbara Moloney, Regional Support Officer, phone 07 4721 5811.

Northwest NSW. Congratulations to newly elected executive: Peter Taylor (chairman), Jonathan Mulligan (deputy chairman), Dirk Richards (secretary), and Anthony Fairfull (treasurer) along with committee members Peter Smith, Allan Goode, Rod Browne, Grant Hall, Neal Albert, Gus Macrae, and Rod Jackson. Next meeting is 26 April at 5 pm at Narrabri. For information contact Peter Taylor, email ptaylor@smk.com.au

Add to your diaries the joint IAA-ANCID Seepage symposium being held at Moree 28 and 29 May. An impressive line up of speakers will be presenting talks. The symposium aims to share information between researchers and landowners to review seepage from investigation to impact on the industry. For information contact Dirk Richards, 6792 5356 or Peter Taylor, 67521021.

Melbourne. For information about the region's next meeting contact Des Horton, phone 03 9313 8508, email dhorton@citywestwater.com.au

Western Australia. Next Executive meeting is 7:30 am Tuesday 17 April at the Metro Inn, South Perth. For more information on WA activities contact Doug Hall, the WA Region's

Industry Development Officer (ph: 08 9474 9089; mobile 0407 701 513; or email doug.hall@irrigation.org.au).

The region has been busy contributing to the development of the South West Water Plan, which will be the first of nine regional water plans to be completed under the State Water Plan. We are ensuring that the irrigation industry's expertise and interests are taken into account in the development of the plan.

Dates for your diaries: Harvey Water, in partnership with the IAA, is planning a Rural Irrigation Expo for mid-June. If you are interested in exhibiting contact Doug Hall, email doug.hall@irrigation.org.au. The regional executive's Biennial Irrigation Expo, 8 August at Burswood on Swan. If you are interested in exhibiting, contact Marcus Turpin mturpin@rainbird.com.

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MEMBERSHIP

With Australia in the grip of the worst drought on record, irrigators in many areas facing zero allocations and all capital cities except Darwin on water restrictions, these are challenging times for the irrigation industry. At times like these a strong industry association is vital to ensure that policies and programs that provide a sustainable future for your business is supported.

Do you know someone in the industry in Australia who isn't a member? Why not approach them and give them an application form. Regional committees are encouraged to contact new members and make sure they are invited to the next regional event. New members can find the contact details of all regional committees on the IAA website www.irrigation.org.au. Do your bit to encourage membership from businesses you deal with.

Welcome to new members for March:

- Craig Chandler, TEAM Irrigation Pty Ltd, Dubbo NSW
- Gerard Charlton, IPOS Consulting Pty Ltd, Glenelg Nth SA
- Greg Cross, CQ Water Services, Nth Rockhampton Qld
- Marcus Dance, Underpressure.Biz Pty Ltd, Cannonvale Qld
- D I Edger, District Council of Mount Barker, Mount Barker SA
- Harry Fishwick, Pierce Corporation Pty Ltd, Caboolture Qld
- Austin Goodfellow, Goodfellow & Associates Pty Ltd, Gundaroo NSW
- Phil Huband, Freshwater Irrigation, Bridgetown WA
- Hugh Leicester, Hydro Technics Irrigation Pty Ltd, Lansvale NSW
- Pam Needham, Mudgee Rural Supplies, Mudgee NSW
- Richard Overall Warringah Council, Dee Why NSW
- Jeff Stamper, Tung Chung NT, Hong Kong

This is a pleasing list of new members early in 2007 and hopefully reflects the increasing profile and activity of the IAA across both the rural and urban sectors.

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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2007 course dates Certified Irrigation Auditor Landscape. Dates for 2007 Certified Irrigation Auditor Landscape courses are:

Adelaide. 17 & 18 April and 9 & 10 October
Brisbane. 15 & 16 May, and 22 & 23 August
Sydney. 21 & 22 May, and 19 & 20 September
Perth. 22 & 23 August
Melbourne. 18 & 19 April and 5 & 6 September

Extra courses run on demand. For information and to register contact Catherine Parbery, IAA head office, phone 02 9476 0142, email catherine.parbery@irrigation.org.au

2007 Retail Training Course. The 2007 Irrigation Industry Retail Training Course will be held from 21 July 2007 in Caloundra on the Queensland Sunshine Coast. For information go to website www.irrigation.org.au and download the brochure.

