

Email newsletter produced by **THE Irrigation Association of Australia LTD**

# BACKWASH



Want to print this newsletter? A printer-friendly version is on the IAA's website,  
<http://www.irrigation.org.au/backwash/Backwashmay-0507.pdf>

**May 2007, Number 5** < [www.irrigation.org.au](http://www.irrigation.org.au) >

IAA national office, PO Box 1804, Hornsby Westfield NSW 1635

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## AGM

Don't forget the Annual General Meeting of the IAA being 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 special resolutions to progress the merger of the IAA and ANCID. The nominated contact for each member should have received the notice about the AGM, including the ballot paper for the National Board election and a proxy form for the special resolutions. If you believe you are entitled to vote and have not received the papers, please call the IAA office, phone 02 9476 0142.

Voting for board positions is postal and closes 11 May. Proxies for the AGM can be sent to the IAA office until 18 May. 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 NEWS

**Media consults IAA.** Members would have seen the recent announcement from the Prime Minister regarding the critical situation in the Murray Darling Basin. This will not have come as a surprise to those in the industry, however, and much has and is being done to ensure irrigation continues. The IAA fielded an unprecedented number of media inquiries indicating a high recognition level in the media for your association. The CEO gave a number of TV, radio and press interviews, a number of which can still be found at various sites on the web.

**Water plan provides opportunities for IAA members.** The Chair, Helen Fairweather, and CEO, Jolyon Burnett, attended a workshop organised by ANCID to develop an irrigation industry response to the Prime Minister's \$10 billion National Plan for Water Security. There are many opportunities for IAA members to get involved in implementing the plan, particularly the \$5.88 billion to be spent on modernising irrigation systems. Your board is working hard to make sure members are well positioned to get involved if the plan goes ahead (see item below).

**Workshop on the National Plan for Water Security.** The water plan provides for up to \$5.88 billion to be spent on "modernising irrigation systems" and for improved data collection, metering and an investigation of the irrigation potential of northern Australia among other issues. The IAA and ANCID are inviting members to come and hear the detail of the plan and to provide input to your associations for a policy and action plan to respond to this major initiative. Workshop is being held Tuesday, May 22, 2007 at the Vibe Hotel, 111 Goulburn St, Sydney. The workshop will: provide an overview of the plan; discuss how it will be rolled out at the system and the farm level; outline its role in relation to the National Water Initiative; provide information on how current NWI elements such as metering and performance reporting are progressing and how will they be affected by the plan; get your feedback on the metering standards process. RSVP Monday, 14 May 2007 to the IAA office, email Catherine at [info@irrigation.org.au](mailto:info@irrigation.org.au) or phone 02 9476 0142.

**Reference Group Meeting.** The CEO attended the recent Stakeholder Reference Group meeting of the National Water Commission. The Commission is charged with implementing the National Water Initiative, the principal reform agenda for the irrigation industry. Activities under the \$10 billion plan will be consistent with the NWI.

**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

**Irrigation Australia journal.** Keep an eye out for the winter edition of the journal, which will be mailed out this month. Feature is water policy update.

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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](mailto:petergiles@oasisirrigation.com.au)

**South Australia.** Next meeting, AGM and industry dinner, is 8 May to be held at the Oakden Central (Adelaide city Soccer Club), Cnr Fosters Rd and Hilltop Drive Oakden. The AGM will start at 5.30 pm (agenda items must with secretary, Don Marriott, fax 08 8365 0188) by 4 May. At 6:30 pm there will be pre-dinner drinks, followed by dinner. Guest speaker is Ian Atkinson, CEO of the CRC for Irrigation Futures. He will be speaking about the CRC and the research it is doing of relevance to the urban sector. Fax your RSVP by 4 May to 08 8365 0188, post it to PO Box 10006, Adelaide 5001, or email to [dmarriot@tpgi.com.au](mailto:dmarriot@tpgi.com.au)

Kindly sponsored by Philmac.

**South East Queensland.** Next meeting is Tuesday 8 May 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 [secy.seq@irrigation.org.au](mailto:secy.seq@irrigation.org.au).

