

Email newsletter produced by THE Irrigation Association OF Australia LTD

# BACKWASH



No. 6, June 2007 < [www.irrigation.org.au](http://www.irrigation.org.au) >

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

Phone: 02 9476 0142 Email: [info@irrigation.org.au](mailto:info@irrigation.org.au)

## In this issue:

- [Online Poll](#)
- [Board News](#)
- [Regional Roundup](#)
- [Membership](#)
- [Professional Development](#)
- [Around Industry](#)
- [Smart Approved Watermark](#)
- [For the Diary](#)
- [Jobspot](#)
- [Handy Links](#)
- [Bookshop](#)
- [Regional Committee Contacts](#)
- [About this newsletter & Privacy Notice](#)

## Online Poll

### Does your company provide Safe Work Method statements?

Some of our members have asked whether the association has a template for Safe Work Method Statements, which are required in NSW under the OH&S Regulation 2001 and under different names in other states. If there is enough interest from IAA members we will

investigate developing an industry-oriented template. To help us please complete this online survey.

Does your company provide Safe Work Method or similar statements?

Yes  No

Would you be interested in using a template that was industry related and developed by the association?

Yes  No  Not sure

Would you pay a minimal amount (e.g. \$20 per use) for such a template?

Yes  No  Not sure

I'm from:

NSW  QLD  VIC  TAS  NT  ACT  SA  WA

I am an:

Urban sector  Agricultural sector  Both sectors

For more information contact Jann O'Connor [jann.oconnor@irrigation.org.au](mailto:jann.oconnor@irrigation.org.au)  
Phone 02 94760142

[BACK TO TOP OF PAGE](#)

## BOARD NEWS

**Board to meet at Caloundra.** The IAA Board will meet in Caloundra on 2 and 3 August to coincide with the graduation dinner of the Retail Training Course. Members of the ANCID Executive have also been invited to attend the Board meeting and dinner as planning and preparations for the merging of the two organisations pick up speed following the overwhelming vote of support at the Annual General Meeting.

**Work on water plan.** The IAA has continued to work closely with the Department of Environment and Water since the workshop in May on implementing the National Plan for Water Security. The CEO has attended two briefing sessions on progress towards the plan and met with Malcolm Turnbull in his Sydney electoral office.

Despite unresolved issues with Victoria the consultative process and drafting of legislation is continuing with an ambitious timetable to have the Bill before federal Parliament in early August. The IAA continues to strongly support the fundamentals of the Plan and believes that concerns

raised by some sections of industry can be addressed and should not stand in the way of this major initiative.

**Review of water restrictions.** The draft of the National Water Commission's review of water restrictions has been circulated for comment to the Urban Water Advisory Group on which the IAA is represented by CEO, Jolyon Burnett. While the report is confidential at this stage the IAA is concerned that it appears to endorse the long term use of restrictions as a demand management tool while providing little comprehensive analysis to support such a move. The draft report provides no leadership or guidance on how long term urban water conservation can be better managed or any rigorous analysis of what supply side options are available. The IAA will continue to push for a comprehensive nationally consistent plan for long term solutions to current urban water supply shortages.

To support this initiative, the IAA and the Cooperative Research Centre for Irrigation Futures have received funding through Horticulture Australia Limited for a study of the benefits of green open space to urban communities and the development of models to quantify the economic value of such benefits. Such work is essential if proper cost benefit analysis is to be done on long term urban water conservation programs and is notably missing from current regimes.

**Duncan Malcolm awarded gong.** Former IAA National Board chairman, Duncan Malcolm, was awarded an Order of Australia in June. Congratulations to Duncan, who is now a member (AM) in the General Division. The award recognises his service to conservation and the environment through executive roles with a range of natural resource management organisations, and to the community of East Gippsland.

**Proud grandparents.** Congratulations to Merv Jessen, Queensland IDO, and his wife, Kerryn, who became proud grandparents in June. Daughter, Kathryn, and granddaughter, Lucy Grace, who live in Rockhampton are doing very well.

