

WaterTalk



Queensland Branch Newsletter

April 2011



President's Report

2010-11 Committee

Dr Kylie Catterall has resigned from the AWA Queensland Committee so she can devote more of her time to raising her new baby. Thanks for your support of AWA Kylie and congratulations. Alan Hoban from SEQ Healthy Waterways has accepted our invitation to fill the casual vacancy created. Alan had the next most votes at the Committee elections in May 2010. Welcome Alan.

Gala Dinner and Awards Night

This year we are running our Awards presentation at the Gala Dinner on 22 July. There has been extensive debate on this move. The awards presentation at the regional conference in 2010 was slick and supported by video of the nominations. The new format for the Awards will ensure the finalists will receive the recognition deserved in a concise format, allowing plenty of time for networking. The call for Queensland Awards nominations has just been released and further information is provided in this issue of WaterTalk. I ask all members to think of the great things we've done and the people worthy of awarding.

The Floods

The floods across much of Queensland in the summer of 2010/11 as well as the cyclones have served to remind us of the awesome power of nature and the danger of becoming complacent about the climate. We're a land of extremes and the global warming forecasts are for even greater extremes and more frequent. Our thoughts and condolences are with those badly affected by the recent events.

Our own AWA Office at South Brisbane was flooded (see separate story and photos). I'd like to personally thank Sharon for all her work in cleaning up the mess afterwards and in keeping operational until we move back in. Col Lewis and I gave her a bit of a hand but she was just about out on her feet at the end of the clean-up day. Thanks to Seqwater for providing a desk and support for Sharon during this time.

I went to the launch of Professor Garnaut's fourth paper on Climate Change titled Transforming Rural Land Use. Professor Garnaut stressed that weather events would become more extreme and more frequent. He spoke about carbon sequestration in land and the conversion of farm land from food to biofuels and carbon sequestration. Anna Bligh in welcoming Professor Garnaut said: "In Queensland we like to see things as opportunities not as problems".

The Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry will independently examine a range of issues including preparation and planning, the response, informing the community, managing essential services, forecasting, dam operations and land planning. No doubt infrastructure standards will come under scrutiny. AWA has made a submission to the inquiry

There has been a long build-up to the wet catchment conditions that amplified these flooding events.

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Our thoughts are with any members severely affected by the December/January floods across Queensland.

One of the questions we should ask now is whether it is acceptable in 2011 for our essential water and sewerage infrastructure to be disabled for significant periods of time. This is one of the issues AWA has submitted to the Queensland Floods Inquiry.

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President's Report (continued)

In October for three weeks my wife and I took our camper trailer and followed the Barwon and Darling rivers from Goondiwindi to Bourke and eventually Wentworth at the mouth of the Murray. Several times we had to move out of camping spots in cattle stations because rain showers threatened to make their dirt roads impassable. The river was in minor flood at Bourke and had good flows downstream except below Menindee Lakes that were still filling. Dirt roads around Menindee Lakes were closed because of the rain showers making the roads a bog. At Wentworth, the clear Murray water was still flowing back up the Darling to feed the irrigators upstream. The flood coming down the Darling was full of mud. The rivers through western NSW are so flat that floods take weeks and months to come downstream.

The contrast in October 2010 from the dry conditions a few years back when Steve Posselt dragged his kayak along the Darling River stream bed was just remarkable. The farmers' talk on the radio then was all about the Murray Darling Plan and the lack of weight given to farming economies and community social issues.

The La Nina build-up was still gaining strength when the Brisbane Lord Mayor said he wouldn't be holidaying far away over Christmas so he could be available if flooding occurred. Most people however had no idea that the probability of flooding had increased to such a degree. The Commission of Inquiry will no doubt look at the adequacy of early warning of impending flood events.

I can remember the 1974 floods in Brisbane when I was a young engineer in Brisbane City Council. The understanding of the Southern Oscillation Index and El Nino / La Nina cycles, the accuracy of weather radar and online rainfall data is hugely better than it was in 1974. I'm not sure the dissemination of warning information was any better though, even with the non-stop public communication systems now.

We can't pretend forecasting event occurrence or likely river flood levels is an exact science and it's easy to be wise with hindsight, but my view is we could have done a lot better and we need to learn the lessons for next time.

There will be more floods and one day we'll get one the height of the 1974 flood or 1893 or 1897. We need systems that are ready for that.

Garth Bellingham, Queensland Branch President AWA



AWA Qld Office Floods

The devastating floods in the Brisbane River 13-14 January 2011 inundated the AWA Qld Branch office. But the time and effort contributed by the branch staff and members following the event was truly amazing and meant the branch was up and operating again in no time at all.

The AWA Qld Branch Committee would like to thank members for offers of help and support during the flood event. In particular special thanks go to Sharon Ible, Garth Bellingham and Colin Lewis for helping with the clean-up. The QLD Branch office was closed for a short period but is now back in full swing.



Above: muddy floors [Ed: don't you love the way that AWA is an anagram?]



Above: Montague Street

Left: Throwing out the rubbish – a familiar sight across Queensland in January!

Taking Sewers Seriously – SPN6

By E A (Bob) Swinton

This IWA International conference, Sewer Processes and Networks, 6 (SPN6), was hosted by the Advanced Water Management Centre (AWMC) at the University of Queensland and attracted some 150 delegates from Australia and overseas. For the social occasion the overseas delegates (as well as the locals) were thrilled by an exciting dinner at Sea World watching the dolphins perform – with two of the overseas keynote speakers invited into the water to stroke them.

