



Newsletter of Water Quality Research Australia Limited

Issue 12 – 9 April 2009

Welcome to the twelfth 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 3, 250 Victoria Square, Adelaide.

Issues 1 – 11 of Water Quality Research Australia News can be downloaded from the website of WQRA Limited www.wqra.com.au

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CEO's Report

Since my last report I had the pleasure, along with Michele, David and Angela, of attending the Ozwater'09 conference. It was an excellent opportunity to meet many different people from the water industry and hear some of Australia's finest industry personnel and researchers discuss topical and emerging issues. The hardest part was deciding between lecture streams and speakers, with the high calibre of presenters.

As many of the attending people know, WQRA had a booth at the Trade Exhibition, which allowed us to network and interact with industry people in an informal environment, and to promote WQRA and what we are doing on behalf of our members. It was an excellent opportunity to meet with stakeholders and potential new members in person as opposed to over the phone or via email. The Trade Exhibition, the Conference Presentations and the networking events were very successful and I'd like to congratulate AWA on a fantastic job of organising and running this massive event. I look forward to participating in OzWater10 in Brisbane.

During the last month, WQRA has continued with our program of visiting member organisations to discuss the shortlisted project concepts and also find out more about our members and what their internal drivers are for R&D in Water Quality. A full report on who we have seen and what we have learned will be available for the Members Meeting in May

WQRA has also been visiting other stakeholders and potential new members. After Ozwater I had a productive meeting in Tasmania with representatives of a number of water authorities and it was very interesting to see the implementation of the new structures within Tasmania as it moves towards consolidation of water provision. I have also had several trips up to Queensland to meet with regulators and utilities, as well as the CEO of UWSRA, to determine how WQRA can best support operations in Queensland, particularly during this time of flux.

On a very exciting note, at their last meeting the WQRA Board reviewed and approved an application to become a member of WQRA. So, I would like to welcome our newest member to the WQRA family – Murdoch University.

Lastly, I am off to the Global Water Research Coalition Board meeting at the end of April, where WQRA is submitting two projects for support, and I will be back in the office in mid-May.

I look forward to seeing everyone for the Members Meeting in May but in the meantime have a relaxing and safe Easter Break.

Jodieann

Project Development Process – Update

Wastewater Program

Of the 7 project concepts short-listed in the Wastewater Program, WQRA has received one fully scoped project, which has now completed the review process and been approved by the Board. This proposal from Pierre Le Clech (UNSW) is 'Development of predictive tools for membrane ageing'. This leaves 5 projects at various stages of full proposal development and 1 project that has been selected for funding by the Victorian Smart Water Fund. It is anticipated that the remaining 5 project proposals will be received in the next 4-6 weeks.

In addition to the short-listed project concepts, the Wastewater Program has received submissions to support 3 ARC linkage projects, 2 GWRC projects and one project submission for the Water Research Foundation (formerly AwwaRF). These projects have received in-principle support from the Board and the majority are in the final stages of full proposal development.

The concluding CRC projects that are in the final stages of report preparation are progressing well. There are now only 4 reports outstanding in the wastewater program from the CRC era, and of these, 2 are awaiting final approval from the respective funding agencies. It is anticipated that the remaining 2 reports will be completed in the current financial year.

Lagoon Treatment Systems Workshop on 28th May: Following on from 2 project concepts developed by Howard Fallowfield (Concept 71) and Helen Stratton (Concept 35) on Lagoon (Pond) Treatment Systems, WQRA is planning a workshop to gauge industry interest in this area and identify knowledge gaps, which will inform the need for a project on this topic. We are particularly interested to hear about issues confronting our industry members on this topic, and would welcome your attendance and participation on this day. Further details on this workshop will be disseminated in due course.

Drinking Water Program

Eighteen project concepts were short-listed in the Drinking Water Program, of which 5 have been fully scoped and considered by the Project Review Team, one is pending Board approval and one of those has been approved by the Board. The project that has been approved is led by Professor David Waite at UNSW and is titled "Physico-chemical Controls on Growth, Toxicity and Succession of *Microcystis* and *Anabaena* species in Sydney Water Supply Reservoirs'. This project is due to commence in July 2009 and will run for a period of three years. Professor Waite will give a presentation on the project at the next Members meeting in May, outlining the scope of this project.

In addition to the short-listed concepts, there is one ARC linkage project that has been fully scoped for Board consideration and two ARC LIEF proposals have been developed and will be considered by the Board for in-principle support. The Board has previously approved in-principle support for three other projects that were seeking external grants.

There are currently seven Drinking Water projects underway and at various stages of completion. There are also 22 final reports that were transferred from the CRC WQT that are yet to be completed. Three were completed in the last month. Thanks to those of you who have finished these reports! It is important to finalise the remaining reports and all the great work undertaken by the CRC WQT – so if you have a report that has not yet been submitted, please do so urgently as these reports are now well overdue.

