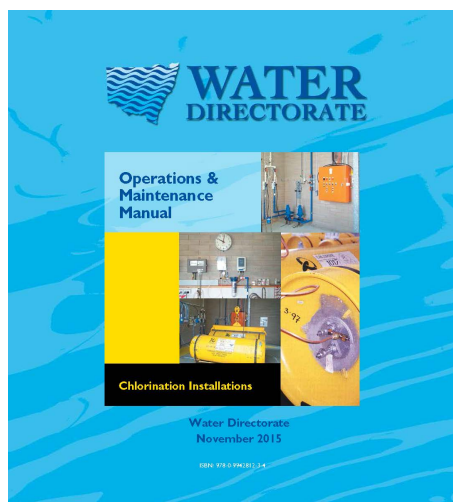


WATER DIRECTORATE news

NOVEMBER 2015

This newsletter is sent to General Managers and to Water and Sewer Managers in 103 regional Councils in NSW and also to over 140 contacts in government departments and private industry across Australia.



LATEST PUBLICATION

O&M MANUAL FOR CHLORINATION INSTALLATIONS

In November an updated O&M Manual for Chlorination Installations was finalised and a hard copy will be distributed to our paid up member Councils in early December. The updated O&M Manual for Chlorination Installations is reformatted without the WH&S Guidelines section which was distributed in September as a stand-alone document.

NOMINATE YOUR OPERATOR FOR 2016 NSW OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

Managers who wish to reward their dedicated operators who do great work protecting public health are urged to nominate their staff by 19 February 2016 to be Operator of the Year.

The winner will be presented a set of trophies at the 10th Annual WIOA Conference on 7 April 2016 in Newcastle. In addition the winner will join the WIOA tour group and attend the Water Industry Operations Group

(WIOG) New Zealand conference. A nomination form is included with the hard copy of this newsletter mailed to member Councils. Please go to the [website](#) for an online nomination form.

FLUORIDATION - SOME KEY POINTS FROM NSW HEALTH

The NSW Government supports drinking water fluoridation as an effective, efficient, socially equitable and safe population-wide approach to the prevention of tooth decay. Fluoridation is endorsed and supported by the World Health Organization and the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), as well as leading clinical organisations in Australia, including the Australian Medical Association and the Australian Dental Association. The overwhelming weight of scientific evidence does not link water fluoridation at optimal levels to any health related problems.

The NSW Government actively supports the introduction of fluoridation into community water supplies, which helps to prevent dental decay in all age groups. NSW Health is currently working with several water utilities and local councils to expand water fluoridation. NSW Health offers a 100% subsidy to cover the cost of new fluoridation systems. NSW Health can also provide a subsidy for replacement or upgrade of existing plants.

Primary tool against tooth decay

In 2007 the NHMRC after evaluating the scientific evidence, concluded that water fluoridation should continue as a primary tool in the prevention of tooth decay. Last year

the NHMRC appointed a team from the University of Sydney to undertake an evaluation of the evidence on the health effects of water fluoridation. This evaluation will update the body of evidence to include more recent studies and assess their relevance in the Australian context since the 2007 review.

In February 2015 (following media coverage) the NHMRC reaffirmed its position that 'Fluoridation of drinking water remains the most effective and socially equitable means of achieving community-wide exposure to the caries prevention effects of fluoride' and noted that 'Based on the work already conducted in the current review, NHMRC is expected to maintain its support for fluoridation of water supplies as effective and safe'.

[Click here for a statement on fluoridation.](#)

No evidence of impact on IQ

There is no scientific evidence that fluoridation of drinking water at levels used in NSW is associated with impacts on Intelligence Quotient (IQ). Some researchers raise concerns about the neurotoxicity of certain substances including fluoride, and some studies, mostly in China, have examined IQ in children exposed to much higher fluoride levels than those used in Australia. These studies have major deficiencies that limit the conclusions that can be drawn.

NSW Health has a comprehensive [Question and Answer document](#) and other information.

INTERNATIONAL WATERCENTRE PARTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SELF-FUNDED STUDENTS

The International WaterCentre is offering a partial scholarship (\$7,000 for the Master of Integrated Water Management at the University of Queensland; and \$2,000 for the Graduate Certificate in Water Planning at Griffith University) to every self-funded student commencing in Semester 1, 2016.

Both programs are designed to equip participants with transdisciplinary skills in integrated water management, fast-track their career development and build their capacity to create innovative and sustainable solutions to complex water management issues.

To receive a partial scholarship: simply apply for admission through the relevant partner university by 31 January 2016.

This [website](#) has more information or contact admin@watercentre.org or phone 07 3014 0200.

IWES SYDNEY 2016

IWES Sydney 2016 will take place throughout the week of February 15-19 2016. There is an extensive program of eleven courses in water, wastewater and environmental management.

The program incorporates a wide range, and number, of course offerings for professionals to choose from.

Established courses

- Principles of Wastewater Treatment
- BNR
- Energy Efficiency of WWTPs
- Drinking Water Treatment - Principles, Practice and Applications
- Design and Operation of Membrane Systems in Municipal, Mining and Industrial Applications
- Wastewater Chemistry
- Best Practice Drinking Water Quality Management
- recycled Water Management
- Chemical Contaminants in Water - Significance, Monitoring and Interpretation

Do you have a view?

There are some interesting technical questions that need answers on the Water Directorate online [forum](#).

Leak in a 30m high reservoir... "Has anyone sealed a weep/leak externally with the tower in service?"

Restricted water supply - "Property owner has tampered with restrictor to allow extra flow through - can we take legal action?"

Wastewater ponds - "How many in Australia?"

Reservoir maintenance contractor - any recommendations?

Water and sewerage access charges on quarterly bills - "Anyone experienced issues with including water and sewerage charges on quarterly water notices?"

- Anaerobic Digestion -Sustainable Biosolids Management
- Process Modelling for Water Treatment Professionals

You can access the full program [here](#), including venue details and speaker profiles.

OPERATING TIMES FOR NSW HEALTH LABS OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD

The three NSW Health laboratories that provide testing for the NSW Health Drinking Water Monitoring Program will be closed for the following dates over the Christmas period.

Urgent samples can be accepted during this time. Contact your local Public Health Unit to request laboratory testing in case of emergencies during this period.

NSW FASS (NSW Forensic and Analytical Science Service, formerly DAL)

Closed 24th December until 3rd January. Full service recommences Monday 4th January. Please submit microbiology samples to reach FASS by Wednesday noon 23rd December to allow time for them to be processed before Christmas.

Pathology West (Wagga)

Closed 24th December until 3rd January. Full service recommences Monday 4th January. Please submit samples by Tuesday 22nd December if you would like them to be processed before Christmas.

Pathology North (Lismore)

Closed 24th Dec until 3rd January. Full service recommences Monday 4th January. Please submit samples by afternoon Wednesday 23rd December if you would like them to be processed before Christmas.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In November the Annual Planning Meeting, AGM and Executive Committee Meeting were held and completed the series of seven meetings for 2015.

Thanks to those people who forwarded suggested projects for consideration at the Annual Planning Meeting.

At the November meetings Wayne Franklin and Heinz Kausche announced their retirements from the Executive Committee.

Wayne has served on the Executive Committee for nine years and Heinz Kausche for four years. Thanks also goes to Wayne's and Heinz's respective Councils of Rous County and Wagga Wagga City for their long term support of the Water Directorate thereby contributing to the NSW local government water industry.

Gary Mitchell

Executive Officer

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