The Conference was held at the Holiday Inn, Surfers Paradise from 7–10 November 2010. Major sponsors were DHI Water and Environment, Sydney Water and Allconnex Water.

The technical content was top-rate. Eighty-five international submissions were reduced to 48, with 13 posters. Contributions from Austria, Canada, China, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Korea, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, UAE, the UK and the US backed up the local papers.

Inflow, Infiltration and Exfiltration

After a welcome by **Professor Zhiguo Yuan**, Chairman of the conference organising committees, with grateful acknowledgement of the sponsors, the lead keynote address came from **Professor Bryan Ellis** of Middlesex University, UK, on the topic of inflow, infiltration and exfiltration. Despite the hopes and stipulations of regulators, there is no doubt that underground sewers will never be completely watertight. As we all know, age, cracks, joints, root intrusion and earth movement all combine to present us with a leaky system, usually (even our Australian separate sewers) yielding Peak Wet Weather flows in excess of three times the normal rate to treatment plants. In the more serious cases, ‘pumping’ in and out of breaks leads to void formation in the surrounding soil and eventual collapse, often with disastrous consequences. In the UK, some 5000 collapses occur every year, with a bill of some £8.5 billion over five years.

Data from both the CSIRO and France shows that 50–70% of problems stem from household connections, but mandatory inspection and repair seem to be politically and economically impossible.

Infiltration from trenches below the water table can be estimated only with difficulty, since its hydrograph extends long after the rain event. Investigations are in progress in the EU to estimate leakage by using the consequent dilution of COD (corrected for the normal diurnal variation) as a tool, using submersible spectrophotometer probes.

And the EU-funded APUSS project is using hydrogen and oxygen isotopes where there is a difference between the water supply and the local groundwater.

Nonetheless, there are varied views on the cost benefits of rehabilitation of suspected lengths, since the problem may be merely exported downstream.

Exfiltration is not so much of a problem, even though it can lead to local pollution. It has been tested in a full-scale rig at Dundee University in Scotland. They found that leakage from a simulated crack into the backfill gravel practically stopped after a few hours due to self-sealing by sediment, paper fibre and biofilm, though this could be washed away by flow surges and certainly by jetting.

His full paper quotes ranges of infiltration and exfiltration from various global sources and a useful list of references.

Corrosion and Odour Management

The second keynote was presented by **Professor Zhiguo Yuan**, Deputy Director of the Advanced Water Management Centre at the University of Queensland, who reviewed recent advances in research and development on corrosion and odour management. A literature review of advances in Europe, the US and Australia has led to the identification of knowledge gaps and the focus for further research projects that encompass microbiology, physical chemistry, biotechnology, materials science and mathematical modelling, with a strong emphasis on collaboration with industry.

These can be separated into the three zones of activity in a sewer:

- corrosion in the headspace above the wastewater, biofilm reactions on the sewer surface and protection against corrosion of concrete and mortars
- liquid phase reactions, modelling of sulfide production and control of H₂S by chemical agents
- management of the gaseous phase and odours.

The AWMC has concentrated on the liquid phase, starting with techniques for on-line measurement of the sulfide ion in the sewer environment. Samples for calibration must either be analysed immediately at an on-site laboratory or preserved by the addition of an anti-oxidant buffer. This data has led to advanced dynamic modelling of H₂S production, updating the empirical equations developed 50 years ago by Pomeroy and improved by Thistlethwayte.

Such modelling has facilitated the optimising of various systems of chemical dosing; for example, the optimum location of oxygen dosing, which should not necessarily be done at the start of a rising main as it could be fully consumed before the end of the rising main, allowing sulfide to re-form. In the light of climate change impacts we must now consider methanogenesis within the sewer, and it has been found that the addition of some chemicals for odour control will also control methane production, such as nitrite, which has a useful biocidal effect.

Such work has already identified many gaps in our knowledge and a five-year partnership with industry has commenced in the form of an Australian Research Council Linkage Project known as the Sewer Corrosion & Odour Research (SCORE) Project.

The need for reliable data on which to base action was highlighted by **Darren Hayman**, Manager of Service Delivery for Allconnex Water, water authority for the rapidly growing Gold Coast and southern Brisbane area. He is faced with corrosion problems accentuated by high temperatures and more concentrated sewage, yet is constrained by the Regulator's Price Framework, which is based on old experience. Prudent asset management requires expenditure which must overcome public ignorance by injecting scientific justification into the regulatory and business environment.

This was also emphasised by **Rod Kerr**, Asset Manager for Sydney Water, whose current spend on sewer maintenance is over \$200 million pa. Sydney Water requires a world-class understanding of sewer processes and networks, and he outlined progress in understanding the causes of sewer problems and synergising solutions to reduce costs. Both authorities are collaborating with other major water utilities throughout Australia on the SCORE Project. Research partners on the SCORE Project include the universities of Queensland, New South Wales, Newcastle, Sydney and Curtin.

Other papers

The team at the University of Queensland provided nine papers, outlining their results to date and future activities, focussed on corrosion and liquid phase odour control. The team at the University of New South Wales focussed on management of odour in the gas phase. They were a major contributor to the AWA Odour Management Conference in August 2010, reported in the November issue of Water.

A number of papers from Spain, France, China and Luxembourg, as well as Australia, further dealt with the use of modelling to assist hydraulic control of sewerage systems.

These and other papers are published in the conference CD, available from spn6.net@gmail.com at a cost of \$132.