[BACK TO TOP OF PAGE](#)

## 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 is 3 July at Urrbrae Horticulture Centre, Room R.01 (Irrigation training room) at 3.30pm. Congratulations to office bearers for 2007-08, Craig Wright (chair), Peter Le Riche (deputy chair), Richard James (treasurer), Don Marriott (secretary), Denis Sparrow, Digby Grayston, Peter Toome and Noel Johnston.

And include your diaries the Joint Meeting of the Turf Grass Association of SA & IAA at Adelaide Oval Ridings Room, 31 July at 7.30 pm. Guest speaker is Terry Muir from Environmental Management Systems.

**South East Queensland.** Next meeting is Tuesday 10 July 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).

**Darling Downs.** Next meeting is 11 July 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).

**North Queensland.** Next meeting is a dinner meeting, Wednesday 11 July, 7 p.m. at the Seaview Hotel, The Strand, Townsville, The Loft Bar (upstairs). If you are planning to attend, please contact Barbara Moloney, phone 07 4721 5811, email [barbara.moloney@irrigation.org.au](mailto:barbara.moloney@irrigation.org.au)

**Northwest NSW.** The region is pleased with the success of its seepage workshop, held at the end of May. Fifteen researchers, consultants and soil specialists gathered on the first day to discuss seepage in channels and storages. On day 2, fifty participants heard about results of research from Queensland and NSW highlighting seepage losses from channels and storage and resulting issues from this other than the loss of water and income. Several speakers provided details of seepage investigations and practical ways of sealing channels and dams. Forty irrigators joined the workshop in the afternoon of day 2 saw to discuss water efficiency results for the past season. The IAA gave a presentation on practical ways of quantifying seepage losses and several ways of reducing the seepage. For information contact Peter Taylor, email [ptaylor@smk.com.au](mailto:ptaylor@smk.com.au)

**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 17 July 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).

[BACK TO TOP OF PAGE](#)

## 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 June:

- Kristian;Bodycott;Inland Water Management;Cootamundra;NSW

- Cameron;McPhee;Swan Catchment Council;Midland;WA
- Brian;Deller;West Coast Water Works - Maida Vale;Toodyay;WA
- Phil;Dewar;Lincoln Ventures Limited;Canterbury;VIC
- Anthony;Konig;Anthony Konig Landscapes;East Fremantle;WA
- Nathan;Jackson;Nathan's Reticulation Service;Hintingdale;WA
- John;McWilliams;Nirvana Landscaping;Kinross WA

[BACK TO TOP OF PAGE](#)

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**New training partners.** The IAA welcomes three new training partners this month: Virginia Horticultural Training, SA; TAFE NSW □ North Coast Institute, NSW; Horticultural Training Pty Ltd, Queensland. For an up-to-date list of training partners go to website [http://www.irrigation.org.au/ci\\_moci.html](http://www.irrigation.org.au/ci_moci.html) under Finding a training provider or contact Catherine Parbery, phone 02 9476 0142, email [catherine.parbery@irrigation.org.au](mailto:catherine.parbery@irrigation.org.au) to receive a list by fax or mail.

**Irrigation Operator Certification launched in SEQ.** The first of a series of Certified Irrigation Operator workshops was held last month on the Gold Coast and in the Brisbane region. Around 15 people attended the workshops which focused on soils and plant-water issues, and were delivered through a combination of class room and practical exercises. When participants have finished the program they will receive their certification to show that they have completed all the requirements of the Certified Irrigation Operator program. For more information about your opportunity to become a certified irrigation operator, contact the IAA SEQ regional secretary, phone 0413 334 679 email [secy.seq@irrigation.org.au](mailto:secy.seq@irrigation.org.au)

**OH&S risk assessment and safe work method statements.** Don't forget to complete the online survey in the newsletter to help us decide whether the association should develop and industry-related template. For information contact Jann O'Connor, phone 02 9476 0142, email [jann.oconnor@irrigation.org.au](mailto:jann.oconnor@irrigation.org.au)

**Association now an RTO.** The IAA is now a Registered Training Organisation trading as Irrigation Training Australia and covering all Australian States. As an RTO we will be able to become more involved in both training and delivery of accredited irrigation training.