In April a breakfast organised by the region attracted over 50 participants. Jolyon Burnett and Alison Carmichael were among the guest speakers and the purpose of the meeting was to launch the new certification program for irrigation operators. A series of two-day workshops and evaluation sessions has been organised for later in the year. The breakfast was sponsored by Rain Bird Australia.

**Darling Downs.** Next meeting is 9 June at the Irish Club Hotel, Russell St, Toowoomba starting at 5.30 pm. This will be a general business meeting. For information contact David Wigginton, phone 07 48311711, mobile 0427 789 498, email: [wiggind@usq.edu.au](mailto:wiggind@usq.edu.au).

**Far North Queensland.** Congratulations to newly elected new chairman, Geoff Challion, Water Dynamics: vice chairman, Paul Hobbs, Naturform NQ; and Secretary/Treasurer, Lance Watkin Reece Irrigation □ Manager. For information, contact Barbara Moloney, Regional Support Officer, phone 07 4721 5811.

**Northwest NSW.** Add to your diaries the Seepage Symposium, 28 and 29 May. Joint venture between IAA, ANCID and the local Irrigators Association. 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. For catering reasons, participants must register.

According to regional chairman, Peter Taylor, the water situation for irrigation is critical. Any permanent plantings such as pecans, citrus, grapes in the region face a bleak time. The imminent suspension of high security water for these crops was not fully expected. However, groundwater will be a saviour to some.

**Melbourne.** For information about the region□s next meeting contact Des Horton, phone 03 9313 8508, email [dhorton@citywestwater.com.au](mailto:dhorton@citywestwater.com.au)

**Western Australia.** Next Executive meeting is 7:30 am Tuesday 15 May 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](mailto:doug.hall@irrigation.org.au)).

Don□t forget 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](mailto:mturpin@rainbird.com).

**Sydney.** The regional committee is being re-established to tackle the issues facing urban irrigation in Sydney. The committee will comprise two members from the following sectors: installation/contractors, retail, manufacturers, consultants, and government. This is an opportunity to help determine the future direction of the urban irrigation industry and address key problems. If you are interested in becoming involved contact Mark Matthews, phone 9476 0142, email: [mark.matthews@irrigation.org.au](mailto:mark.matthews@irrigation.org.au)

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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](http://www.irrigation.org.au). Do your bit to encourage membership from businesses you deal with.

Welcome to new members for April:

- Brian Braidwood, Super Gardens, Mulgrave, Victoria
- Phil Best, CRT Town and Country, Girraween NSW
- Ronald Barnes, Barnes Irrigation Services, Byford WA
- Malcolm Brown, Smithton Tasmania
- David Hughes, Hobart Tasmania
- Brett Lowe, Tevallyn Tasmania
- Ray Manton, Hillston Citrus, Hillston NSW
- Greg Potter, Windmill and Irrigation, Colac Victoria
- Myles Sevil, Rain 4 U, Pymble NSW
- Jason Woodham, Cambelltown Tasmania

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## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**2007 course dates Certified Irrigation Auditor □ Landscape.** The Certified Auditor program is aimed at anyone responsible for or operating a commercial or public irrigation system. The program provides training in basic irrigation system operation and scheduling and the process for determining the uniformity and efficiency of the system. With increasing scrutiny of system operation and often regulatory requirements to meet water saving targets, this course is a must for sporting bodies, local councils and irrigation contractors.

Dates for 2007 Certified Irrigation Auditor □ Landscape courses are:

Adelaide. 9 & 10 October

Brisbane. 15 & 16 May, and 22 & 23 August

Sydney. 21 & 22 May, and 19 & 20 September

Perth. 22 & 23 August

Melbourne. 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](mailto:catherine.parbery@irrigation.org.au)

**ALL CIALs.** Make sure potential clients know that you are a CIAL. Attract new business! Check your details on the IAA website and let us know if your contact details are correct and email any changes to [certification@irrigation.org.au](mailto:certification@irrigation.org.au) by 1 JUNE. The IAA site attracts over 60,000 hits a month so it's a great way to promote that you are certified. To check your details go to <http://www.irrigation.org.au/Certified%20Landscape%20Irrigation%20Auditor%20Listing.htm> If you do not update your details they will be removed from our website until next year.

