



Thoughts from your Branch President

In his last official duty as Branch President after two years in the role, Noel Lavery presented a report on Branch Activities to over 80 people at the Annual Members' Meeting on Wednesday 7th September at the Hilton Hotel.

The pace of activity in the WA Branch has not slackened despite the two-speed economy and political change which have placed significant demands on our members and their employers. Two of the best indicators of Branch performance are Membership Numbers, which are now at 584 and Member Engagement, where more than 80% of our members have attended at least one event.

Events are the heart and soul of service delivery to WA members and our objectives were: to provide opportunities for industry experts to speak to members on a regular basis through a wide range of events; and increase sponsorship to fund a greater number and range of events.

Despite only running 15 events in the year we attracted 30% more people than in 2010 with close to 1200 registrations, an average of 80 per event. Our standout events were:

- the WA Water Industry Lunch with the Minister for Water Hon Dr Graham Jacobs which attracted 10% more guests than in the previous year;
- the half day seminar on water and uranium mining in November which attracted close to 100 delegates;
- the first Young Water Professionals Water Future Forum, and of course;
- the WA Water Awards which attracted over 60 entries and 350 guests at the dinner, compared to 150 in the year before.

Our technical events covered a wide range of topics relevant to different sectors of the water industry including: Risk Management; Innovation; Water Quality; Biosolids; Recycling and Carbon Pricing.

In recent months, there has been a great deal of planning and discussion on the balance needed between volunteer and paid resources to support the local activities of the Branch. These discussions have included developing a vision for a sustainable structure that will achieve continuity of service delivery to members and support to your Committee in the long-term.

Your outgoing committee had a great depth and diversity of skills, experience and background with 20 individuals from 17 different organizations across the public and private sector including utilities, consultants, regulators, manufacturers, suppliers, sole traders and the legal profession.

I would like to thank sincerely those Committee members who have worked hard for the Association over many years and in particular those who have not re-nominated: Peter Addison (Past President); Garth Walter (past Vice President) Bruce Franklin; Raj Kurup, Andrew McTaggart and Konrad Schmitz.

I would also like to acknowledge Cath Miller, our Branch Manager, for the fantastic energy and support she has provided during a busy but challenging year. On behalf of the Committee, I also thank corporate members and sponsors for their strong support over the year during difficult times.

I would also like to thank you, the individual members, for your ever-increasing participation and support of the Association activities. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve you as Branch President over the past two years and look forward to working with the new Committee and incoming President over the coming year to continuing the task of improving service to Members and building the WA Branch.

Noel Lavery
Immediate Past Branch President.



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Australian Water Association
Western Australian Branch

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Keeping you informed in WA Water

Annual Members' Meeting



Committee Nominations 2011-12

The following people nominated to be on the WA Branch Committee and were endorsed at the Annual Meeting. Congratulations to all.

- Graham Bateman, CH2MHill
- Doug Brown, FMG
- Melinda Burton, Department of Water
- Cristiano Carvalho, Water Corporation
- Vince Cinanni, Emerson Stewart
- Peter Devellerez, Parsons Brinckerhoff
- Denis Ericson, TycoWater
- Doug Hall, Compost WA
- Amanda Hazell, Water Corporation
- Noel Lavery, SKM
- Des Lord, DA Lord
- Peter McCafferty, ChemCentre
- Neil Palmer, NCED
- Kevin Peachy, EUPA
- John Ruprecht, Department of Agric.
- Yevgen Salamatin, Water Corporation
- Barry Sanders, Consultant
- Daniela Tonon, Freehills
- Chris Young, Degremont

Water Awards 2010

Last year for the first time we combined with the Department of Water and the Water Corporation to present the 2010 WA Water Awards which attracted over 60 entries in 12 categories..

Two WA award winners went on to win the AWA National Awards during Ozwater in May 2011. Fortescue Metals Group won the national Infrastructure Innovation Award and Josh Byrne won the National Young Water Professional of the Year Award.

A number of our Award Winners gave presentations during the year including our Young Water Professional of the year Josh Byrne; Elise Paskett of the Water Corporation who won the Program Innovation Award and Peter Kesners of WAT Australia who won the Water Innovation Award.

The Undergraduate Water Prize attracted great interest from all the universities and over 50 people attended the 2010 Undergraduate Water Prize on 25th November. The Winner was Alice Drummond – UWA (Environmental Engineering) with her presentation on 'Design and Cost effectiveness of Infiltration Galleries at Perry lakes. UWA Department Head Keith Smettem was happy to accept the perpetual trophy for the third year in succession.

POLICY

“Our focus during the year has been on monitoring key policy initiatives from government and regulators, influencing policy through workshops or submissions, and informing members on policy initiatives.”

COLLABORATION

“A fantastic example of excellent collaboration last year was the Water and Uranium Mining Seminar. It brought together the strengths of several government and private organizations to deliver a diverse program of speakers and topics.”

NEWSLETTER

“The Branch newsletter has continued to be the primary local membership communication medium, providing regular industry, technical and social information as well as internal and external advertising opportunities. We continue to get unsolicited feedback from members on the breadth and quality of the newsletter.”