**Retail Training Course.** The second Retail Training Course, which will be run in Caloundra from 21 July to 2 August, has been fully subscribed for some time now. Our thanks go to supporting suppliers who make this course possible: Advanced Industrial Products; Davey; Grundfos; HR Products; Hunter; Iplex; Netafim; Philmac; Toro; and Vinindex.

**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. 22 & 23 August  
 Sydney. 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)

**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>

**Travel Fellowship.** The Australian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (ANCID) is offering a Travel Fellowship Award of \$10,000 for a young scientific achiever in irrigation research and development. Applicants must hold a relevant professional qualification, not be over 40 years of age, and address selection criteria specified by ANCID. The Award will be presented at the 2007 ANCID Annual Conference in Bundaberg, 19 to 21 August 2007. For information contact Kim Russell, phone 02 6290 0874, email [Kim.Russell@ancid.org.au](mailto:Kim.Russell@ancid.org.au)

**Recycled Water Course.** If you are interested in using recycled water, IWES are conducting a new course on Water Recycling for Agricultural and Horticultural applications presented by Anne-Maree Boland and Daryl Stevens. Location is the Gold Coast, 19 - 20 July. For more information go to [www.iwes.com.au](http://www.iwes.com.au)

[BACK TO TOP OF PAGE](#)

## AROUND INDUSTRY

**Victoria gets ultimatum.** Federal Water Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, has told Victoria to stop giving mixed messages on the Water Plan for National Security and declare whether it is in or out. Despite talks in the last month, there has been no conclusive answer from Victoria. According to the Commonwealth, Victoria needs to detail clearly what changes it wants to the draft legislation, which has been agreed to by SA, Queensland, NSW and ACT.

**Agforce and NSW irrigators not sure about plan now.** Last month, Agforce, which represents Queensland farming organisations, and NSW Farmers Association were threatening to withdraw support for the plan. According to the organisations, they were not happy with the fact that had not received assurances from the Federal Government that it would not meter stock and domestic water bores. As well, Agforce said that has not been able to have clarified issues such as groundwater, environmental water and overland flow, and was critical of a lack of engagement with farming organisations and irrigation groups. Last minute reassurances from Minister Turnbull might turn this opposition around.

**Murray Irrigation looks at water bank.** In another response to the water plan, it was reported in The Australian last month that Murray Irrigation was looking at establishing a "water bank" to protect itself from buyback of water for the environment. The bank would bid against the government for water being sold by farmers, and would then lend the water back to irrigators

make sure it did not leave the district. The company fears that buybacks could threaten irrigation or result in it becoming economically unsustainable in parts of Murray Irrigation's system. The outcome would be Murray Irrigation's area resembling a patchwork with some properties having sold their water and channels that too expensive to run.

**A month's water for citrus and vines.** NSW Water Minister, Phil Kopernberg, announced in mid June that a month's water would be supplied to Murray Valley citrus and grape growers as a way of ensuring survival of plantings. The supplies have been made possible as a result of rain and inflows into storages with the minister announcing that 2 GL would be available for permanent plantings and key industrial users along the Murray River.

**Wetlands water stolen?** As a result of claims by the Inland Rivers Network that irrigators on the Macquarie Marshes in NSW have been diverting water released for environmental flows into their own storages, the NSW Government is conducting a comprehensive audit. According to the Inland Rivers Network, it can be seen from aerial photographs that channels and banks have been built to extract the water for private use, and trees have been cleared.