**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.irrigaiton.org.au](http://www.irrigaiton.org.au) and download the brochure.

**Good garden presentations.** The first of the IAA's Good Garden Watering seminars will be held at the Maiden theatre, Royal Botanic Gardens May 1 at 10.30 am. James Simpson-Lee from Watermatic will be our guest presenter. The second seminar will be Saturday 26 May at 1pm at Eden Gardens Nursery, North Ryde. RSVP by calling Eden Gardens on 9491 9900.

**IAA scholarships awarded.** Congratulations to the nine people who have been awarded scholarships by the Irrigation Association of Australia (IAA) to take part in a new national training and recognition project to become Certified Irrigation Managers: Lee Stevens, Renmark SA (vineyard); Darren North, Walkerston Qld (cane grower); Ray Menken, Home Hill, Qld (canegrower); Rob Cooper, Manilla, NSW (dairy farmer); Greg Ingram, Tocumwal, NSW (mixed farming); Mark Dorling, Shady Creek Vic (potatoes); Craig Jones, Renmark, SA (irrigation field officer); Jordan Purcell, Central Coast, NSW (nursery); and Von Warner, Thallon, Qld (cotton).

In exchange for the scholarships the participants will be expected to promote to their industry or local region the necessity of having skilled and knowledgeable people in the irrigation industry.

**Interested in becoming a Certified Irrigation Manager?** You need to have 3 years industry experience and show that you are competent in irrigation scheduling, hydraulics, soil mapping and environmental risk management. Certification is bestowed for 2 years then must be renewed with evidence that the applicant has kept their irrigation skills and knowledge up to date. For more information about certification contact Alison Carmichael, IAA, phone 0414 287 079, email [alison.carmichael@irrigation.org.au](mailto:alison.carmichael@irrigation.org.au)

**Irrigation Operator Certification** is a competitive edge. This certification is suitable for groundspeople at schools, bowling greens, cricket ovals, golf course irrigation personnel, sports turf personnel responsible for irrigation programs and maintenance, landscape irrigators setting programs, turf irrigation personnel, nursery irrigation personnel. Qualified people are required now to manage our limited resources and this demand for qualified operators will only increase when we eventually fill our water storages. For more information about your opportunity

to become a certified irrigation operator, contact the IAA SEQ regional secretary:  
Phone 0413 334 679.

**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](mailto:alison.carmichael@irrigation.org.au) for an information pack.

**School of Irrigation.** There are still a few places available for the School of Irrigation being held in Sydney 21-25 May. If you are interested in doing a CID preparation course (2 days), Certified Irrigation Auditor- Landscape course (2 days), or a validation workshop for Certified Irrigation Manager (2 days) then contact the IAA, phone 02 9476 0142.

**CID exams.** Next CID exams being held 21 June. For information about locations contact Catherine Parbery, phone 02 9476 0142, email [catherine.parbery@irrigation.org.au](mailto:catherine.parbery@irrigation.org.au)

**CIDs: final reminder to submit your renewal form and payment.** Check your details on the IAA website and let us know if your contact details are correct or any changes need to be made. Submit your renewal form and payment by fax 02 9476 0792 or email to [certification@irrigation.org.au](mailto:certification@irrigation.org.au) by **1 JUNE**. If you do not submit a renewal form along with payment and advise us of your contact details you will be removed from our website until next year. Go to website [http://www.irrigation.org.au/ci\\_designer.html#whos\\_who](http://www.irrigation.org.au/ci_designer.html#whos_who)

**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](mailto:jann.oconnor@irrigation.org.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 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

**Victoria still not signed up to water plan.** Despite much pressure from the Federal Government to sign up to its national plan for water security, Victoria is still not convinced. Premier Bracks has called the plan "a dog" while the Prime Minister Howard has hardened his line and says unless Victoria is on board the plan would be like a "three-legged horse". But Mr Howard says he is not prepared to make special conditions just for Victoria. The VFF is supporting the State Government's stand.