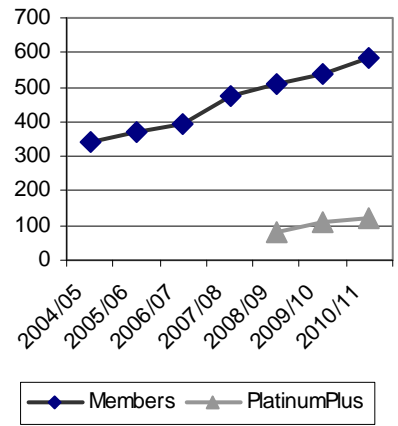
WEBSITE

“The WA webpage on the AWA web site is also seen as a critical communications channel. Cath Miller, Branch Manager, continues to maintain currency and content of the WA part of the web pages.”

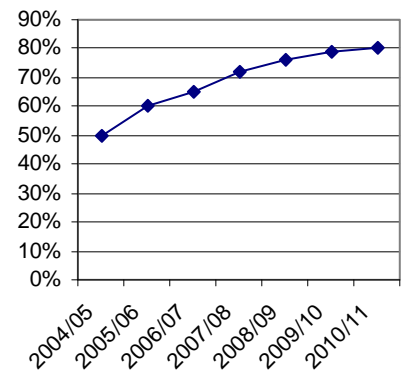
CAPACITY BUILDING

“While the ambitious goals of this portfolio will not be achieved quickly, some significant success has been achieved particularly in the area of education, training and workforce planning.”

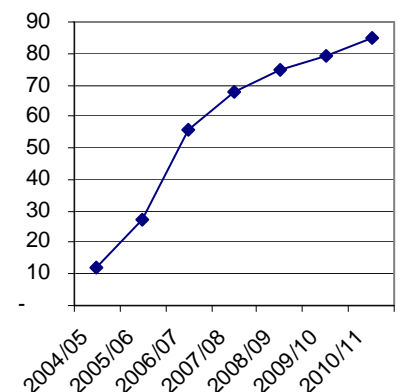
WA Branch Membership



Members at events



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These are some of the highlights of the WA Annual Report, the full report is available to members by request from wabranch@awa.asn.au

Murdoch honours desalination pioneer

Murdoch University has awarded an Honorary Professorship to David Furukawa, known as one of the pioneers of desalination and currently the Chief Scientific Officer for the National Centre of Excellence in Desalination Australia. This is only the third time such an award has been made by the university and Murdoch Vice Chancellor Professor Richard Higgott made the surprise announcement at the official opening of the Centre's new \$5 million Desal Discovery Centre and Rockingham Desal Research Facility earlier this month.

NCEDA CEO Neil Palmer said Professor Furukawa deserved the honour for his outstanding contribution to desalination research and his work to create a new Australian Desalination Research Roadmap which will guide the direction of the nation's desalination research and development for the next five years.

Trained as a chemical engineer, David has more than 40 years of desalination technology expertise in both public and private sectors and has had an important and enduring influence on the global water industry.

Professor Furukawa holds many positions, including Chairman of the Research Advisory Board, National Water Research Institute; Vice-moderator of the Research Advisory Council, Middle East Desalination Research Centre; and he is in the International Desalination Association Hall of Fame as Past-President and Director for 20 years. He has also been a leading light of the American Desalting Association, and a life member of the American Water Works Association.

Professor Furukawa has played a pivotal role in the development of groundbreaking technologies, including reverse osmosis purification units, ultrafiltration membranes, and nanofiltration membranes. This has had significant beneficial impacts in the global oil and gas industry, dairy and food production, pharmaceuticals, the military and municipal water supply.

He helped develop the first reverse osmosis water purification unit for the US army in the 1960s to provide potable drinking water for battalions of soldiers on the move. This core invention is still in use today, providing fresh water to troops in combat situations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Professor Furukawa was also a pioneer in the development of ultrafiltration membranes, now used extensively by the global water industry to purify water. He developed a solution using nanofiltration to remove sulphates from seawater – an invention which made drilling oil fields in the North Sea commercially viable and is still in widespread use today.

He was instrumental in the establishment of the reverse osmosis and nanofiltration elements company Filmtec from five people to a very large multinational corporation and was Vice President when it was acquired by Dow.

Professor Furukawa helped lay the groundwork for the establishment of the Middle East Desalination Research Centre to help countries there cooperatively solve water problems endemic to the region. He helped create a self sustaining future and zero carbon footprint for the city of Masdar, Abu Dhabi, using nanofiltration membranes to fractionate briny groundwater to facilitate capture of pure salts for later sale. His work on desal for the Canary Islands influenced the growth of the industry around the Mediterranean.

Independent assessment of desalinating inland saline water reserves

On the 7th September, Water Minister Bill Marmion released a study which assessed opportunities for desalinating saline or brackish groundwater reserves in the Wheatbelt.

The independent engineering study revealed that large scale water supplies from desalination of groundwater were not currently feasible, but there may be opportunities for future local scale schemes with improved technology.