**Meeting on crisis measures for the Murray Darling Basin.** A delegation from Horticulture Australia Council (HAC), the peak national association representing the horticultural industries, met with the Department of Agriculture Forestry & Fisheries (DAFF) and Centrelink last week, to discuss the "looming crisis" in the lower Murray Darling Basin. According to HAC, little irrigation or rain in the next six months in the southern Murray Darling Basin, which produce over 60% of the nation's fruit in these varieties, could spell the end of 138,000 hectares of permanent plantings within six months. The Federal Government assured the meeting that it was willing to consider further assistance measures in the event of such a widespread disaster.

**SA's share of water up slightly.** The preliminary end-of-June 2007 River Murray water resource assessment report indicates that SA's divertible share is 36 GL, which provides for 14 GL to meet carry-over commitments from 2006-07 and an allocation of 4% for irrigation from 1 July 2007. This improvement is based on good inflows into Hume and Dartmouth Reservoirs along with inflows from the Ovens and Kiewa Rivers below the storages. The total River Murray inflows (excluding Snowy Releases) is about 184 GL compared to 115 GL at the same time last year, however, they are well below the long term median inflow of 469 GL.

**Bringing irrigation info together.** Australia's first dedicated irrigation server with the sole task of providing the irrigation sector with an IT platform for improving irrigation decisions is being developed and tested by a CRCIF team. The server, called irriGATEWAY, brings together a number of online and phone based services. A number of these services are being tested now, e.g. daily information on weather and crop water requirements being delivered by SMS. The server also hosts information for irrigators such as soil type maps using Google Earth services. For info go to website <http://www.irrigationfutures.org.au/news.asp?catID=8&ID=486>

**SEQWater helps make environmental planning easier.** SEQWater has launched a new calculator which aims to make environmental planning easier and more time efficient for planners, developers and customers. The new Water Balance Model Calculator was developed in conjunction with engineering firm GHD. It enables the evaluation of water saving devices, on-site wastewater disposal systems and land characteristics to determine how much land is required to establish effluent irrigation systems to meet customer needs. Find the calculator go to [www.seqwater.com.au](http://www.seqwater.com.au)

**Meter standards.** In the last couple of years a committee comprising industry and government representatives has been working on standards for water meters for non urban use. The IAA representative on this committee is Peter Toome. When the standards are finalised in the next few months, all meters will need to be pattern approved by the National Measurement Institute

and comply with the Australian Standard. Meter manufacturers and distributors, will need to submit meters to an independent NATA accredited test facility and apply to NMI for pattern approval. This is an important development in the irrigation industry so make sure you know what is included in the standard. We will be letting you know through Backwash and the IAA website when they are published.

**NaanDan introduces products.** NaanDan Australia has just finished running a series of seminars around Australia, starting in Mareeba (Far North QLD), then in Bundaberg, Melbourne, Shepparton, Mildura, Adelaide Hills finishing in Coonawarra (SA). The main focus of the seminars was to introduce NaanDan Australia's services and products to dealers and growers Australia wide. The company also promoted its Micro irrigation and Irristand systems range in Far North QLD and frost protection applications in Victoria and Adelaide. More than 150 dealers and growers participated in the successful series. For information contact email [marketing@naandan.com.au](mailto:marketing@naandan.com.au).

[BACK TO TOP OF PAGE](#)

## SMART APPROVED WATERMARK

The latest Smart WaterMark Expert Panel round has just approved seven new products and services to use the Smart Approved WaterMark label. A further 15 products and services have been asked to supply more information to the independent technical panel. There are now over 100 products and services licensed to use the water saving label. The Expert Panel next meets in September, and applications close 24 August.

