



Newsletter of Water Quality Research Australia Limited

Issue 8 – 14 November 2008

Welcome to the eighth issue of Water Quality Research Australia News, the newsletter of Water Quality Research Australia Limited (WQRA Limited).

WQRA Limited is a not-for-profit scientific research institution, established to provide strategic knowledge for the Australian urban water industry. Incorporated in October 2007, its registered office is at Level 13, 77 Grenfell Street, Adelaide.

Issues 1 - 7 of Water Quality Research Australia News can be downloaded from the website of WQRA Limited www.waterquality.org.au

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CEO's Report

Firstly, I would like to welcome Michele Akeroyd to the WQRA team. Michele joins us in the position of Program Manager, Drinking Water and will be a valuable team member as we go forward in getting out projects up and running.

As we prepare for our first AGM, the major focus over the past weeks has been producing the annual report (now available on the WQRA website) and collating and reviewing the Project Concepts. WQRA has received over 70 high quality project concepts since the second Program Planning Workshop at the beginning of October. It has been a very tight timeline to get these reviewed by members of the Steering Teams, ready for dissemination to Members to consider with their organisation prior to the AGM. This will be circulated next Tuesday.

The format of the day of the AGM, 27th November, will be a workshop in the morning with presentations from researchers who would like to provide an overview for discussion on their project concepts, followed by the AGM itself. Voting for which of the project concepts will potentially form part of the research portfolio will take place at the AGM.

I would like to extend an invitation to interested people who would like to come to the Project Concept Workshop and to the first WQRA AGM. As a public company, our AGM is open to anyone who cares to attend – and all are welcome. I do, however, ask that you let Sue Spragg susan.spragg@wqra.com.au know if you plan to attend, so that we can cater accordingly. Also, we will be catching up for dinner the night before for anyone who is staying in Adelaide, so please let Sue know if you would like to come.

Aside from the AGM planning, in early November I attended the GWRC Board meeting in Germany. The meeting was an opportunity for WQRA to present to international organisations about the company, its focus and to promote our research agenda.

The next couple of weeks will be even more hectic, as we prepare to move WQRA to our new home in the heart of Adelaide. This has entailed quite a lot of spring cleaning, packing and induction as we

move into the purpose-built SA Water 6* environmental rated building. You will find us on Level 3 of the building. So, we will have a new address and new phone numbers. In addition, we have taken this opportunity to update our web address and email addresses, and the old web address/email address will divert to the new ones.

Our new web address is:

www.wqra.com.au

and corresponding email is

firstname.surname@wqra.com.au

Look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

Jodieann

Development of the WQRA Research Portfolio

Two workshops were held in September and October 2008 as part of the process to develop the WQRA research agenda - one covering Wastewater/Recycled Water, and one covering Drinking Water. Prior to the workshops, WQRA member organisations were invited to submit brief outlines of research issues and priorities.

At the workshops, research areas and topics were discussed and voted on by WQRA members. The voting outcomes from both workshops were then compiled into a single Priority List of Research Issues. WQRA members were invited to submit brief Project Concepts for research proposals based on this list by 31 October. These Project Concepts will be considered and voted on at the Annual General Meeting on November 27th. Proponents of selected Project Concepts will then be invited to develop full Project Proposals.

WQRA AGM – Thursday 27th November

Have you registered to attend the first WQRA AGM yet? It is being held on the 27th November at the Sebel Playford, Adelaide

Immediately before the AGM, a workshop is being held to discuss the new project concepts which will be tabled for voting by the Members at the AGM. Attendance at the AGM is not restricted to the Members, although voting is.

Please reply to susan.spragg@wqra.com.au to confirm your attendance and to assist with catering. We look forward to seeing many WQRA participants and interested parties at the AGM.

Please also let Sue know if you wish to attend a networking dinner on the evening of Wednesday the 26th November. This will be a casual get together at a not too expensive venue near North Terrace.

WQRA Program Leaders on deck

Wastewater Program Manager, David Halliwell - Although he will be Melbourne based (at the WSAA office), he will be spending a significant amount of time in Adelaide, particularly until the Research Programs are up and running.