"Pre-treatment and desalination costs are a major component of the cost of water production from brackish or saline groundwater. But improvements in pre-treatment technology, along with understanding the water quality, are likely to reduce these costs in the future," Mr Marmion said.

The study builds on the work already being done by the Government to investigate alternative water supplies including:

- Investigating new groundwater sources
- promoting recycled water use
- furthering water efficiency programs for schools, households, local government and industry
- groundwater replenishment trials
- better catchment management.

The Minister said the State Government was already investing in improvements in inland desalination technology with a contribution of \$3million to the National Centre for Excellence in Desalination based at Murdoch University. The study is online at: <http://www.water.wa.gov.au/PublicationStore/first/100114.pdf>

Desalination Plant opens three months early

Water Minister Bill Marmion opened the Southern Seawater Desalination Plant (SSDP) on the 2nd of September, three months ahead of schedule and within the \$955million budget.

Construction of the SSDP and its associated integration works has been the largest and most complex infrastructure project the Water Corporation has ever delivered, the Minister said.

"It is a great testament to everyone involved that the project ran so smoothly and the plant itself could be built in as little as 18 months. It is proof that major construction projects can be delivered on time and on budget in this State, even with the unprecedented levels of activity under way in the resources sector."

Mr Marmion acknowledged the excellent work which had been put into protecting the environment to ensure the plant had minimal impact on its surroundings. A vegetated corridor has been built to allow possums to move across the fenced site and considerable attention was also paid to the protection of whales and dolphins, he said.


The plant, near Binningup in the southwest, will provide up to 50 billion litres of freshwater into the Integrated Water Supply Scheme (IWSS) each year. The focus on site has now shifted to the recently announced plant expansion, which will see the capacity double from 50 billion litres to 100 billion litres a year, by the summer of 2012-13.

The WA Branch of the AWA invites you to the:

Water Services Bill 2011 Briefing: Consumer Protection & Water Ombudsman

Wednesday 28th September 5.30pm

**Speakers: Daniel Nevin, Department of Water and
Mary White, Deputy Energy Ombudsman, Western Australia**

Location	Ord Room, L3 Water Corporation, Leederville
Agenda	5.15pm Arrival and Registration 5.30pm Presentation 6.30pm Refreshments
Abstract	<p>Daniel Nevin, Department of Water</p> <p>Daniel will provide a briefing on the Water Services Bill 2011 and the Water Services Legislation Amendment and Repeal Bill which are currently passing through Parliament. Daniel will outline the changes to the legislation and subsequent implications for industry members and focus on topics including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The provision for increased protection for consumers through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry Codes of Practice 'Supplier of last resort' arrangements for service failures The proposed introduction of a Water Ombudsman; and The simplification of the water services legislation, the reduction of legislative burden for industry members and the benefits the legislative changes will provide to regional water service providers. <p>Mary White, Deputy Energy Ombudsman Western Australia</p> <p>Mary will provide a briefing on the proposed Water Ombudsman scheme. This will include discussion of the relevant aspects of the role and operation of the Western Australian Energy Ombudsman scheme.</p>
Registration Fees	FREE
Enquiries	Cath Miller Phone: 0416 289 075 Email: wabranch@awa.asn.au Fax: 08 6210 1675
RSVP	Monday 26th September to Cath Miller (Numbers required for catering)
REGISTRATION WSB911 Delegate Details (please detach this section if faxing back)	Name (S) _____ Position _____ Organisation _____ Telephone(w) _____ Mobile _____ Facsimile _____ Email _____ Special/Diet Requirements: _____
Sponsors	

Rio Tinto invests US\$310 million for Pilbara coastal water project

Rio Tinto will invest US\$310 million to assure a sustainable water supply for its iron ore operations in the Pilbara region of Western Australia, ensuring a sufficient resource to accommodate the expansion of annual production capacity up to the planned 333 million tonnes (Mt/a).

The coastal water supply project, which involves construction of a new borefield and pipeline system, will be completed by mid-2013, coinciding with the first ore from the planned increase in production capacity to 283 Mt/a.

Rio Tinto will build, own and operate the new borefield, located in the lower Bungaroo Valley, 35 kilometres south east of the town of Pannawonica, with an annual capacity of 10 gigalitres (GL/a).

Under the proposal, which has been agreed in principle with the Government of Western Australia, Rio Tinto will surrender its existing priority entitlements to the Millstream water supply, the system Rio Tinto constructed and financed 40 years ago. In return, the Government has agreed to amendments to secondary processing obligations.

The State Government has welcomed this announcement as it secures future water supplies for the West Pilbara including the towns of Karratha, Roebourne, Dampier and Wickham.

Mr Grylls said the agreement would help ensure that community and Government aspirations for the West Pilbara could be realised.

"Secure water supplies will enable the growth of Karratha as a city and the expansion of surrounding communities as part of the Pilbara Cities vision," he said.

"This agreement means there will be enough water to accommodate Rio's planned major expansion of its production capacity. It also allows other businesses and industries to plan investment projects, knowing that water is available to meet the needs of an expanded population."