Above: Dinner with the dolphins ... the vista at the SPN6 conference dinner (Seaworld Nara Resort)

2010 Riversymposium Summary

By Greg Stuart- DHI

The Setting

2010 was an important year for the *Riversymposium*. It marked the first time in the 13 year history of the conference that it has been held outside of Brisbane. The beautiful coastal city of Perth was the host this year. This change in location highlights the increasing emphasis on reaching a wider audience.

Whilst the *Riversymposium* and the associated *International Riverprize* have always had an international focus, this shift in location to Perth encouraged a new group of Australian researchers, managers and policy makers to showcase the work occurring or needing to occur in Western Australia.

The Stats

618 delegates from 26 countries spend 3.5 days at the conference

- 5 plenary sessions
- 48 concurrent sessions
- 4 workshops
- 5 keynote speakers
- 3 international case studies
- 2 study tours
- 18 exhibitors
- 35 hard copy posters
- 21 electronic posters

The Highlights

One of the real highlights during this year's *Riversymposium* was the guest speaker at the conference dinner. Celebrated author Tim Winton gave a heartfelt speech about his connection to the Swan River and the need to bring some life back to the river.

The examples of fantastic river management and restoration works provided by the *Riverprize* finalists were also inspiring.

The level of support from sponsors and exhibitors shows a string commitment by the industry to the *Riversymposium* and its environmental messages. A positive development was the attendance of AWA as an exhibitor. There was a high level of interest from delegates at the AWA booth and a closer collaboration between the practitioners in river management and the water industry peak body will benefit us all.

Summary

The *Riversymposium* has been an important component of the improvements that have been made to the health of the waterways in south east Queensland. Congratulations to the organisers for spreading this powerful tool more widely within in Australia. Perhaps we will see a more mobile conference in the future that can shine a light on regional issues that have important lessons to teach us all on a national and international scale.



AWMC Showcase

The University of Queensland's Advanced Water Management Centre (AWMC) showed invitees its extensive research programs and projects at the AWMC Annual Showcase & Networking Event on 20 October 2010 at Customs House.



WaterTalk co-editor Anna West (left) caught up with Dr Shelley Brown (right) – immediate past WaterTalk editor – at her booth

eWaterCRC – Thinking H₂O

H2OThinking is the newsletter from the eWaterCRC. Articles from a recent issue include how the Bureau of Meteorology is working to expand streamflow forecasting and flood warning services to generate continuous short term and seasonal forecasts, plus how improvements in the water quality of flows into the Great Barrier Reef are being assessed by better monitoring and whole-of catchment modelling systems. For the latest issues, see the ewaterCRC website at: www.ewatercrc.com.au



Source: eWaterCRC Jo Webb

Tsunami Update from Sendai

Two or three years ago AWA hosted a visiting sewerage engineer from Japan – Tetsuya Mizutani. He was particularly interested in asset management. It happens he was from Sendai City. Happily we have received a response email from him recently and he and his family are safe. He says his STP is wrecked though and its function has completely “stopped”. Some photos below that we figure Tetsuya had taken during the tragedy.

When Tetsuya was in Brisbane for his study tour he visited the Noosa and Maroochy STPs and was hosted by Jeff Steel and Ron Walpole respectively. Brisbane Water (at the time) assisted with the tour and so did Chris Adam. It was also the lead-up to Xmas and some AWA people might recall Tetsuya came along to AWA's Xmas drinks at the Caxton that year. We understand Tetsuya subsequently progressed asset management work with Brisbane City and he has revisited Brisbane at least once.



As the tsunami hits 11 March 2011



Scenes of chaos

Thanks to Terry Loos for this update

QWater'10 conference

AWA Qld branch offers thanks to our sponsors and organisers of the highly successful QWater'10 regional conference held 26–27 November 2010. This was AWA's second conference visit to the spectacular venue which was Peppers and Mantra resorts at Salt Beach Kingscliff.

The generous sponsors were:

- Tweed Shire Council
- Tyco Water
- Hunter Water Australia
- ITT Water & Wastewater
- GHD
- KBR
- Beca
- Conneq Infrastructure Services
- Allconnex Water
- Unitywater

The QWater'10 conference theme was *Water – The Ongoing Challenge*. The winning paper by Unitywater's Michael Thomas on the difficulty in determining the 'real' loading on a wastewater treatment plant certainly addressed that theme. Michael has won this award two years in a row!

Congratulations to the prize winners for best dressed movie stars at the Friday night dinner and also to the winner of the Trade Exhibition prize and Early-bird Registration prize.

One of the conference highlights was an appearance by Dame Edna and Austin Powers at the Saturday night conference dinner. All photos from the conference dinner can be found here: <http://www.breezedesigns.com.au/2010/11/qwater-awards-2010-peppers-resort-kingscliff-salt/>



Marty Hancock from Tweed Shire Council points out the membranes at the Bray Park WTP during the technical tour



Bray Park raw water strainers



Conference banner



Garth congratulating Sharon Ible



Special guests at the conference dinner



Thanks to Sharon and the AWA Qld branch QWater'10 organising committee for staging such a great conference!

YWP 2010 reminiscing ...

YWP Social Lawn Bowls Day

By Eric Cheung – WorleyParsons

The AWA Queensland Young Water Professionals took time out of their busy Saturday morning to enjoy some social lawn bowls on 8 May last year at the New Farm Bowls Club. The day brought glorious weather and although most participants weren't lawn bowls experts, there was still a solid turnout of fellow young water professionals from various organisations.



YWPs show off their skills

The session started with a short briefing from one of the lawn bowls staff and teams were formed swiftly to do battle on the green. Although individuals tried their best to be competitive, there was plenty of laughter and banter going on between the teams.

