

WATER DIRECTORATE news

AUGUST 2014

This newsletter is sent to General Managers and to Water and Sewer Managers in 103 regional Councils in NSW and also to over 100 contacts in government departments and private industry across Australia.

MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE

Membership fees are now due for 2014/15 and invoices were sent out in July. At least 81 member Councils have rejoined promptly which is greatly appreciated.

WATER DIRECTORATE'S LATEST PUBLICATION

In September we expect to distribute an updated version of the very popular Blue-Green Algae Decision Flowchart to our financial members.

IDEAL PROGRAM AND VENUE FOR THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW WATER DIRECTORATE CONFERENCE

The Water Directorate enjoyed the opportunity to participate in the conference by facilitating the interactive Water Forum again, to network and socialise with colleagues. It was very pleasing to again see at least 70 participants in the Water Directorate Forum.

Thanks to the delegates who supported the session and thanks also to the forum panellists, Wayne Franklin from Rous County Council, Jeff Sharp from Port Macquarie-Hastings Council, Stewart McLeod from Dubbo City Council and Wayne Beatty from Orange City Council. Summary notes from the forum will be appear shortly on the Water Directorate's website under News.

Congratulations to the Local Government NSW team and Port Macquarie-Hastings Council for conducting another successful conference. All presentations from the conference are available on the Local Government NSW's conference website at www.lgnsw.org.au/waterconference

VALE KAMAL FERNANDO

Many people in the NSW water industry were shocked and saddened to hear about the sudden and unexpected loss of Kamal Fernando, Principal Engineer, Water, NSW Water Solutions, NSW Public Works.

Kamal was a very well liked and much respected icon of the water industry. It was very appropriate that in the following week at the LGNSW Water Management Conference where he was to give a presentation, that friends and colleagues joined together in memory of Kamal and his significant contribution to the NSW water industry.

In their opening addresses to the conference both LGNSW President Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM and the Minister for Natural Resources, Lands & Water Hon Kevin Humphries MP, made mention of Kamal's contribution. Kamal was recognised for his tireless support and assistance provided to NSW LWU WTPs and STPs, facilities, operators, guidance and training, mentoring of engineers and other

team staff, regular attendance and presentation of papers at conferences and workshops.

At the conclusion of the Water Directorate Forum session there was a special opportunity made for friends and colleagues in the water industry people to express their loss and pay tribute to Kamal. This session was well attended by many of the conference attendees.

LGNSW, NSW Public Works and the Water Directorate were pleased to coordinate the tribute to Kamal. Speakers included Stewart McLeod (past Chair of the Water Directorate), Wayne Franklin (Water Directorate Executive Committee member), Annalisa Contos (ATOM Consulting and past member of Kamal's team at PWD), Daniella McKenzie (Group General Manager, NSW Water Solutions, NSW Public Works), Josh Tickell (NSW Health and past member of Kamal's team at PWD), Mark Tremabth (NSW AWA President) and Murray Thompson (NSW AWA Past President).

Our sympathy goes to Kamal's family, many friends and colleagues in the water industry. Kamal is greatly missed by all who knew him.

WORLD WATER WEEK 2014, STOCKHOLM, 31 AUGUST – 5 SEPTEMBER

World Water Week is an annual focal point for world water issues hosted

ONLINE BOOKSHOP

Water Directorate publications are now available online. Members and non-members can order or purchase online or hard copies of all our publications here.

and organised by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) since 1991.

At World Water Week over 200 collaborating organisations convene events and individuals present their findings at scientific workshops. This year's theme to be addressed is "Energy and Water".

To learn more about the World Water Week, visit www.worldwaterweek.org. This website is a year-round resource where you can explore the World Water Week virtually by watching video clips and photos from sessions, as well as by downloading presentations, reports and outcomes from previous years.

Hosted and organised by SIWI, the World Water Week in Stockholm is the leading annual global event for concretely addressing the planet's water issues and related concerns of international development.

The Week attracts over 2,500 participants and 200 collaborating organisations from around 130 countries all over the world. Leaders and experts from the world's scientific, business, government and civic communities convene in Stockholm to exchange views, experiences and shape joint solutions to global water challenges. Functioning as an open and dynamic platform, the World Water Week enables participants to build capacity, form partnerships and review implementation, thereby advancing the world's water, environment, health, livelihood and poverty reduction agendas.

Also taking place at the World Water Week are the prestigious award ceremonies, as well as popular social events and excursions.

GOVERNMENT SKILLS AUSTRALIA SURVEY

The water industry, through GSA, is seeking to quantify the number of workers nationally in water industry

occupations. The Australian Water Occupations Framework (AWOF) defines 28 generic water occupations and will enable water organisations to compare roles nationally and provide an opportunity for a quantifiable study.

This research aims to gain reliable data of the number workers in the 28 Occupations in the AWOF to build a case for revision of the misleading ANZSCO codes to better represent the water industry.

To undertake this survey, GSA needs to contact all the water utilities in NSW to ask for your assistance with their survey. Sue Peisley, GSA, will send the survey to the contact people in all the participating organisations.

The Water Directorate encourages all our members to participate in the GSA survey and to respond to Sue Peisley with your data. Please contact her on S.Peisley@govskills.com.au to indicate your willingness for your LWU to participate in the survey.

ENVIRO'14, ADELAIDE CONVENTION CENTRE, 17-19 SEPTEMBER

At this conference industry, government and the environmental sectors gather to shape policy and progress on sustainable enterprise. The program includes workshops and technical tours; concurrent streams across energy, waste, water and clean air; facilitated one-on-one meetings with keynotes and sponsors; and networking opportunities with researchers, government, business leaders and policy makers. For more information on this event visit www.enviroconvention.com.au/.

MASTER OF INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT FULL-TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS (\$49,920) FOR FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME DISTANCE STUDY

IWC is currently offering several scholarships for high calibre

international and domestic candidates to study the Master of Integrated Water Management next year. The scholarships are available for new students who are not currently enrolled in the program.

For more details see www.watercentre.org/news/education/programs/master-of-integrated-water-management. Apply for an IWC Masters Scholarship by 1 October if you are a domestic student.

WATER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM – FULL (\$10,000) AND HALF (\$5,000) SCHOLARSHIPS – AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS AND AUSTRALIAN PERMANENT RESIDENTS ONLY

Designed for emerging water leaders at the project to middle management level, the IWC Water Leadership Program helps participants to develop the abilities they need to manage challenging integrated water management projects.

The 2014/15 program will start in December and run for nine months with two face-to-face intensive sessions in Brisbane and various distance/online elements including coaching. Apply for this scholarship by 15 September only for Australian citizens and Australian permanent residents.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting dates for 2014 are:

- 11 September
- 12,13 November

Members are welcome to attend the AGM on Thursday 13 November to be held in Sydney.

Gary Mitchell

Executive Officer

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