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Newsletter of Water Quality Research Australia Limited









Issue 21 – 27th January 2010

Welcome to the twentyfirst issue of Water Quality Research Australia News.

WQRA is a national organisation that coordinates and manages collaborative research on water issues related to public health and aspects of water supply, water recycling and wastewater management. Incorporated in October 2007, the registered office is at Level 3, 250 Victoria Square, Adelaide.

Issues 1 – 20 of Water Quality Research Australia News can be downloaded from the WQRA website: www.wqra.com.au There are currently 571 subscribers to this newsletter.

Contents

-  **Important dates**
-  **Message from the CEO**
-  **WQRA welcomes ChemCentre**
-  **NHMRC Special Call – Climate Change and Human Health**
-  **Health Stream # 56**
-  **WQRA Workshop at Ozwater '10**
-  **Research Programs update**
-  **Education Program news**

Important dates for your diary

29 January	Teleconference	Board Meeting
29 January		ARC Expressions of Interest due
29 January		Outstanding Nov 2008 Project Concepts Due
23 February	Sydney	Board Meeting
24-25 February	Sydney	Members Meeting including Summer Student Seminars
8-10 March	Brisbane	OzWater'10
24 March	ChemCentre (WA)	WA Node Meeting
25 March	Albany	WA/NT/SA Node Meeting
21 April	TBA	Vic/Tas Node Meeting
22 April	TBA	NSW Node Meeting
27 May	Perth	Board Meeting
28 May	Perth	Members Meeting

Message from the CEO

WQRA troops have rolled back to work after the Christmas break, with the first few months of the year promising to be busy as usual – picking up where we left off last year. The quarterly Members Meeting in February will feature student reports on the Summer Scholarship projects, and hot on the heels of this meeting will be Ozwater '10 in Brisbane.

On January 15th WQRA lodged a submission with NHMRC, responding to the proposed revisions to the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines. Please contact me if you would like to read the submission.

Xmas/New Year 2009/10 is certainly one that our Program Manager (Wastewater/Recycled Water) David Halliwell won't forget in a hurry with the birth of his daughter Jasmine on Boxing Day morning. David thanks everyone for kind wishes during this time.

Jodieann

WQRA Welcomes ChemCentre

WQRA is delighted to welcome ChemCentre as a new research Member. ChemCentre is a WA company that provides analytical and scientific support to government, agencies and industry. ChemCentre's Member Representative is Peter McCafferty.

NHMRC Special Call – Health Challenges of Climate Change – closes 17th March

More than \$5M is available to research groups under this NHMRC Special Call. The 2010 round is the second time this funding has been offered. Workshops were held in January in Adelaide and Townsville to provide information to potential applicants.

Key elements of 2010 Special research call

- Opened 8th December and closes 17th March 2010 – late applications will not be accepted
- Full proposals are required by that date
- Funding can be for periods of 1-5 years
- Applications to be lodged with NHMRC via the Research Group Management System
- Submissions must address priority research questions in the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Plan

Applications will go through the normal NHMRC review process, however there will be special advisors available with expertise in Climate Change.

WQRA members with potential research in an area that is relevant to the effects of climate change on human health they should contact Michele Akeroyd to discuss the possibility of preparing a submission. (Michele.Akeroyd@wqra.com.au)

Health Stream issue 56

Health Stream # 56 was sent out the week before Christmas, and features articles about an endemic waterborne disease study from the US, the report on a *Salmonella* outbreak in Colorado in 2008, a case of industrial exposure to *Legionella* in the UK and summaries on articles from the literature on a variety of topics.

Health Stream is available free of charge. It is aimed at providing regular updates on relevant and topical subjects for people in the water industry, public health professionals and others with an interest in water quality issues. Health Stream currently has a readership of more than 4,000.

WQRA workshop at Ozwater '10

WQRA is inviting a range of eminent leaders from the water industry, regulation, funding bodies and research to take part in a panel discussion at Ozwater '10 in Brisbane. The workshop is "Determining the Water Quality Research Agenda – Perspectives from the Australian Water Community" and is on Monday the 8th March at 1.15pm. We hope to see a full house and much lively discussion on this topic. Watch future issues of the newsletter for more details as they become available.

Research Programs Update

Wastewater/Recycled Water

A number of new projects are 'in the pipeline'. Late last year five projects were submitted to the Victorian Smart Water Fund, and we will hear about the status of these in the coming months. Several WQRA funded projects are in the contracting phase and should commence soon.

A number of projects are currently in their final stages and the results will be available in the first quarter of 2010. These include a literature review on virus particle removal from membranes, as well as the Stage 2 Cross Connections project.

Drinking Water Program

The recent key project activities in the Drinking Water Program include:

- A final Steering Committee meeting and workshop to review the training package that will support implementation of the 'Field Guide' to the community water planner [Project 1001 – 'Guidelines and Best Practice Documentation - Water Supply in Remote Indigenous Communities', Robyn Grey-Gardner, CAT]; and,
- The first meeting of the Steering Committee for Project 1023 - Public perception of source protection and its relationship to recreation and water treatment [Blair Nancarrow, Syme & Nancarrow Water] was held in Perth on 20 January.

Most research agreements, as well as funding and in-kind commitments, have been finalised for the Drinking Water projects and most approved projects are underway. It has taken a lot of effort from all parties in finalising and executing these agreements and WQRA would like to acknowledge all members for supporting this process. If members would like any details of projects please do not hesitate to contact Michele Akeroyd (Michele.Akeroyd@wqra.com.au).

Education Program News

Summer Scholarship reporting seminars

Spare a thought for our Summer Students – who have been beavering away on their projects across the Christmas break. In a few weeks they will be sharing their experiences and findings with us at the February Members Meeting in Sydney. The Meeting will be held at the Wesley Conference Centre in Pitt Street on 24 and 25 February 2010. WQRA's new Honours and PhD students will also be attending, following an orientation day on the 23rd. We encourage everyone who is interested to attend the student presentations and show their support for these budding water scientists.

Contributing to WQRA News

Water Quality Research Australia News is sent to people associated with member organisations and others who have an interest in WQRA and its activities. If you would like to be added to the mailing list or submit an item for the next newsletter, send an email to Angela.Gackle@wqra.com.au

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