Great food and drinks during match breaks complemented the day and ensured everyone enjoyed themselves whilst playing a sport most weren't familiar with. The day proved successful not just for learning to play lawn bowls, but also was for everyone to enjoy good company and meet fellow professionals in the water industry.

On behalf of the committee, we would like to thank Abigroup for sponsoring the event and the New Farm Bowls Club for the lawn bowls tutorial on the day.



Bowls team photo

YWP CSG Seminar – Bursting at the Seams

By Amelia Jewell – Beca



On 8 June the Queensland YWP hosted a highly successful seminar: Coal Seam Gas Associated Water Management.

The Greek Club venue in Brisbane was abuzz with over 220 water professionals keen to network and learn more about this exciting new industry and how the water sector can and will be involved.

The YWPs were excited to focus on this industry, as it is one that provides the opportunity for young water professionals to grow and evolve their skills in parallel with the growth and improved knowledge of the rest of the industry.

The workshop included six separate speakers, and was structured to provide a well balanced overview of Coal Seam Gas (CSG) associated water management.

Mal Helmuth (DEEDI) opened the evening with an overview of Queensland's CSG industry and the critical role it is expected to play in Australia's water industry.

Dr Ian Wilson (DERM) followed with an overview of the current regulatory and approval process surrounding CSG projects and associated water.

Joan Meecham (DERM) admirably overcame a technical glitch to give an overview of DERM's Healthy HeadWaters Coal Seam Gas Water Feasibility Study.

Rebecca Pickering (Origin Energy/APLNG) provided an industry flavour, discussing Origin Energy/APLNG's CSG associated water management strategy.

Ian Fergus (CH2M Hill) offered a technical perspective, looking at the potential processes required to achieve sustainable CSG associated water management.

Glen Dale (Tree Crop Technologies) provided an inspiring end to the evening, discussing the use of treated CSG associated water for irrigating plantation timber, and the added benefit of carbon sequestration.

Young Water Professionals extend many warm thanks to the event sponsors (Tyco Flow Control, Origin Energy and Tree Crop Technologies) who helped make this evening the huge success that it was.

The subsequent Q&A session revealed the audience's enthusiasm for learning more, particularly with regard to the scope of the proposed projects, and the short-term and long-term environmental management measures in place and under development.

Awards Corner



AWA Queensland Awards 2010

By Anna Hollingsworth

The AWA Queensland Awards were launched in 2009 to develop and promote outstanding achievement within the water sector within Queensland. The 2010 awards were presented at the QWater'10 Regional Conference Dinner at Peppers resort, Salt beach, Kingscliff, on Saturday 27 November. Congratulations to all the winners and finalists who have made significant contributions to the Queensland water industry. We also thank Technology One for generously sponsoring the awards.

Young Water Professional of the Year Award

Winner: Matthew Brannock



Distinguished Service Award

Winner: Colin Lewis



Program Innovation Award

Winner: SEQ Healthy Waterways Partnership (Water By Design Capacity Building Program)



Infrastructure Project Innovation Award

Winner: AECOM (on behalf of the Toowoomba Pipeline Project, including LinkWater, Clough and WDS)



We would especially like to congratulate **Anna West**, co-editor of the AWA QLD Water Talk Magazine, who was awarded **Water Industry Woman of the Year**.



Information including the finalists' names are also provided on the AWA 2010 awards webpage:

http://www.awa.asn.au/QLD_Branch_Awards.aspx



All award recipients pictured above with Garth Bellingham AWA QLD President and Sean Tuckett of Technology One (sponsor)

Awards Corner

WetSide wins three in a row

Adapted from press release 11/10/10

Congratulations to Wide Bay Water for a wave of awards for their WetSide Water Education Park putting the region in the spotlight at two prestigious events in Brisbane on 8 October 2010.

At the Engineering Australia Awards, held at the Brisbane Convention Centre, WetSide won the category for Project Infrastructure Under \$20million as well as the overall Sustainability Award.

Wide Bay Water Corporation entered the awards with project partners Cardno and PBS Property Group who were integral to the delivery of the project last year.

WBWC Chair Leith Bouly, who was at the event, said the caliber of the entries and the reputation of the competition showed the significance of the wins. "Engineering Australia runs highly credible and independent awards that carry tremendous industry respect. WetSide was up against projects across Queensland including large-scale government work and those with significant backing from the commercial sector. To win its own category as well as the Sustainability Award, which was one of only three overall awards, It was really a huge achievement."

On top of this, WetSide also got a gong at the IPWEAQ (Institute of Public Works Engineering Association Queensland) Excellence Awards for Projects Above \$10million in the category of Water, Wastewater, Sewerage and Drought Management.

Fraser Coast Regional Council Mayor Mick Kruger said the recognition was further proof that the region had a powerful asset in WetSide. "These awards put the Fraser Coast into the spotlight for every person at those ceremonies. They'll want to come and see WetSide for themselves and when they come many will bring their families and that has positive flow-on effects for all of us. Word is spreading about WetSide and these trophies show just how proud we can be of this unique facility. Education, entertainment, onsite recycling of urban run-off – there simply isn't something like this elsewhere in Australia. Council and Wide Bay Water can be very proud of these awards along with the people from Cardno and PBS and all the many local contractors who put in a huge effort to make this park a success for our region."

AWA Queensland Awards 2011

By Sharon Ible

Each year the Australian Water Association celebrates and recognises individuals and organisations that have made a significant contribution towards the water industry. This year the QLD Awards presentation will be held in conjunction with the Annual Gala Dinner in July 2011. This is the premium event on our calendar, with over 500 attendees expected. The QLD Awards program includes four categories with ten awards, some of which the winners will be automatically nominated for a corresponding national award*.