Forthcoming Dates

Important Dates for your diaries in 2009:

20 April	Teleconference	Board meeting 9 – 11am (ACST)
28 May	Sydney	Lagoon Treatment Systems Workshop 10am – 3pm
28 May	Sydney	Education Committee meeting 10am – 1pm
28 May	Sydney	Board meeting 1.30 – 4.45pm

28 May	Sydney	Project Review Team meeting 5 – 6.30pm
29 May	Sydney	Members meeting incl Program Update 9.30am – 4pm
19 June	Teleconference	Board meeting 9 – 11am (ACST)
17 July	Teleconference	Board meeting 9 – 11am
20 August	venue tba	Board meeting 3 – 5pm
21 August	venue tba	Members meeting 10am – 4pm
18 September	Teleconference	Board meeting 9 – 11am
16 October	Teleconference	Board meeting 9 – 11am
26 November	venue tba	Board meeting 3 – 5pm
27 November	AGM	Board and Members 10am – 4pm

WQRA Education Program

Please circulate relevant information to colleagues and students.

Internship

Sebastien AMEILLA ameillacoco@hotmail.com

Sebastien has approached WQRA to see if there is an opportunity to complete his thesis project in Australia. Please note that Sebastien will be funding the internship and related expenses.

Period requested May – September 2009

Sebastien is a French student and has been studying “Water Management” Master of Sciences at the University of Cranfield in England. His experience includes environmental economics and protection, public involvement in a sustainable development, hydrology, wastewater and water facilities, water policies and communication to society. He also has professional skills from working in private and public water and wastewater organizations in France.

Required outcome: Research project in an area such as environment, communication, policies and catchment management.

The final report should identify stakeholders’ interactions in that field, their current expectations, willingness to be involved in a specific topic, their abilities to adapt to changes in management and an eventual modelling of future changes that they may face.

Sebastien would prefer topics that involve conservation of environmental assets, scientific knowledge, communication with society, implementation of policies and public participation.

Should your organisation be interested in offering an internship, please communicate with Sebastien direct at the email address above.

WQRA at Ozwater '09

It was great to meet those of you who dropped in to visit the WQRA booth at Ozwater '09. We added quite a few more names to our newsletter mailing list (via the red wine prize draw) and spoke to water industry people from all around the country.

In the picture on the right, Jodieann Dawe, the CEO of Water Quality Research Australia, is handing over the bottle of red wine to winner of the business card draw, Pat Feehan of Feehan Consulting in Shepparton.

And hot on the heels of Ozwater '09, AWA is calling for papers for Ozwater '10 in Brisbane next year. The link is:

<http://www.ozwater10.com.au/>



New publications

A new publication that will shortly be available on the CRC website is *Research Report 49: Small water system reliability in remote Indigenous communities in the Kimberley*.

WQRA Information Brochures

We have produced two new brochures with [general information](#) about WQRA and one that gives details on how to become a [member](#) of WQRA. They can be downloaded from the website, or from the links in this item. If member organisations would like hard copies to display or distribute at events, let us know and we will send you some.

Latest issue of Health Stream

The new-look [Health Stream #53](#) is now available online at the WQRA website. This issue is the first to be produced under the auspices of Water Quality Research Australia. Edited by Martha Sinclair, it includes articles on the impact of bushfires on drinking water quality, and a major new study on the toxicological relevance of trace levels of endocrine disrupting compounds and pharmaceuticals in drinking water. Plus news items and reviews of recent literature on a range of topics.

Nancy Millis AC Symposium

A legacy of impact in science and public policy; from water and environment to women in science and higher education.

The Royal Society of Victoria is holding a one day symposium to mark the very significant contribution of Emeritus Professor Nancy Millis AC to microbiology, science, higher education, public policy and the role of women in science in Victoria. The symposium venue is Woodruff (Microbiology) Lecture Theatre Building 184, University of Melbourne, Royal Parade, Parkville and the date is April 18th. Details of how to register can be found on the [Royal Society of Victoria's](#) website.

Eureka Prize for Water Research and Innovation

Entries and nominations are now invited for the 2009 **Australian Museum Eureka Prize for Water Research and Innovation**

Sponsored by Land & Water Australia, the Professor Peter Cullen Eureka Prize for Water Research and Innovation is awarded to an individual, team or organisation for research and innovation that has made or has the potential to make an outstanding contribution to the sustainable use and management of Australia's water resources.

The winner receives \$10,000. Entries close midnight AEST 1 May 2009.

For further information on this prize, including how to enter and past winners, go to australianmuseum.net.au/eureka or email eureka@austrmus.gov.au

Central Victoria's search for water security – forum alert

Speakers are Dr Geoffrey Russell (Water historian and author of *Water for Gold*) and Mr John Brooke (Chairman Coliban Water).

This is a rare opportunity to engage with the history and future of Central Victoria's water management, view the 150th Anniversary exhibition of historic plans from Coliban Water's archives and purchase a signed copy of Dr Russell's long-awaited new book on Central Victoria's struggle for water security, *Water for Gold*.

*Venue seating is strictly limited. Admission by advanced booking only by contacting **Tamara Pellas** at **Coliban Water** during business hours on **5434 1392**.*

Entry is via a \$2 gold coin donation at the door to the *Red Cross Bushfire Relief Fund*.

La Trobe University Visual Arts Centre, 121 View Street, Bendigo 6.00pm sharp on Wednesday 15 April 2009

Contributing to WQRA 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 Water Quality Research Australia Limited:

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

CEO: Jodieann Dawe Ph: 08 7003 2447 Email: Jodieann.Dawe@wqra.com.au

Program Manager: David Halliwell: Ph 0428 393 464 Email: david.halliwell@wqra.com.au

Program Manager: Michele Akeroyd: Ph 0408 510 288 Email: michele.akeroyd@wqra.com.au