Mr Marmion said the agreement meant the State would not proceed with the \$370million West Pilbara Desalination Project.

"Heavy rains in the Pilbara following the 2010-11 cyclone season replenished major drinking water sources and secured short-term water supply. The rain, combined with this agreement, has allowed the Government to defer the desalination project," Mr Marmion said.

"The Government was separately engaged in discussions with Rio on the possibility of reducing their use of scheme water for industrial purposes. This is great news for the future of water supplies for the West Pilbara."

The State and Rio will jointly develop a proposal to upgrade the existing water supply infrastructure and increase its capacity.

Curtin students work towards solving world's water supply threat

Two Curtin University graduates have won scholarships for new desalination research by the National Centre of Excellence in Desalination Australia (NCEDA).

Curtin postgraduate students Ahmad Jabari Kohpaei and Ashok Aryal have been awarded three year scholarships by the WA state government and NCEDA universities consortium to the value of \$30,000 and \$50,000 respectively, to investigate improvements in desalination technologies.

Both students will conduct their research under the guidance of supervisor Associate Professor Arumugam Sathasivan, of Curtin's Department of Civil Engineering.

Mr Kohpaei said he would use the scholarship funds to focus on the enhancement of seawater desalination and wastewater treatment using continuous microbial desalination cells (CMDs), an energy saving approach involving the use of electricity generated by micro organisms.

"According to the World Health Organization, in 2025, two thirds of the world's population will be living in water-stressed regions and researchers around the world are looking for new technologies to desalinate seawater using less energy-consuming methods," Mr Kohpaei said.

"A new approach for water desalination was recently proposed based on using electricity generated by micro organisms in a laboratory-scale reactor called a microbial desalination cell (MDC). The concept of MDC is similar to electro dialysis in applying a voltage between the treatment chambers in order to transfer the ions (atoms or molecules) out of the desalination compartment. However, in MDC, instead of using an external electrical power, desalination is achieved with the current generated by micro organisms or bacteria."

Mr Kohpaei said Australia, as one of the driest continents, was dealing with major challenges in ensuring a sustainable water supply in the face of drying climate and rising demand for safe drinking water.

"The current technologies for water desalination are energy and capital intensive and although there have been significant improvements in desalination processes during the past decade, high-energy requirements are still a major concern for the global application of desalination processes for water supply purposes," he said.

Scholarship recipient Mr Aryal said his research would investigate ways of solving the fouling of membranes used for wastewater treatment and re-use.

"A membrane is a synthetically created structure used in wastewater recycling and sea water desalination to separate unwanted elements from water. Membrane treatment is a widely used technology, but its wide application is limited as organic compounds clog water channels of expensive membranes. This process not only reduces the efficiency in a short timeframe but also renders the membrane useless over time.

"The main objective of my research will be to reduce this damage to the membrane by identifying and converting the fouling compounds responsible to non-fouling compounds.

"This innovative process is also expected to lead to other benefits such as solving other critical fouling issues related to excessive bacterial growth on the membrane."

Thames Water Installing Over 100 Solar Power Systems

The UK's Thames Water will be harvesting the energy of the sun with solar panel arrays at 103 of its locations.

The company says it is aiming to be Britain's largest producer of on-site solar electricity after announcing it had inked a deal with Ennoviga Solar Ltd. Under the arrangement, Ennoviga Solar will own and maintain the solar panel systems and sell the electricity generated back to Thames Water.

"With the price of energy forecast to increase above inflation, the way we've structured this agreement will give us cheaper, renewable source of power from a secure source over the long term," said Dr Piers Clark, Thames Water's Commercial Director.

Three major systems are being installed that combined will generate more than 4,500 megawatt hours (MWh) of electricity annually, enough to provide for the electricity requirements of around 970 average-size homes and saving the company £100,000 (AUD \$160,000) each year.

The first system consisting of a 450kW array of solar panels was commissioned last week and be followed by two other 150kW arrays.

Subsequent smaller installations at another 100 sites will deliver a further 0.5% of Thames Water's annual energy needs.

Thames Water states it has set a voluntary target of reducing its greenhouse emissions by 20 per cent in real-terms on 1990 levels by 2015; and has already reduced emissions by more than 11.4% so far.

The company supplies 2,600 million litres of tap water to 8.8 million customers across London and the Thames Valley and also removes and treats 2,800 million litres of sewage for an area covering 14 million customers.

Thames Water generates around 15% of the electricity it requires from sewage - approximately 187 Gigawatt hours annually; enough to run 40,000 average-sized homes. Sewage sludge is dried into blocks and then burned to generate heat and electricity.

Windsor introduces legislation to protect valuable water resources from mining

The valuable water resources that nourish Australia's most productive farm land could be protected from the unintended and negligent impacts of coal and gas mining under a bill introduced to federal parliament by the Independent Member for New England Tony Windsor.