Member Service Awards

- Distinguished Service Award
- Regional Service Award

Water Sector Awards – Individuals

- Water Research Merit Award
- Water Professional of the Year*
- Water Industry Woman of the Year*
- Young Water Professional of the Year*
- Qld Leon Henry Operator of the Year

Water Sector Awards – Organisation

- Program Innovation Award*
- Infrastructure Project Innovation Award*

Student Awards

- Undergraduate Water Prize*

Important dates:

- ENTRIES OPEN: 1 April, 2011
- ENTRIES CLOSE: 27 May 2011

(Exception: Operator of the Year Award, which closes 29 April; presented at the WIOA Workshop Dinner 1 June 2011)

- SUBMISSION JUDGING: June 2011
- QLD GALA DINNER & AWARDS NIGHT: 22 July 2011
- NATIONAL PRESENTATION: 9 May 2012

IWA Young Water Professional Award

The International Water Association (IWA) award recognises professionals under the age of 35, who are either water sector practitioners or from research/ academia and have had both outstanding career achievement to date and the potential to play a large and influential role in the water industry in the future. Through the two years that the winner holds the award, the award holder becomes an ambassador of IWA and the IWA Young Water Professional Program.

The current IWA Young Water Professional is Dr Rita Henderson, announced at the 2010 IWA World Congress in Montreal. Rita has already made significant contributions to the international water industry through her leading research as an academic at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) Water Research Centre, active participation in public engagement and education in science and through development and promotion of the AWA and IWA YWP program.

A summary of Rita's achievements and contributions to the water industry can be found at the below link.
Congratulations Rita!

http://www.iwahq.org/Home/Networks/Young_Water_Professionals/Young_Water_Professionals_Award/

IPAA Queensland Public Sector Excellence Awards 2010

Congratulations to Anna Hollingsworth, also co-editor of WaterTalk, for being awarded Finalist for Young Leader Award at the 2010 IPAA Public Sector Excellence Awards held September 2010.
Congratulations Anna!

For more information please refer to the IPAA website:
<http://www.qld.ipaa.org.au/2010-Winners-Finalists.aspx>



Anna Hollingsworth, finalist of the IPAA Young Leader Award

The National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) 2010 Crystal Vision Awards

The National Association of Women in Construction (NAMIC) is a not for profit organisation with a mission to promote and improve the construction industry by the advancement of women within it.

Each year, NAWIC hosts the Queensland Crystal Vision Awards to acknowledge women who work in the Queensland construction industry. The NAWIC awards acknowledge those who are succeeding in the industry and aim to encourage more Queensland women to consider a career in construction. We would like to congratulate AWA member Margit Connellan from Bovis Lend Lease who was awarded the John Holland Award for Achievement as a Business Woman (Large Business) at the 2010 NAWIC awards. Margit is the Business Development Manager – Infrastructure at Bovis Lend Lease.

An overview of Margit's achievements can be found on the NAWIC website:

<http://www.nawic.com.au/index.cfm?MenuID=135>



Margit at the NAWIC Crystal Vision Awards night



Awards now open to honour champions of waterway health



By Anna Walker
Healthy Waterways Communications Officer

The devastating floods in Queensland, combined with extensive urban development and a growing population, have significantly impacted waterway health in South East Queensland.

The annual Healthy Waterways Awards, which are now open for entries, recognise and reward the hard work that individuals, community groups and organisations undertake to protect and restore the health of our precious waterways. The 2011 Awards are open to projects that produced results from January to December 2010.

There are nine award categories open for entry:

- eWater – Water Sensitive Urban Design Award
- WaterSecure – Research Award
- BMT WBM – Government Award
- Seqwater – Rural Award
- Humes – Industry Award
- Brisbane Airport – Community Award
- SEQ Water Grid – Clean Up Award
- Veolia Water Australia – Education Award
- Queensland Urban Utilities – Waterways Champion Award.



Entry into the Awards is easy – simply download the [Entry Form](#) from the Healthy Waterways website. Complete and submit the form with supporting documents by **5pm Wednesday 27 April 2011**.

The Awards are proudly hosted by Healthy Waterways, a non-for-profit organisation working collaboratively with government, industry, researchers and the community to protect and improve waterway health in South East Queensland.



Winner of the 2010 Waterways Champion Award, Anne Clarke

Flood Newsletters Released

Healthy Waterways has released a series of newsletters called *The South East Queensland Flood 2011*. So far, two newsletters have been produced. The first newsletter provides an overview of the flood event and the impact of the flood on our waterways. The second newsletter details the effect of the flood on our rural catchments.

Introducing ... Ted Aston

By Rod Lehmann

Ted Aston is the Principal Design Engineer, Treatment Planning and Engineering at Queensland Urban Utilities. In this role he provides technical guidance, project team leadership and support to the Treatment Planning and Engineering team. Ted is the incumbent to this role when QUU took over the responsibility for water distribution and wastewater collection and treatment for Brisbane City, Ipswich City, Scenic Rim, Lockyer Valley and Somerset Regional Councils. He is currently working on wastewater treatment projects in the Brisbane, Lockyer Valley and Somerset regions. He noted that his most enjoyable job is his current job. Prior to QUU, Ted had spent the previous 30 plus years working in various sections of BCC Brisbane Water. He graduated as a civil engineer from the University of Queensland and had a brief stint with Pioneer Concrete prior to joining BCC.