David comes to WQRA after the Victorian Department of Primary Industries, where his role was Research Director for the Environmental Health and Chemistry Platform. His PhD is in analytical chemistry and he has an MBA from Monash University. He has spent the last 15 years in research and research management.

Drinking Water Program Manager, Michele Akeroyd – Michele will be based in Adelaide, to which she and her family are returning after twelve years in Canberra.

Michele comes from the Murray-Darling Basin Commission after seven years, where her most recent role was leading the Living Murray's Environmental Watering Program. Other roles at the MDBC included leading the Corporate Business Planning and Performance Reporting section and the MDBC Salinity Program. Prior to joining the MDBC Michele was involved in the development of the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality and implementation of the NHT at the Department of

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Australia. Michele's PhD was in Plant Ecophysiology, which was undertaken through the CRC for Catchment Hydrology and based at CSIRO Land and Water in Canberra

First WQRA Annual Report

The WQRA Annual Report is now available to read or download from the WQRA website.
http://www.wqra.com.au/annualreports/WQRA_Annual_Report_0708.pdf

Forthcoming Dates

Important Dates for your diaries in the next few months:

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| 26 th November | Adelaide | Board Meeting 3 – 5pm |
| 27 th November | Adelaide | Project Concept discussions 9am – 3pm/ AGM 3 – 4.30pm |
| 14 th – 15 th January | Location TBA | Board Strategic Planning Workshop |
| 16 th February | Melbourne | Board Meeting 10am – 12pm |
| 16 th February | Melbourne | Members Meeting incl Program Update 1 – 4.30pm |
| 17-18 February 09 | Melbourne | Members Meeting and Summer Scholarships Reporting Seminar, |
| 16 th March 09 | Teleconference | Board Meeting 9 – 11am (ACDT) |
| 13 th April | Teleconference | Board Meeting 9 – 11am (ACDT) |
| 18 th May | Sydney | Board Meeting 3 – 5pm |
| 19 th May | Sydney | Members Meeting incl Program Update 10am – 4pm |

WQRA Education Program

Please circulate relevant information to colleagues and students.

Seeking new PhD candidate – deadline approaching fast!

Project: Interaction of *Cryptosporidium* lifecycle stages with aquatic biofilm communities

This project, which is a component of a larger ARC Discovery Project, will be jointly funded by WQRA and ARC Discovery Grant funds. The project will be based at the Australian Water Quality Centre (AWQC) in Adelaide, South Australia and it is envisaged that the PhD candidate will be enrolled at either the University of South Australia or the University of Adelaide. The ARC Discovery Project has 2 main aspects. One will be investigated at Murdoch University/University of Western Australia using specialised culture systems to prepare small-scale laboratory biofilms to study the interactions between different *Cryptosporidium* life cycle stages and different types of biofilm organisms expected to be found in distribution system biofilms. The other aspect (this project) will be more ecologically-based, examining naturally occurring systems in reservoirs to study the interactions of *Cryptosporidium* with other microorganisms isolated from biofilms and sediments.

Students interested in this project should contact Dr Paul Monis, Microbiology Research Leader AWQC, **immediately** Tel: 08 8259 3223, Email: paul.monis@sawater.com.au

Summer Scholarships

The WQRA Education Committee has selected 10 projects for funding. Ten students have been confirmed and will commence their projects from mid November. A full list of students,

their projects and supervisors will be put on the WQRA website when all are confirmed. The students and their locations are:

Yasmine van Leur, UNSW
Jack Toke, Victoria Uni
Tom Reilly, Victoria Uni
Andrew Dinh, RMIT
Ivan Wong, UNSW
Bonnie Marshall, CAT Alice Springs, NT
Allan Bond, Flinders Medical Centre, SA
Jane-Louise Lampard, Smart Water Research Facility Griffith Uni
Dylan Irvine, Flinders Uni
Yi Zhu, UNSW

Summer Scholarship Reporting Seminar

This will be held at the Hotel Ibis, in Melbourne on **17 & 18 February 2009**. Put the dates in your diary now! The Registration Form will be available on the web soon or e-mail carolyn.bellamy@unisa.edu.au to be placed on the distribution list.