Mr Windsor believes that in recent years, mining companies have reached a flashpoint with rural communities seeking to protect valuable water resources and sensitive farming land. He says that state laws have simply not kept up with the environmental pressures these new developments pose, creating conflict between farmers and miners and causing the community to lose confidence in the process.

"The conflict between farmers and miners is costing both industries millions of dollars, which would be much better spent actually producing food and minerals. There is a need for a nationally consistent standard that protects Australia's limited water resources, while at the same time providing certainty for gas and coal companies. The Bill that I have introduced is not about stamping out mining but about improving the integrity of the process in a way that will lead to better decisions," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor says his Bill would capture mining projects that are still in the exploration phase in areas with water resources, but it wouldn't apply to mining projects in dry areas.

"Australia is a dry continent but some of our best farm land has an intricate network of underground water aquifers that nourish crops even during drought. Surface water flows on floodplains during floods also play an integral role in preparing soil and boosting crop yields during the drier period that follows. If these aquifers and surface water flows are destroyed they can never be replaced. If we are serious about food security and preserving our natural assets for future generations we need to protect these water resources," Mr Windsor said.

According to Mr Windsor, the Commonwealth already has a role in restricting mining in sensitive areas under the Environment Protection Biodiversity and Conservation Act.

"We are currently developing a national approach to the Murray Darling Basin, so it makes no sense to persevere with existing mining regulations that don't have adequate environmental safeguards and are fragmented across state lines. After all, water flows through catchments with no regard to borders."

"A consistent national standard won't remove state rights, but it would put pressure on the states to address the cumulative impacts of a project through regional-scale planning. The Bill does make a provision to hand the approval process to the states, but the onus is on them to prove that they can meet the Commonwealth standards."

Mr Windsor says his Private Members' Bill makes potential damage to water resources a trigger for the Environment Protection Biodiversity and Conservation Act.

"It specifically prohibits a "mining action that has, will have or is likely to have a significant impact on the water quality, structural integrity or the hydraulic balance of a water resource."

"Companies that have a current Exploration License (EL) would still be recognised as operating legally, however the Bill does prevent companies from seeking a transition to full commercial approval until such time as the Bill is voted on. My purpose in making the Bill retrospective is to stop companies moving to fast track approvals from exploration to commercial production while the legislation is being considered. If a mining activity will not harm water resources, then mining and gas companies have nothing to fear.

"If mining and gas companies can't prove that they can mine without having a significant impact on water resources, then they should be looking elsewhere," Mr Windsor concluded.

Durack leads in sustainable gardens

In its bid to become more sustainable, 2010 Water Resource Management Award Winner, Durack Institute of Technology took another big step towards saving water when it recently replaced the thirsty lantana bushes on campus with waterwise flowering native plants.

Durack's acting Managing Director Steve Cooper said the organisation worked closely with the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council (NACC) to tackle the water hungry flower beds.

"In the past two years Durack has made changes to become more sustainable and we had been looking at making changes to our water hungry campus landscapes. So when NACC informed us the lantana plants are a Weed of National Significance and there were incentives available to remove them, we were quick to take action," said Mr Cooper.

"Although the hybrid variety was supposed to be sterile and we had always taken measures to make sure it didn't go to seed, the hybrids have since been shown to cross pollinate with weedy populations which have been destroying the habitat of native flora and fauna.

NACC advised Durack on appropriate native plant species and through incentives, shared the labour costs to remove the lantana and replace it with native vegetation.

"The removal of the lantana was easy and NACC provided excellent advice on which long term native flowering plants would best handle the natural soil conditions and dry climate," Mr Cooper said.

Following Durack's lead, other organisations including the City of Greater Geraldton, Geraldton Universities Centre and the Geraldton Regional Hospital have also decided to remove lantana plants and replace them with waterwise native species.

According to NACC Biodiversity Coordinator, Greg Burrows this change will certainly help slow the spread of wild lantana populations in the region.

"Although it will be difficult to eradicate all the lantana in the region, if we can get rid of the decorative urban bushes that are partially responsible for pollinating the wild varieties we will certainly slow down the spread of this highly invasive weed."

Water Recycling Guidelines Workshop Series

11 Oct 2011

AWA is delivering a series of workshops "THE WATER RECYCLING GUIDELINES – PHASE 2" on behalf of the National Water Commission.

The authors of the Guidelines will be the presenters, focusing on content, application and report writing in the context of regulatory requirements.

Participants will also have the opportunity to undertake small group exercises and pose questions to the authors.

THE WORKSHOPS WILL:

- Build capacity in those that use the Guidelines as part of their work
- Provide clarification on changes in the regulatory requirements in relation to the Guidelines
- Provide an opportunity for users of the Guidelines to seek clarification directly from the authors about how the Guidelines should be interpreted and used.
- Bring together regulators with those that report on the quality of recycled water so that there is greater understanding of the role of the Guidelines and how they should be applied
- Enable safe decisions to be made regarding the use of recycled water

THE WORKSHOPS SHOULD BE ATTENDED BY:

- Water and environmental scientists
- Water catchment managers and trustees
- Regulators
- Government planners and consultants

SPEAKERS/TRAINERS INCLUDE:

- Dr Peter Dillon of CSIRO
- Dr David Cunliffe of SA Department of Health
- Dr Daryl Stevens, Principal, Atura Ltd
- Chris Davis, Commissioner, National Water Commission
- Nick O'Connor, Ecos Environmental Consulting Pty Ltd

This is a free workshop and places are limited.