Ted was born in northern NSW and his parents moved to Brisbane early in his life. He was brought up in the Norman Park/ Morningside area and went to the Coorparoo State High School. He is married to the former Office Manager for the Australian Water Association, Debbie, and they have three daughters.



Ted hard at work for QUU

Ted and Debbie really enjoy scuba diving and when time is available like to visit areas where they can dive and enjoy the beauty of the ocean. They frequently dive in various parts of Eastern Australia and recently have dived in Micronesia. Ted says that he enjoys the diving part, whilst Debbie enjoys underwater photography.

This issue of Watertalk features two interviews by Rod Lehmann with “people in water”. This is similar to the “dropping in” tradition. He hopes to find out a little more about some of our AWA Qld members. More on Rod next page ...

He says he is mainly working to go diving and buy new cameras and equipment for Debbie. Ted was a “dormant” black belt in Aikido. He wishes he had more time to keep up the physical training necessary for this art. Ted likes to keep a low profile but he is always there when needed.



Ted diving alongside an eagle ray



Ted looks totally comfortable next to a grey nurse shark

Thanks to Ted’s wife, Debbie, for these amazing underwater shots!

Introducing ... Anna West

By Rod Lehmann

Anna West is the Resource Group Leader for the Queensland Water Engineering team at Kellogg Brown & Root Pty Ltd (KBR). She has also recently been appointed as Business Development Manager – a position which she will hold in conjunction with the Resource Group Leader Role. Anna joined KBR in 1998 following graduation with first class honours from the University of Queensland. She has been with KBR ever since and always in the Water Engineering Group.



One of her most enjoyable projects was the Southern Regional Water Pipeline Alliance for the Northern Pipeline Interconnector (NPI) – Stage 1 and follow-on associated projects including the Northern Network Alliance (NNA) for NPI – Stage 2. She was Technical Leader for most of the NPI and then recently moved into the role of Technical Mentor for NNA. What made these projects most enjoyable for Anna was the opportunity to develop the scope and to seek out innovative ideas to maximise project value. For all the pipeline projects she enjoyed the opportunity to work in a team environment.

She was also pleased to see the tangible benefits the water grid brought to SEQ during our recent floods.

Outside of work Anna enjoys exercising regularly and notes her enthusiasm for “boot camps”, pilates and social tennis. The “boot camps” involve a weekly round of gruelling exercises with verbal lashings to ensure a high level of performance. Anna says that this stands her in good stead for the rigours of working in a commercial world.

She also enjoys gardening in her spare time and the wet weather has provided a welcome boost to it. She admits that she still drives the same car that she purchased just after graduation and is looking forward to driving around the “Top Gear” circuit in the UK if an opportunity arises. In regard to life in general she says she enjoys what she is doing.



Our Interviewer Rod Lehmann

Rod has been an active member of AWA for many years. He has recently offered to help in the production of “Watertalk” by writing articles about “People in Water”.

He is proposing to write about people who make a difference and to reveal a little about the person behind the face we normally see at our meetings. Having worked with a number of major consultants during his career, Rod decided to set up his own company “Water Strategies” about three years ago. Water Strategies provides consulting services for water, wastewater and water recycling infrastructure planning to Local, State and the Federal Government.



Introducing Unitywater Greek Club

18 August 2010

Speakers Jon Black and Mike Lukin from Unitywater gave attendees a summary of the Unitywater business structure and tasks ahead, for this new distributor retailer (DR). This presentation was one of three covered in this issue of WaterTalk following in the series of introducing the DRs to AWA members.

Jon kept the audience guessing regarding the special significance of the venue for the meeting but we eventually realised it was in honour of one of his closest team members. He introduced his board and management team and explained the challenging and contrasting environment of today when dams are full and banks are empty compared to 2008 when the dams were empty and the banks were full!



Jon Black, CEO Unitywater, at the lecturn

Mike ran through the Unitywater capital planning process, including commencement at the population projections stage through to final adoption of an item within the capex program.



Presenters Mike Lukin (left) and Jon Black (right)

Urban Water Management Trends in Queensland

Emerging Economic Regulation Framework Greek Club

13 October 2010

Two presentations were given on this night, one by Greg Oliver - General Manager, Urban Water, DERM and the other by Euan Morton - Principal, Synergies Economic Consulting.

Greg presented on strategic issues facing urban water management in Queensland ranging from high level policy to tactical implementation issues. He also touched on issues facing those urban water suppliers outside the SEQ corner.

Key challenges across the 160 water service providers in Queensland include aged infrastructure, insufficient revenue and access to workforce skills.



Greg Oliver, DERM

Euan presented a perspective on trends and directions in the emerging economic regulation of the water industry in SEQ, explaining the regulator's approach to water pricing and highlighting key implications for water businesses arising from the application of economic regulation.

He reminded us that water is cheap and heavily used. The rise in the petrol price showed us people did respond and have bought smaller and more efficient cars.

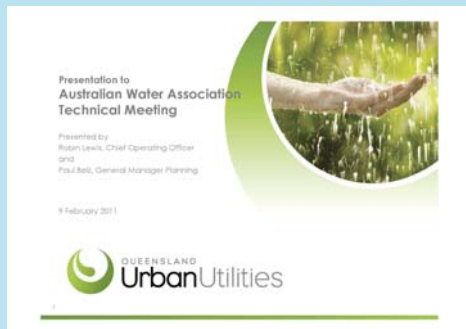


Euan Morton with MC Lee Foster

Technical Meetings

Introducing QUU Greek Club 9 February 2011

Robin Lewis (Chief Operating Officer) and Paul Belz (General Manager Planning) presented the February technical meeting to a large gathering of AWA members.