**NFF warns of devastation.** The NFF reacted quickly to the Prime Minister's warning in April that irrigators may receive no water allocation in the new irrigation season. According to Ben Fargher, CEO, this could cause devastation among irrigators and communities that depend on irrigated agriculture. He said that tree crops such as stone fruit, grapes, citrus and avocados would be particularly affected as they could take years to recover.

**Goulburn-Murray Water fills in detail.** According to Goulburn-Murray Water (G-MW) the Prime Minister's announcement about water allocations needs clarification, at least for its customers. In particular, while G-MW's 2007-08 outlook, issued in February, said that allocations may be at zero for the start of the 2007-08 irrigation season; under normal weather patterns most rainfall and runoff to storages occurs from August to October. If there are average winter inflows then allocations on 15 August would be 14% for the Goulburn system, 7% for the Murray, 92% for the Campaspe and 100% for the Loddon system. This is different to the thrust of the PM's announcement which appeared to make no allowance for possible rainfalls.

**Drought water management in Qld.** The State is now operating under its drought water management strategy, which prioritises urban water supplies over rural supplies. As a result irrigation allocations have been cut back so that in southeast Queensland irrigators in the Logan, Warrill and Lockyer valleys received a zero water allocation. In the Upper Condamine, allocations were cut to less than 10% this year to secure water supplies for Warwick, and the St George irrigation allocations were cut to a 2.6%. This has had an effect on production with cotton plantings down around 75% on a normal year, grains down around 50% and significant impacts on horticulture and dairy production. (Source: QFF weekly bulletin)

**Allocation unlikely in SA.** The Minister for the River Murray, Karlene Maywald, says there is unlikely to be any water available for allocation to SA irrigators at the start of the 2007-08 water year unless there is significant rainfall over the next six weeks. From June 2006 to the end of March 2007, inflows to the Murray-Darling Basin were only 770 GL - 57% of the previous minimum of 1353 GL in 1983, for the same period.

**Groundwater drying up?** The WA Environmental Protection Authority has released an audit report on groundwater abstraction from the Gngangara Mound. According to the EPA it comes to the same conclusion as previous ones, i.e. that current management of Gngangara Mound groundwater is unsustainable. The EPA has recommended that sustainable limits for all groundwater abstraction from the source be reviewed and revised by the WRC, consistent with the obligations under the National Water Initiative. The report is available at [www.epa.wa.gov.au](http://www.epa.wa.gov.au)

**Piping water to Qld not a modern solution.** Emeritus Professor Bruce Thom from the Wentworth Group of Scientists and a water expert says the Federal Government's proposal to pipe water from northern NSW to Queensland is a "1970s" approach. While Malcolm Turnbull continues to promote the proposal, prepared by SMEC, support has been muted from other areas, particularly the Northern Rivers of NSW. According to Professor Thom, the plan is outdated and environmentally risky.

**Water works for Tasmania.** This month the Federal Government announced that it was investing \$12 million in two major water projects. In one project, around \$4.3 million will be provided to the Sassafras-Wesley Vale Irrigation Scheme Project to regulate water use for irrigation in the Sassafras and Wesley Vale regions and return streams to more natural flows. In the process, 4 GL/year of water will be taken from the Mersey River to irrigators in the Sassafras and Wesley Vale irrigation areas via an existing water pipeline and a new pipeline distribution system. This will replace water that is currently drawn from unregulated overland flow harvesting and groundwater extraction. A further \$7.8m will be provided to the Tasmanian Water Use Management Project to collect and manage water use data for all irrigation licences across Tasmania. This will involve the installation of 3000 telemetry units.