To help promote the scheme to consumers, the Smart WaterMark is now recruiting a marketing coordinator. For more information visit [www.smartwatermark.info](http://www.smartwatermark.info)

[BACK TO TOP OF PAGE](#)

## FOR THE DIARY

Certified Irrigation Auditor Landscape courses. Dates for courses in 2007 are:

Adelaide. 9 & 10 October  
Brisbane. 22 & 23 August  
Sydney. 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)

**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 70% 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)

**Joint irrigation turf grass meeting in SA.** Add to your diaries the Joint Meeting of the Turf Grass Association of SA & IAA at Adelaide Oval Ridings Room, 31 July at 7.30 pm. Guest speaker is Terry Muir from Environmental Management Systems.

**CGS Groundwater short courses.** For information on courses 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 our more or to register go to website [www.ancid.org.au](http://www.ancid.org.au)

[BACK TO TOP OF PAGE](#)

## JOB SPOT

**AusAID Australian Volunteers International.** Water Supply Operations Adviser, Niue □ South Pacific. 2-year contract. This is a challenging opportunity for a suitably qualified and experienced person to advise the Water Division of the Public Works Department, Government of Niue. Based in the capital Alofi, this role will strengthen the water sector's capacity to implement regional water projects identified with Pacific Islands Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), as well as support the achievement of in-country implementation of regionally funded water sector projects and assisting with day-to-day water supply operations. Applicants must have a Bachelor of Science / Engineering Degree, preferably in water resources management, hydrogeology, environmental management, natural resources management, water distribution and supply, or related field. A good understanding of small island hydrology, experience in water resource assessment and management, and the ability to use training skills would be an advantage. The successful applicant will be provided with an attractive remuneration package combined with airfares, insurance and accommodation allowance. Visit our website for a detailed assignment description [www.australianvolunteers.com](http://www.australianvolunteers.com) and application details. Applications close 15 July 2007. For more information contact John Boxshall, email: [recruit@australianvolunteers.com](mailto:recruit@australianvolunteers.com)

[BACK TO TOP OF PAGE](#)

## HANDY LINKS

Governments, water users and environmental representatives are deep in discussions about proposed new legislative arrangements for the Murray Darling Basin. What has to be got right for the people who depend upon the Basin's water and for the Basin's environment? [Droplet](#) provides a checklist.

[BACK TO TOP OF PAGE](#)

## BOOKSHOP

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

## REGIONAL COMMITTEE CONTACTS

## North Queensland

Geoff Chaillon  
[gchallion@typac.com.au](mailto:gchallion@typac.com.au)

## Darling Downs

David Wigginton  
[wiggind@usq.edu.au](mailto:wiggind@usq.edu.au)

## South East Queensland

Lindsay Peel  
[ljspeel@bigpond.com](mailto:ljspeel@bigpond.com)

## NSW North West

Peter Taylor  
[ptaylor@smk.com.au](mailto:ptaylor@smk.com.au)

## Sydney

Pat O'Shannessy  
[patrick.oshannessy@toro.com](mailto:patrick.oshannessy@toro.com)

## Central and Far West NSW

Ken Rogers  
[ken.rogers@dubbo.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ken.rogers@dubbo.nsw.gov.au)  
**Melbourne**

Des Horton  
[dhorton@citywestwater.com.au](mailto:dhorton@citywestwater.com.au)

## South Australia

Craig Wright  
[craigw@philmac.com.au](mailto:craigw@philmac.com.au)

## Western Australia

Greg Stewart  
[greg@totaleden.com.au](mailto:greg@totaleden.com.au)

## Northern Territory

Peter Giles  
[petergiles@oasisirrigation.com.au](mailto:petergiles@oasisirrigation.com.au)

[BACK TO TOP OF PAGE](#)

## 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; [catherine.parbery@irrigation.org.au](mailto:catherine.parbery@irrigation.org.au)

You have received this issue because you are on IAA 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: [catherine.parbery@irrigation.org.au](mailto:catherine.parbery@irrigation.org.au)

[BACK TO TOP OF PAGE](#)

## 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.

[Back to top of page](#)

***Backwash* is compiled by Naturally Resourceful Pty Ltd.  
© Copyright Irrigation Association of Australia**

**BACK TO TOP OF PAGE**