The slides from the presentation are available on the AWA website.

Robin described the QUU organisational structure and explained QUU's focus on safety in procedures and in training. One of the overall goals is for growth not to be restricted the QUU infrastructure. Paul touched on the water Netserv planning process.

Attendees were interested to hear of some of QUU's flood response works. Robin gave an outline of the key infrastructure impacts with the dreadful start being loss of the Helidon booster pumps and washout of a 225 dia main on a bridge. In the hours and days ahead proactive behaviour was needed to think ahead regarding what infrastructure will be impacted next and ordering tanker vehicles for example in advance of the inevitable. Robin noted that there will certainly be a change in economic development in the region in response to the flood.

It was pleasing to hear that the DRs and grid entities had been helping each other out during the floods be it through sharing of equipment, ideas or experienced personnel/resources.



Robin Lewis

Paul Belz

Colin Lewis as MC for the evening

Regulating the Supply of Recycled Water Getting the Balance Right Greek Club 16 March 2011

Ian McNab – Project Manager Water Supply Regulation Improvement, Urban Water Policy & Management, Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) presented to the March technical meeting. His colleague Jim Fewings, Director, Healthy Waters Policy, DERM also spoke, as did Glen Daiger, from the International Water Association (IWA) and CH2MHill.



Ian McNab, DERM

Ian spoke on how the supply of recycled water is regulated and provided a description of the government policies aimed at encouraging the use of recycled water and regulatory provisions to manage risks to public health.



Jim Fewings, DERM

Jim reminded us that the policies were largely directed at ensuring the environmental values (EVs) are protected that are defined in legislation.



Glen Daiger, IWA, CH2MHill



The panel fields questions with Chris Pipe-Martin, MC

A Flood of Information

Virginia van der Meer, Stakeholder Engagement Specialist at KBR, shares her thoughts on communication during the Queensland flood crisis.

Now that the waters have receded, the wind has stopped and the tarpaulins are slowly being packed away, it's time to take stock and see how we can move forward after the disasters of Queensland's summer.

I must preface this by saying that I have the utmost sympathy for those who were affected and in no way do I intend to make light of the almost unbelievable events that unfolded. I simply want to share what I learned from the perspective of a professional communicator in the face of a very real crisis and offer some food for thought to improve our practices in the future. This is not an analysis of crisis preparation or management, simply observations on how important effective communication is during a crisis.

For days on end we were glued to our televisions, radios, computers and smart phones. Wherever we turned, we had access to information. Every two hours, we tuned in to hear the captain, Anna Bligh, and her co pilot Ian Stewart, the Deputy Police Commissioner, talk us through the emergency landing. For the most part, I knew what I needed to do, where I needed to be and who needed help.

Communication in Queensland really came of age this summer. We witnessed first hand, in the face of crises, just what honest and transparent communication was all about. Our leaders, our government departments and authorities gave it to us straight – no sugar coating, no gloss, no smoke and mirrors – and we lapped it up.

As professional communicators we plan for crises, rarely on this scale, but in all that we do we aim to mitigate risks and have a back up plan for that worst case scenario. In my opinion, the communication during our flood crisis was almost flawless. Our agencies were coordinated and proactive. Our leaders were articulate, robust and unshakable. Our authorities were in control. Reporters were looking for the untold stories but they were trumped almost every time.

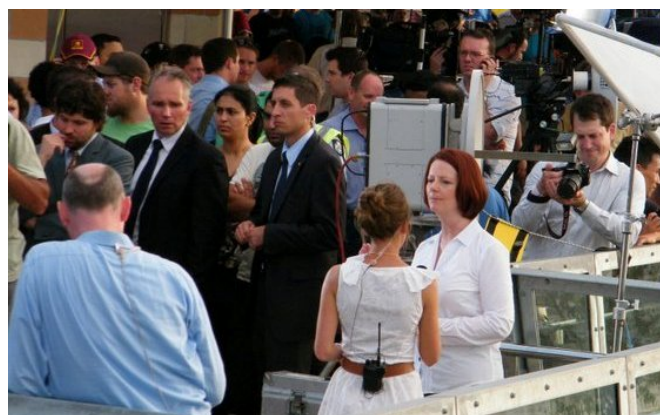
Out on the front line were thousands of 'citizen journalists' armed with their iPhone. Blackberry or android phone, broadcasting instantaneously to the world. Facebook or Twitter told me what our favourite morning television hosts relayed hours later. Status updates, Tweets and video footage from friends and strangers gave us real time information. The Queensland Police's Facebook and Twitter updates became one of the most credible sources of information – rumours were quashed before they got out of hand.

For so long, many of our authorities have been somewhat reluctant to launch into the seemingly boundary-less and uncontrollable world of social media. The thought of using social media might understandably leave them feeling somewhat exposed and vulnerable with very little control of what is out there for the entire world to see. But now there's no turning back. We've come to expect to be able to access information in any way that we choose. A simple public notice in the local free sheet simply won't cut it any more. The Queensland floods have shown us the power of social media and I suggest they have an increasing place in our communication plans, especially in our crisis and contingency planning, along side our tried and tested means of communication.

The summer of 10/11 has reaffirmed these three things for me:

1. A good communicator is just as important as a good communication plan. Some leaders were praised for their sincerity, commitment and honesty, while others were criticised for lacking these qualities.
2. Put your stakeholders first. A company's reputation in a crisis situation can be 'saved' by the way it looks after its stakeholders.
3. Be honest and proactive. Managing people's expectations effectively will reduce the risk of 'surprises' and mitigate potential future fall out.