Certified Irrigation Agronomist. Just developed by the IAA; certification for irrigation agronomists provides a way of recognising and endorsing practising agronomists for their particular skills in irrigation, over and above their established agronomic skills. Most applicants will have a qualification in another discipline such as agriculture, horticulture or agronomy and/or substantial industry experience. They may be working as consultants or as specialist employees for government departments or large corporate enterprises. To be considered you will be required to show proof of completion of 6 out of 9 competencies from four categories: system capacity; scheduling; soils and the environment; and consulting. The degree of choice is greater than with other certifications, reflecting the variety of tasks undertaken at this level. The IAA is currently working on programs to help people to obtain the necessary skills and proof. Every two years certified irrigation agronomists will need to renew their certification by providing evidence that they are keeping their irrigation skills up-to-date. Interested? Contact Alison Carmichael on 0414 287 079 or alison.carmichael@irrigation.org.au for an information pack.

Irrigation best practice on show at nurseries. The IAA and the Nursery and Garden Industry NSW and ACT (NGINA) will be rolling out a second series of information sessions on best practice domestic garden watering with nursery outlets and IAA members across Sydney during May and June. The program provides nursery retailers and IAA members with an opportunity to promote their business, services and expertise to local communities, using support services and materials from the IAA. Any NSW IAA member interested in this opportunity should contact the IAA's Sydney Industry Development Officer, Mark Matthews, email mark.matthews@irrigation.org.au

by 27 April.

DEUS alternative water conservation measures. The IAA, in conjunction with NGINA, Turf growers and the Landscape Contractors associations, has started the second round of water conservation options for Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability and the minister to consider. If you are interested in becoming involved contact the IAA's Sydney industry development officer, Mark Matthews, email mark.matthews@irrigation.org.au by 27 April.

School of Irrigation. There are still places available for the School of Irrigation being held in Sydney 21-25 May. You can choose from courses for Certified Irrigation Manager or Certified Irrigation Auditor or do a preparation course for Certified Irrigation Designer program. We are also training industry assessors and holding a validation workshop for those already involved in training and assessing in irrigation. For more information go to www.irrigation.org.au or call the IAA office, 02 9476 0142.

New delivery partners. There is now a national demand for certification that the IAA could never meet on its own so our partnerships with training providers give the industry a network of organisations that can deliver training and conduct assessments in irrigation. The IAA welcomes the latest educational providers to become delivery partners: Active Industry Training, NSW; South West TAFE, WA; Challenger TAFE, WA; Western Sydney Institute of TAFE, NSW.

Opportunities in training and assessment. There is a shortage of people available to provide training and assessment in irrigation. The IAA is seeking to establish a register of people who would like to be irrigation trainers and/or assessors so we can match these people up with training providers. To be on the register please send your contact detail and a summary of your experience and qualifications to head office, email jann.oconnor@irrigation.org.au

Apply for certification now before fees introduced. Considering becoming certified? Did you know that the \$200 application fee for the new certification program won't be introduced until 30 June 2007? Now might be the best time to take the plunge. (Please note that this offer does not apply to certification of designers or irrigation auditors.) Contact Alison Carmichael 0414 287 079 or alison.carmichael@irrigation.org.au to find out more.

Centre for Environmental Training 2 new courses. Dates for two new courses:

Hydraulics and Irrigation for On-site Wastewater Management, Murwillumbah NSW 12-13 April 2007, and Richmond NSW 17-18 April 2007. Cost \$803 inc. GST. This course provides a wealth of detailed and informative knowledge on hydraulics and irrigation for a range of on-site wastewater systems. For info and to enrol email mail@environmentaltraining.com.au

Domestic Greywater Management for Sustainable Reuse, Wagga Wagga NSW 26-27 April 2007. Cost \$803 inc. GST. This course has been designed by leading on-site wastewater practitioners to provide information on a wide range of greywater treatment and reuse topics. For info and to enrol email mail@environmentaltraining.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. Get your copy now from the IAA: \$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 IAA members to distribute to the general public and domestic customers and a print ready version can be downloaded from the IAA website at <http://www.irrigation.org.au/download/standards/Home%20Gardener%20FINAL%20web.pdf>

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AROUND INDUSTRY

More cuts for SA. In March the MDBC announced that cuts to Murray River flows into SA because of severe drought conditions. The cuts are part of a system-wide flow management plan aimed at conserving water in upstream storages for the 2007-08 irrigation season. In a normal season SA receives an annual flow entitlement of 1850 GL. With the drought this has been cut to 1470 GL for 2006-07. Almost all of this has been delivered with 174 GL left to deliver before the end of May. The announced reduction on flow is designed to ensure that SA receives its share of flow, and no more.