Call for PhD Projects commencing 2009

The Call for PhD Projects has closed.

WQRA Top-Up Scholarships commencing 2009 / Nancy Millis Top-Up Scholarship

<http://www.waterquality.org.au/index.htm>

Three projects will be selected for top-up scholarships to the value of \$5,000 x 3.5 years. In addition there will be a consumables budget of up to \$15,000 overall. Information regarding the prestigious Nancy Millis Top-Up Scholarship is on the website. Please direct students to the website for all relevant information. A Sub-committee of the Education Committee will assess the applications. Should you require further clarification, please contact Carolyn Bellamy on 08 8302 5771 or carolyn.bellamy@unisa.edu.au

Small Grants Scheme

The Call for Small Grant Applications for Postgraduate Students for 2009 has been **extended to Monday, 17th November 2008**.

Applications from research members are called for grants to support individual PhD students who have obtained APA or university scholarships but who do not have a consumables budget.

The grant may be used TO PURCHASE consumables, services, travel or equipment specifically pertinent to a current project. Grants are up to the value of \$5,000. The application (maximum of two pages) is to be submitted by the Supervisor and should provide a **PROJECT OUTLINE, BUDGET AND RATIONALE**. A Sub-committee of the Education Committee will assess the applications.

Applications are to be e-mailed to carolyn.bellamy@unisa.edu.au

New publications

New CRC project reports now available on the (CRC) website include:

CRC for Water Quality and Treatment 2007-08 Annual Report – the final report!

Research Report 44: Development of Low Cost Online Monitoring Package to Improve Chloramination Control [PDF file](#)

Research Report 47: Investigation of the survival of Cryptosporidium in environmental waters – printed copy and [PDF file](#)

We still have copies of some of the printed reports produced by the CRC (check the website to see which are available). If you would like a hard copy of any of these reports please contact Angela Gackle. They may be useful resources for workshops or students.

Health Stream

Health Stream is a quarterly newsletter that provides information on health research issues of relevance to the water industry and updates on recent journal reports. Begun in 1996, early in the life of the CRC for Water Quality and Treatment, Health Stream is highly regarded in the industry and its value was further recognised last year when the GWRC presented the editor Martha Sinclair with its inaugural "Award for Outstanding Contributions".

WQRA has agreed to continue to support the production of Health Stream for at least one more year. If you are not already a subscriber to Health Stream, you can sign up to receive it electronically or a printed version by mail. A searchable archive of past issues is also available on the CRC website at: <http://www.waterquality.crc.org.au/hs/hs51web.htm>

The latest Issue (51) contains articles about a recent *Cryptosporidium* outbreak in the UK, a boil water alert in Queensland and summaries of new studies on, DBPs, fluoride, microorganisms, and contaminants.

Singapore International Water Week Convention

The deadline for outline papers submissions to the Singapore International Water Week Convention is on the 30th November 2008. The conference will take place in Singapore (22-26 June 2009).

For more information visit the following websites:

http://www.iwahq.org/templates/ld_templates/layout_633184.aspx?ObjectId=678320 or
<http://www.siww.com.sg/waterconvention.php>

Contributing to Water Quality Research Australia News

This issue of Water Quality Research Australia News is sent to all nominated people associated with the members of WQRA Limited. If you would like to be added to the mailing list or submit a newsworthy item for the next newsletter, send an email to Angela.Gackle@wqra.com.au

Key Contacts for WQRA Limited:

Chairman: Michael Moore Ph: 07 3274 9001 Email: Moore.wqra@gmail.com

CEO: Jodieann Dawe Ph: 08 8259 0236 Email: Jodieann.Dawe@wqra.com.au

Water Quality Research Australia Limited

Registered office: Level 13, 77 Grenfell Street, Adelaide

ABN 32 127 974 261