Further information and registration will be available soon. To be advised when registration opens, please email awaevents@awa.asn.au

IWES is running in the week of Nov 21-25 in **Perth**. The program includes 'Principles of Wastewater Treatment', 'Membrane Plant Design and Operation' and 'Water Recycling: Design, Assessment and Optimisation'.

IWES is the largest and most successful continuing education program for professionals responsible for industry environmental performance in Australia.

For detailed course information go to www.iwes.com.au or email info@iwes.com.au or call 1800 000 404

WA Water Awards 2011

Presented by the Department of Water and the Water Corporation



Nominations close on Friday 16th September for the 2011 WA Water Awards.

The Annual WA Water Awards promote outstanding work by individuals and organisations in the water sector. The awards recognise innovation and excellence in the technology, business and delivery of water projects.

Along with the prestige of being recognised 'the best in WA' at the Gala Dinner on Friday 25th November 2011, winners of a number of the WA Water Awards will automatically be entered into the equivalent AWA National Award category. You can see all the categories and download the brochure and forms from <http://www.awa.asn.au/awards/wa>

On winning the National Infrastructure Innovation Award Doug Brown, Manager Water at Fortescue Metals Group said: *"The team is delighted to win such a prestigious award. It is an honour to be recognised by the Australian water sector for the work that has been achieved by this scheme. Effective management of groundwater is both integral to the success of the mining operation and critical to social and environmental sustainability."*

Our WA Young Water Professional Josh Byrne who went on to win the National Award too said: *"My energy and drive comes from a desire to affect positive change within the community across a range of sustainability issues. In Australia, improving how we manage water should be one of our top priorities, even if this means we have to change the way we do things. Getting recognised by the AWA for my work to date helps give me confidence that I'm on the right track."*

Finalists will be announced during National Water Week in October.

- WA Infrastructure Innovation Award
- WA Program Innovation Award
- WA Water Innovation Award
- Waterwise School
- Waterwise Business
- Waterwise Specialist
- Waterwise Council
- Water Resource Management Award
- Conservation and Efficiency Award
- WA Water Recycling Merit Award
- WA Young Water Professional of the Year
- WA Water Professional of the Year Award

Judging

All categories in the WA Water Awards will be judged by independent panels of industry professionals.

Availability

Please keep in mind that if successful, the nominee will need to be at the award ceremony and Gala Dinner on Friday 25th November 2011 to accept the award. The AWA National Awards will be presented at Ozwater in Sydney in May 2012.

We would like to acknowledge and thank all our sponsors and supporters who have made these awards possible.



Key dates for Undergraduate Water Prize

- Abstracts due Monday 10th October. Abstracts should be 2-3 pages long with sufficient detail to address the selection criteria.
- Six semi-finalists, selected by Monday 24th October, will be asked to submit the complete thesis by Wednesday 26th October.
- Three finalists will be selected and notified by Friday 11th November and will each make a 20 minute oral presentation on Tuesday 15th November at 5.30pm.
- The Winner will be announced at the Awards dinner on Friday 25th November at 7pm and will present again at Ozwater 12 (8 - 10 May 2012.) at Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, (Ozwater registration, flight, accommodation and meals part of first prize)

Stormwater Harvesting and Reuse Projects Grants - Briefing and coordination

Department of Water is offering assistance in the co-ordination of grant applications under the Commonwealth's Stormwater Harvesting and Reuse Projects

The Australian Government is calling for applications for funding to support eligible stormwater harvesting and reuse projects under the National Urban Water and Desalination Plan: stormwater harvesting and reuse grants (third round). To be suitable, projects must capture, treat and use urban stormwater to ease the pressure on drinking water supplies and deliver improved water quality to our urban waterways.

The Department of Water has taken up the lead role in WA to promote funding submissions for the stormwater harvesting projects. Applications are due by Wednesday, 7 December 2011 (5pm AEDT).

The Department of Water will provide support to WA applicants by:

- coordinating and aligning projects under the \$2M total cost (\$1M applicant spend) into a single submission from WA.
- providing technical advice to assist applicants in the preparation of their submissions.

Two briefing sessions are being held in WA on:

- Monday 19th of September in Perth 11:00am – 12:15 pm
- Monday 19th of September in Mandurah 2:30 – 3:30 pm

The Department strongly encourages you to attend one of these sessions as they are being run by the Commonwealth and you will be able to hear about these grants in details and have your questions answered by representatives. You can find other relevant information on how to apply via this website: <http://www.environment.gov.au/water/programs/urban/stormwater-harvesting.htm>

RiverSymposium Reminder online registrations close Friday!