**Tanks before desal.** A report prepared by economists Marsden Jacobs Associates for the Australian Conservation Foundation, Environment Victoria and the Nature Conservation Council of NSW found the widespread installation of rainwater tanks in Australian capital cities would mean big savings in water, energy and money. According to the study, rainwater tanks are cost competitive with dams and desalination plants; they are five times more energy efficient than desalination plants and twice as energy efficient as the proposed Traveston dam, per megalitre of water produced; and if governments deployed rainwater tanks to 5% of households each year in Sydney and Southeast Queensland, dams and desalination plants planned for 2010 could be delayed past 2026 (Sydney) and 2019 (SEQ). For info go to [/www.acfonline.org.au/articles/news.asp?news\\_id=1222&eid=7772](http://www.acfonline.org.au/articles/news.asp?news_id=1222&eid=7772)

**Waterwise rebates for irrigation systems in WA.** The WA Government has announced a 2-year extension to the Waterwise Program, which includes rebates for watersaving equipment. A new addition under the program for 2007-08 is a \$300 rebate for homeowners installing a Waterwise irrigation system. Rebates for other potable water saving devices like rain sensors, bores, unplumbed rainwater tanks, greywater re-use systems, flow control regulators and subsurface irrigation systems will continue. Interestingly, the \$10 rebate on soil wetting agents, showerheads, tap timers and aerobic treatment units has been removed because research has shown they do not reduce water consumption or the market provides only Waterwise models.

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## MARKETPLACE

**MP Rotators go to Hunter Industries.** Nelson Irrigation Corporation has sold the MP Rotator turf sprinkler business to Hunter Industries Inc, which says rotator is a "perfect fit" that will complement its existing irrigation products. The key reason for selling the business is one of scale. According to Nelson Irrigation current sales and forecasts required it to double its manufacturing efforts, and it realised that it would need to either build a larger sales and marketing support organisation for the turf market, or find a buyer that had one in place. The closing date of the sale will be 4 September 2007. Until then it will be business as usual. For information go to [www.nelsonirrigation.com.au](http://www.nelsonirrigation.com.au)

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## JOB SPOT

**State Manager (Western Australia).** NaanDan Australia Pty Ltd Irrigation Systems has a current vacancy for a highly experienced and motivated state manager to develop and maintain business within the Western Australia 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, implement training and support initiatives. The successful applicant must have: a strong sales focus, an excellent knowledge of agricultural sprinklers, micro irrigation and filtration, demonstrated leadership skills, developed administrative and marketing skills, and strong communication skills. Only applicants with these skills will be considered.

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. Email or post your application by 30 May to [marketing@naandan.com.au](mailto:marketing@naandan.com.au) or NaanDan Australia Pty.Ltd, 214-216 Hammond Road Dandenong Vic 3175.

**Water Reuse Sales Manager.** Netafim Australia is expanding its business operations in the water reuse sector. This has created a great opportunity for a highly motivated person to join our national sales team with primary responsibility for growing this sector in designated territory across Victoria, NSW and SA. The role is focused on grey water; domestic and commercial onsite, industrial and municipal opportunities. This will involve opening new distribution channels, development specifications for consultants and delivering training to relevant personnel within the industry. You will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the technical aspects of water reuse for irrigation and have a basic understanding of legislation and standards that affect the water reuse market in Australia. Your experience may have been gained in irrigation, plumbing, water treatment or councils and, most importantly, you will have developed a sound professional reputation and strong business networks. Relevant tertiary qualifications and sales experience will be highly regarded.

Send your applications to the HR Manager, Netafim Australia, PO Box 248, Laverton 3028 or email it to [recruitment@netafim.com.au](mailto:recruitment@netafim.com.au) by Monday 14 May 2007.

**Irrigation Trainee looking for work.** A reliable, hard working and well presented young worker is looking for work in landscape/irrigation in Brisbane. He qualifies for Wage Assistance for his employer (for more info go to [www.wageassistance.gov.au](http://www.wageassistance.gov.au) or phone the indigenous employment line 1802 102). He has previous experience as a grounds assistant and doing landscaping and has a Blue Card. To find out more contact [jacob\\_anderson18@hotmail.com](mailto:jacob_anderson18@hotmail.com)

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## FOR THE DIARY

**IAA 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.

**CIAL courses.** Dates for CIAL courses in 2007 are:

**Adelaide.** 9 & 10 October  
**Brisbane.** 15 & 16 May, and 22 & 23 August  
**Sydney.** 21 & 22 May, and 19 & 20 September  
**Perth.** 22 & 23 August  
**Melbourne.** 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](mailto:catherine.parbery@irrigation.org.au)

**Seepage symposium.** Joint IAA-ANCID Seepage symposium will be 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.

**School of Irrigation.** Limited places available. Don't miss the School of Irrigation 21 & 22 May in Sydney. Prepare for your CID exam, complete a Certified Irrigation Auditor & Landscape, 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](http://www.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.irrigaiton.org.au](http://www.irrigaiton.org.au) and download the brochure.