More pollution, less rain. Researchers in China say that there is evidence that urban pollution and other aerosols have reduced rainfall over hills in central China. One of the researchers, Daniel Rosenfeld, says that the combination of the hills and the air pollution means that the some of moisture in the clouds is evaporating before it ever hits the ground. The small particles produced by pollution are the culprits. Rain occurs when water condenses around particles creating raindrops heavy enough to fall to earth. It's being hypothesised that, because the particles produced by pollution are so small and numerous, the water that condenses around them isn't heavy enough to make them fall to earth. And if that isn't bad enough, research in Texas is indicating that pollution in Asia is generating larger, more intense storm systems over the Pacific ocean. Small particles in the air result in rainfall being delayed until storm systems grow as they travel over the Pacific and then break. For information go to <http://environment.newscientist.com/home.ns>

Water trading: the good and the bad. A recent paper published by IPART in NSW outlines the limitations and achievements of water trading. Among other things, it advocates that the \$6 billion in the National Water Plan should be recovered from users as this would support a market-based approach to allocating water .
<http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au/files/Water%20Trading%20-%20Panacea%20or%20Placebo%20-%20Speech%20presented%20by%20Jim%20Cox.PDF>

Feel good or real savings? According to Productivity Commissioner Neil Byron (interviewed in The Australian, 19 March) while it should be encouraged, saving water around the house is more about creating public interest and buy in than helping solve our water crisis. Putting some figures on the table, Byron said that the 209 ML of water saved every day by Melburnians this summer (totalling 19,000 ML) would be used by Cubbie Station in about 2 and a half weeks. Cubbie has a water allocation in excess of 400,000 ML a year. Byron says big (and expensive) changes to save water have to be implemented by governments. Until this occurs, the water crisis will only get worse. For more go to <http://www.theage.com.au/news/national/home-savings-virtually-negligible-expert/2007/03/18/1174152881552.html>

Murray-Darling in top ten for wrong reason. The Murray-Darling river system has been identified as one of the ten rivers in the world most at risk in a WWF report released in March. The report identifies that it is invasive species such as carp, mosquito fish, and lippia that threaten the river system most, and not over extraction (although it is acknowledged as an issue). Other rivers (and risk factors) in the report are: Salween-Nu (dams); the Danube (navigation); La Plata (dams and navigation); Rio Grande/Rio Bravo and the Ganges (over extraction); the Indus and the Nile (climate change); Mekong-Lancang (over fishing); and the Yangtze (over fishing). The report calls on governments to help restore river flows and safeguard habitats to help return the river to its original state. For info go to www.wwf.org.au

Questions to be answered. Irrigator organisations in NSW, Victoria and Queensland have come up with 8 pages of questions to the Federal Government about the National Water Plan. The questions range from ownership of infrastructure, to the role of different agencies, to pricing. For a copy of the questions go to http://www.nswirrigators.org.au/pdf/press_release/NSWIC%20Questions%20Mar%202007.pdf

Warrego water OK to sell. A couple of months ago, the Queensland Government's plan to sell 8 GL of high flow water copped a lot of flak. The Federal Government has just given the Queensland Government the green light for the sale. According to the Federal Government, Queensland's proposal to sell water from the Warrego River was acceptable as the amount of water involved was small compared to the total amount in the system. Some people, including Democrats senator Andrew Bartlett, have questioned the go ahead when the National Water Plan has earmarked a substantial investment in buying back water.

Eureka Prize get your nomination in now. Categories include IAG Eureka Prize for Innovative Solutions to Climate Change, the British Council Eureka Prize for Young Leaders in Environmental Issues and Climate Change, the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation Allen Strom Eureka Prize for Environmental Sustainability Education, the Land & Water Australia Eureka Prize for Innovative Water Research, and the Sherman Eureka Prize for Environmental Research. Entries close 4 May 2007. For information go to www.australianmuseum.net.au/eureka.

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School of Irrigation. Don't miss the School of Irrigation 21-22 May in Sydney. Prepare for your CID exam, complete a Certified Irrigation Auditor Landscape, train to be an

irrigation assessor or enrol in a 3-day program to help irrigation managers to achieve certification. For information go to the IAA website www.irrigation.org.au

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SA Region AGM and annual dinner. South Australian members put in your diary the IAA SA region's AGM and annual dinner, Tuesday 8 May. Venue to be confirmed. Guest speaker will be Ian Atkinson, CEO CRC for Irrigation Futures, who will give us an insiders view of the CRF, and describe some of the research it is doing, particularly that relevant to the urban sector.