Don't forget, online registrations for the 14th International Riversymposium close at 5pm AEST on Friday 16 September - the end of this week - and a late fee of AUD\$235 will apply to all registrations received after this date.

In addition, accommodation can no longer be booked online when registering. From now, booking accommodation through Riversymposium will attract an AUD\$50 administration fee on top of the one night accommodation deposit. To secure accommodation, please contact jessica@waterforum.org.au

Introduction to Irrigation

Irrigation Australia Ltd are hosting the training course "Introduction to Irrigation" in Geraldton and Bunbury. This course has been designed to assist in the education and training of newcomers to the irrigation industry.

The course covers topics such as:-

- Irrigation industry segments
- Government agencies
- Standards/terms/formulae
- Water sources
- Irrigation efficiency
- Soil/plant/water relationships
- Irrigation products... etc

for further information please contact IALWA directly by emailing Tracy Martin at tracy.martin@irrigation.org.au



Golden Pipeline Reunion



Connected to the pipeline?

If you lived at a pump station on the Kalgoorlie pipeline or made a living from the goldfields water supply, come to a reunion of pipeline people.

Take a guided tour of the abandoned steam station and the two electric pump stations!

Remember your neighbours? The local playground? Favourite places? We will have maps of the pump stations to record these on the day.

When: **Saturday, 8 October 2011**

Time: **11am – 3.30 pm**

Where: **No 4 Pump Station
5km west of Merredin on
Great Eastern Highway**

Cost: **\$12/head for morning tea & lunch**

Bookings essential to the National Trust by 30 September via trust@ntwa.com.au or 9321 6088.



13th International Conference Wetland Systems for Water Pollution Control 25-29 November 2012

*Hosted and Organised by Murdoch University
Perth in collaboration with IWA and AWA*

The use of constructed wetlands in water pollution control has been a matter of considerable interest and research since the early eighties. While most of the work has focused on the use of wetlands as polishing systems and on removal of nutrients, metals and pathogens, research has also revealed their application for primary wastewater treatment ("French systems") and sludge stabilisation.

Reuse of wastewater and stormwater for non-potable purposes has become necessary due to increasing demand on high quality water. Wetlands have proven to reliably achieve efficient treatment processes, satisfying non-potable reuse requirements. This is extremely important in the Australian context, where most of the water is used in agriculture. Elsewhere, population pressure and declining rainfall patterns have led to degradation of natural wetlands and groundwater dependent ecosystems.

Treatment wetlands are now a well established technology. There are several thousand wetland systems treating municipal, agricultural and industrial wastewaters in North America and Europe and a rising number of systems treating point source and non-point source pollution globally. These wetland systems have a wide variety of engineering designs, wetted areas, flow rates, influent and effluent quality, hydraulic properties and monitoring requirements.

The information from this operational treatment experience can be used to form design guidelines for wetland systems. Further research is necessary in areas of system longevity, pollutant removal process dynamics and system modelling.

The Conference will bring researchers and professionals together to discuss new developments and exchange experiences in the field of constructed wetland systems. The Conference will highlight the latest improvements and achievements in the treatment of urban storm water runoff, domestic and municipal wastewaters, agricultural and industrial effluents. Deadline for Abstracts May 2012

<http://www.promaco.com.au/events/wetlandsystems2012.html>

Invitation to comment

The Department of Water is inviting water services licensees, institutional stakeholders and others involved in or otherwise concerned with water services provision, management, regulation and governance in WA to inform the drafting of new regulations that are required to accompany the commencement of new water legislation.

The Bills (the Water Services Legislation Amendment & Repeal Act 2011 and the Water Service Act 2011) are now before the Parliament. Copies of these Bills together with their Explanatory Memoranda may be downloaded from Parliament's website at <http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/web/newwebparl.nsf/iframewebpages/Bills+-+Current>

The Department of Water now invites your comments and proposals in response to the matters raised in their Water Services Regulations Issues Paper. All proposals, comments & suggestions as to what the regulations should/need to say will be considered by the Department before it makes its decision as to the content of the draft regulations to be submitted to the Minister for approval. Closing date for submissions – Friday 11th November 2011.

Background

The Water Services Bill 2011 (WS Bill 2011) and the Water Services Legislation Amendment and Repeal Bill 2011 (WSLAAR Bill 2011) have been introduced to the Parliament.

The WS Bill 2011 consolidates various water Acts and modernises the legislation for water services provision in Western Australia. A consequence of the WS Bill 2011 is that certain water Acts and subsidiary legislation will be repealed and other water Acts will be amended, as provided for in the WSLAAR Bill 2011 (which will be enacted at the same time as the WS Bill 2011).

The primary purpose of the WSLAAR Bill 2011 is to repeal the Water Boards Act 1904 and amend the Water Corporation Act 1995 to enhance the operations of the Busselton and AQWEST-Bunbury water boards. The secondary purpose is to amend or repeal other pieces of legislation to ensure consistency with the WS Bill 2011.

A number of water Acts and subsidiary legislation will be repealed or amended by the WSLAAR Act 2011:

- Five water Acts will be repealed
- Eighteen subsidiary legislations will be repealed:
- and Consequential amendments are also made to 31 other Acts.