The time has come for all of us to assess whether our companies, agencies and organisations can respond to a crisis with equal robustness.



Julia Gillard being interviewed at Kangaroo Point Cliffs during Brisbane's flood crisis

The views and recommendations expressed by the author are not necessarily those of her employer, Kellogg Brown & Root Pty Ltd

2011 Asia Pacific Water and Sewer Systems Modelling Conference

Gold Coast, 30–31 March 2011

The 4th annual Asia Pacific Water and Sewer Systems Modelling Conference was held at the Gold Coast on 30–31 March, 2011.

Widely considered to be the most comprehensive and significant infrastructure modelling, design and management technology event of its kind, the conference provided a once-a-year learning opportunity that featured twenty-eight state-of-the-art, real-world presentations, personally presented by leaders in water infrastructure modelling and management from across Asia, Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand.

Key topics included:

- Developing strategic plans for water supply networks
- High level demand strategies to defer capital investments
- Using hydraulic models to understand your sewer network
- Increasing water network levels of service for our communities
- Protecting investments through improved asset management]
- Opportunities and challenges facing water utilities
- Sewer containment standards - how much spare capacity is enough?
- Integrated catchment modelling
- Improving drinking water quality through reservoir operational optimisation
- Advanced sewer modelling
- Operational modelling for the water supply control room
- Optimised prioritisation of capital expenditure

The ultimate goal of the conference was to help attendees learn how to better design, operate and manage their systems, protect the environment, and safeguard public health. Although designed to be highly educational – and earn valuable CPD hours – for water and wastewater utility managers, planning engineers, hydraulic modellers, asset management specialists, engineering consultants and other engineering professionals involved in the water and wastewater industries, the conference was also planned to be a fun event.



Networking drinks



Strike bowling

This year's event was organised by MWH Soft (now Innovyze), and was sponsored by Global Water Partnership Southeast Asia, SEAWUN, Singapore International Water Week, Water Malaysia 2011, PWWA, Manila Water, Taipei Water Department, IWM, Queensland Urban Utilities, Melbourne Water, WaterCare, Wide Bay Water, Southern Water, Tweed Shire Council, Tauranga City, Byron Shire Council, Marlborough District Council, Riverina Water and GWM Water.

Visit the website at <http://www.asiapacificwater.com>

ozwater'11

09 - 11 may 2011 • adelaide

Australia's National Water Conference and Exhibition

'Water for Health: Towards Sustainable Practices'

On behalf of the Australian Water Association (AWA), we invite you and your organisation to be part of Australia's most important annual event for the water industry to be held at the [Adelaide Convention Centre](#), South Australia from **9 to 11 May 2011**.

Ozwater is an event like no other, organised by the industry for the industry where the issues that drive the industry are discussed and future directions decided. Ozwater '11 will address the wide ranging issues that face the water industry today. These include major national water reforms, climate change and its impacts, technological advances and the challenges of human resources to name a few.

The Ozwater '11 Conference will feature inspirational international and national keynote speakers, numerous invited speakers, scientific and technical papers, case studies, workshops and electronic poster sessions.

Ozwater'11 Program Outline

Sunday 8 May 2011

Pre-conference activities and registration

Monday 9 May 2011

Opening Ceremony followed by concurrent sessions

Exhibition opens

Tuesday 10 May 2011

Keynote presentations followed by concurrent sessions

Ozwater'11 Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony

Wednesday 11 May 2011

Keynote presentations followed by concurrent sessions

Conference and Exhibition Close

Thursday 12 May 2011

Offsite Technical Tours

Upcoming Events

| April | | |
|--------------|----|--|
| Wednesday | 13 | QLD YWP Workshop – Hydrology and Groundwater Replenishment, Brisbane |
| Thursday | 14 | QLD Asset Management Technical Meeting, Brisbane |

| May | | |
|--------------------|------|---|
| Monday – Wednesday | 9–11 | Ozwater 2011, Adelaide |
| Wednesday | 18 | Monthly Technical Meeting – Healthy Waterways, Brisbane |

| June | | |
|----------------------|-----|----------------------------|
| Wednesday – Thursday | 1–2 | WIOA Conference, Toowoomba |

DATE CLAIMERS – provided for noting in your diary now. Further details will be provided as the dates draw closer.

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------|--|
| Friday | 22 July | Queensland Annual Gala Dinner and Awards Night, Brisbane |
| Monday – Wednesday | 11–13 July | Micropol and Ecohazard, Sydney |
| Monday – Wednesday | 1–3 August | Stablisation Ponds, Adelaide |
| Thursday – Friday | 8–9 September | NQ Regional Conference |

Please note that topics and speakers at Monthly Technical Meetings and National Specialist Network meetings may change due to unforeseen circumstances. If you have any questions regarding any upcoming events contact Sharon on 07 3846 1564 or Sible@awa.asn.au or check out the AWA website www.awa.asn.au

Submissions

To submit letters, articles, pictures, questions or answers to questions, please email to Anna West: anna.west@kbr.com or Anna Hollingsworth: anna.hollingsworth@allconnex.com.au or Sharon Ible Sible@awa.asn.au. Files may be edited to fit the current format. If you would like to review the edited version prior to publishing, please advise in the initial email.

To enquire about sponsorship of *WaterTalk*, please contact Sharon Ible: Sible@awa.asn.au

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Submissions for the next issue are due by 30 June 2011.