JOB SPOT

State Manager (SA/Sunraysia). NaanDan Australia Pty Ltd Irrigation Systems has a vacancy for a highly experienced and motivated state manager to develop and maintain business within the SA/Sunraysia region. The objectives of this role are to maximise sales in all market sectors, manage a large distributor base, project new sales opportunities, plan and review marketing strategies, and implement training and support initiatives. If you are looking for a new role and have these skills, why not apply: strong sales focus; excellent knowledge in agricultural sprinklers, micro irrigation and filtration; demonstrated leadership skills; developed administrative and marketing skills; and strong communication skills.

This role is accountable for aggressive revenue and target profits, if you are looking to join a new and dynamic company, with exciting product development and project initiatives then this could be the job for you. An attractive salary package, including company car, laptop and mobile will also be offered to the successful applicant. Only applicants that have the skills and experience above will be considered. Send your application to: marketing@naandan.com.au or to NaanDan Australia Pty Ltd, 214-216 Hammond Road Dandenong Vic 3175.

Irrigation Installers. Full time positions are currently available with the Green Horticultural Group to install in the greenhouse, horticultural and sportsturf industries at its Annangrove location. Experience is preferred though not essential. Traineeship may be considered. A suitable package will be offered to self motivated team players who take pride in quality workmanship. Closing date is 30 May. For information and to apply, contact Bruce Robinson, phone 02 9679 2555, bruce@greenhorticulture.com.au

Postdoc Hydrology. The UWS node of CRC for Irrigation Futures is looking for a Postdoc to work in the System Harmonisation program. The aim of this program is to identify business opportunities for improving the management of treated effluent, stormwater and groundwater resources to satisfy environmental and consumptive demand for irrigation and water dependent businesses. The fellow will assist in literature surveys, developing and implementing a total water cycle model for Western Sydney and other case study sites, analyse research results and write reports. The fellow will also be a member of an interdisciplinary team of researchers based at several partner organisations of the CRC for Irrigation Futures. A PhD in surface water hydrology, water resources system analysis or related discipline is required, together with demonstrated modelling experience and ability to work in a multi disciplinary team and a range of stakeholders. Closing date is 20 April. For enquireies contact Associate Professor Basant Maheshwari, phone 02 4570 1235, email b.maheshwari@uws.edu.au. For how to apply for the position go to website http://apps.uws.edu.au/staff/change_process/posvac/

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SMART APPROVED WATERMARK

Over 75 products and services that save water outside the home have now been approved by the Smart Approved WaterMark scheme, while a record 24 applications were received for the latest round - the highest since the first round when the scheme was established in 2004. In the last round, a new service granted the Smart WaterMark was the Sydney Water Plant Selector, a web-based information system on the right plants for the different soil zones of the greater Sydney area. The plant selector service not only has the range of plants suitable for the soil types around Sydney, but also provides a guide on to how much water they use. The recommended plants have a drop rating; one drop for low users and three drops for higher users. For more information on the Smart Approved WaterMark:

www.smartwatermark.info

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INSURANCE UPDATE

Business interruption insurance. Can your business survive a major loss? Are your future earnings and profits protected? Research shows that 43% of businesses that sustain a major loss do not resume trading. Of those businesses that do not have some form of insurance, 28% fail within 3 years and only 29% survive into the long term. According to Deloitte, inadequate insurance or underinsurance is the main reason for this.

If your business suffers a major fire or other serious event the risk is that you will lose sales and suffer a cash shortage. This will cause your business to fail or you will find it hard to meet continuing operating expenses, pay staff salaries and wages, service debt and pay other fixed expenses. The end result is, in the short term, no net profit; in the long term, loss of markets causing slow recovery and potential business failure. Find out about how you can insure your business. Contact the IAA's Insurer, Insurance House, Bev Spark, phone 03 5483 1066, email bev@insurancehouse.com.au website www.insurancehouse.com.au

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HANDY LINKS

Water online. For what's happening in the world of water, check out the ABC's Water site. <http://www.abc.net.au/water/> Weather forecasts, updates on water policy and more.

Evaporation Reduction Systems- Ready Reckoner. FSA Consulting and the National Centre for Engineering in Agriculture (NCEA), recently developed an economic Ready Reckoner for evaporation reduction systems. The project was funded by the National Program for Sustainable Irrigation (NPSI). The Ready Reckoner and reference manual (including case studies) are now available for public use and can be downloaded from the NPSI website <http://www.npsi.gov.au/readyreckoner/index.html>

ReWater. The latest edition of ReWater (February 2007) is now available at website <http://www.recycledwater.com.au/index.php?page=newsletter>

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BOOKSHOP

A wide range of irrigation related books and other publications are available for the IAA On-Line Bookshop. Just visit <http://www.irrigation.org.au/> .

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ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

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