**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 at Adelaide City Soccer Club. Guest speaker will be Ian Atkinson, CEO CRC for Irrigation Futures, who will give an insider's view of the CRF, and describe some of the research it is doing, particularly that relevant to the urban sector. Fax your RSVP by 4 May to 08 8365 0188, post it to PO Box 10006, Adelaide 5001, or email to [dmarriot@tpgi.com.au](mailto:dmarriot@tpgi.com.au)

**Irrigation Australia Conference and Exhibition 2008.** To be held 20 - 22 May 2008 at Melbourne Exhibition Centre. The biennial event is off to a terrific start with 50% of exhibition space already booked. Jolyon Burnett, IAA CEO, says that the National Plan for Water Security is a great opportunity for the irrigation industry to demonstrate that it uses smart technology and we have the most efficient systems. For bookings or information, contact Event Manager Robby Clark, phone 02 9556 7992, email [irrigation@eft.com.au](mailto:irrigation@eft.com.au) or visit the website [www.irrigationaustralia.com.au](http://www.irrigationaustralia.com.au)

**Overseas exchange.** Applications for the International Centre of Excellence in Water Resources Management (ICE WaRM) next round of the International Visits and Exchanges Program are now open. The program provides an opportunity to people from industry, education, training and research sectors to go overseas to share skills, knowledge and experience in water resources management. For information go to website [www.icewarm.com.au](http://www.icewarm.com.au)

**CGS Groundwater short courses.** For information on courses being held in May and June go to [groundwater.com.au](http://groundwater.com.au)

**ANCID Conference.** Being held 19 - 22 August at Bundaberg. Theme is Sharing the water: food, fibre, people and environment. Organisers are looking for people to present papers and posters. To find out more or to register go to website [www.ancid.org.au](http://www.ancid.org.au)

**Rain harvesting strategies.** Colin Austin has let us know that he is willing to talk with irrigators about systems and strategies for harvesting smaller amounts of rain. He is embarking on a tour in NSW that has been organized by local irrigator groups and will be visiting Maitland, Mudgee, Orange, and Cowra starting on June 11. If you are interested in these talks or want to find out more, go to website [www.waterright.com.au](http://www.waterright.com.au)

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## SMART APPROVED WATERMARK UPDATE

Applications close 1 June for the next Smart Approved WaterMark Expert Panel round. Information and application forms are available from [www.smartwatermark.info](http://www.smartwatermark.info) If you would like further information on the scheme and how to apply, contact Julian Gray, phone 02 9290 3322, email [julian.gray@smartwatermark.info](mailto:julian.gray@smartwatermark.info)

## INSURANCE UPDATE

**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](mailto:bev@insurancehouse.com.au) website [www.insurancehouse.com.au](http://www.insurancehouse.com.au)

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## HANDY LINKS

**Water Footprint Newsletter.** Calculate your water footprint (and find out what a water footprint is). Go to [www.waterfootprint.org/?page=cal/waterfootprintcalculator\\_indv\\_ext](http://www.waterfootprint.org/?page=cal/waterfootprintcalculator_indv_ext)  
Check out the latest research into in embedded or virtual water in The Hidden Waters report. Go to [www.waterfootprint.org/Reports/Zygmunt\\_2007.pdf](http://www.waterfootprint.org/Reports/Zygmunt_2007.pdf)

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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

*Backwash* is a monthly newsletter published by the [Irrigation Association of Australia](#) reporting on developments in the irrigation and related industries. For more information or to contribute article ideas contact; [jolyon.burnett@irrigation.org.au](mailto:jolyon.burnett@irrigation.org.au)

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