The current by-laws and regulations made under the repealed water Acts will cease. Therefore, where required these by-laws and regulations will need to be replicated as, or amended and made into, regulations to accompany the commencement of the Water Services Act 2011 (WS Act 2011) which provides the capacity for the Minister to make regulations in relation to all matters currently dealt with by the subsidiary legislation to be repealed. Where it has been necessary to retain sections of the repealed water Acts equivalent provisions have been included in the WS Bill 2011.

The current by-laws and regulations made under the amended water Acts (as listed above) will not automatically cease, but will require review/amendment where necessary and to be made as regulations. Predominantly, this will be a matter of interest to the Water Corporation and the water boards rather than all licensees. Nevertheless, a frequent effect of amendments to several of those Acts is that the sections will apply not just to the Water Corporation (as is the case now) but to all licensees.

More information from john.hannan@water.wa.gov.au

Members' Page



Dear editor

I did not attend the WA Water Industry Lunch on Wednesday 27 July 2011 addressed by the Department of Water, A/Director General Maree De Lacey, but read the report in the August 2011 edition of WA Water with great interest. I was particularly struck by the results of a strategic review of the department which was completed in 2010 and which identified three key priorities that became Goals in the Strategic Plan. Many of the elements of the Goals were laudable and there was welcome support and encouragement for recycling to supply increasing proportions of our water requirements.

However, there appeared to be a very strong emphasis on development, with less regard to the consequences of that development or to sustainable development. The early part of the talk by Ms de Lacey apparently presented data on the reduced stream flow and the dramatic reduction in water tables on the Gnangara Mound, at least partly caused by high groundwater abstraction. Yet there seemed to be a disconnect between those observations and the Goals to find more and more sources to satisfy apparent water demand. There was some mention of the Department of Water seeking to protect the dependent environment, which I thought had in previous years been one of the key functions of the Department. However, there was no mention about reducing demand or water conservation through a variety of measures such as pay for use by all users (not just domestic). Even in Goal 3 - Western Australia meets national standards in water efficiency and demand management – there was no explicit mention of conservation or more efficient use of water.

The Water Corporation of WA rightly has a role in demand management and water conservation for potable water supplies, both for domestic and industrial consumers. However, I would have thought the Department of Water should have a much stronger statewide role in providing advice and direction, both direct to government, and indirectly through the Environmental Protection Authority, regarding the sustainable (and not just the exploitative) management of our water resources. While some of the Department of Water's roles are stated as being to manage sustainable development and use of water resources, the Goals, as expressed in the report of the Water Industry Lunch, do not provide much confidence that environmental and social sustainability is seen as an important task.

Dr Eddy Wajon, MAWA, FRACI, Comp EIAust



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Members' Page



Membership News - Sep 2011

Please welcome the 12 new members who joined the WA Branch in August.

Member Type	First Name	Last Name	Organisation	Member Since
YP Year 1	Stephan	Suter	Golder Associates Pty Ltd	2/08/2011
Individual	Kimberley	McAuley		11/08/2011
Corporate Plus	Christian	Hall	AGRU AUSTRALIA	11/08/2011
Student	Nandini	Rastogi		17/08/2011
Individual Discount	Sjoerd	Sibma	Water Corporation of Western Australia	22/08/2011
Corporate Plus	Wilfried	Wimmler	Ishigaki Oceania Pty Ltd	24/08/2011
Corporate Plus	Michael	Cain	Trility	24/08/2011
Corporate Plus	Howard	Sachs	Siemens	24/08/2011
Corporate Plus	Christina	Farrington	Trility	24/08/2011
Corporate Plus	Jason	Shaw	Aeration International Pty Ltd	30/08/2011
Corporate Plus	Charles	Van Zandt	Aeration International Pty Ltd	30/08/2011
Corporate Plus	Andrea	Shaw	Aeration International Pty Ltd	30/08/2011

Still...



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Water

WA Water Event Calendar

AWA WA Technical Event:Department of Water	Water Services Bill	28-Sep-11
National Water Commission Recycling	Venue TBA	11-Oct-11
<i>AWA YWP My Water Career</i>	<i>Venue - TBA</i>	<i>03-Nov-11</i>
AWA WA Undergraduate Water Finalist Presentations		15-Nov-11
WA Water Awards 2011 Gala Dinner	Ballroom 1 PCEC	25-Nov-11

WA Branch Events

Other Water Events

YWP Events

WaterAid Events

Committee Members Roles and Responsibilities

- Accept appointment to one of the sub-committees and actively participate in that sub-committee
- Be an active and enthusiastic member of the sub-committee and the Branch committee
- Provide industry expertise, advice, ideas and initiatives to assist with the planning of Branch events and activities
- Attend meetings and participate in decision making processes
- Provide articles for WAWater
- Promote AWA membership within their workplace and industry sector

Branch Committee

AWA WA Branch President

Denis Ericson, Tyco Water
dericson@tycowater.com

Vice President

TBA

Treasurer

TBA

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