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Newsletter of Water Quality Research Australia Limited

Issue 18 – 23rd October 2009

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

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

Issues 1 – 17 of Water Quality Research Australia News can be downloaded from the WQRA website: www.wqra.com.au There are currently 583 subscribers to this newsletter.

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Forthcoming Dates

Important Dates for your diaries:

30 October	Teleconference	Board meeting
26 November	Adelaide	Board meeting
27 November	Adelaide	2009 AGM
8 December	Melbourne	<i>Cryptosporidium</i> workshop

WQRA AGM

I hope that these dates are well and truly in your diaries, but just in case... the WQRA 2009 AGM is being held in Adelaide on 27th November 09 at SA Water House, with the 2009 Annual Dinner being hosted by WQRA on Thursday evening (26 November 09) at COS Restaurant in the city.

The AGM agenda is currently being finalised and will be distributed with the 2009 Annual Report on the 30th October 2009. Program highlights will be presentations by Mike Burch from the Australian Water Quality Centre and Martha Sinclair from Monash University on two interesting recently completed projects

In addition to the use of their facilities for the AGM, SA Water has kindly offered to conduct tours of SA Water House – a fantastic and new six star green facility. Please indicate your interest early if you would like to attend as places are limited.

Cryptosporidium workshop, 8 December

A program workshop on identifying the key knowledge gaps in relation to pathogens, in particular *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*, and the priority research that is required to fill these gaps, will be held in Melbourne on Tuesday 8 December. An agenda and other supporting information are currently being drafted and will be circulated to Members once finalised. If you would like to be involved in this workshop please contact the Drinking Water Program Manager (michele.akeroyd@wqra.com.au).

For those interested in the workshop, it may be useful to have a look at the recently uploaded CRC document “Cryptosporidium in Water, a consensus conference” (Occasional Paper 3, 1988) to see what has changed in this area, and how much, over the past 11 years.

Research Programs Update

WQRA Wastewater & Recycled Water Programs

Congratulations to David Waite and Fred Leusch on their success in receiving ARC Linkage funding with WQRA support (see ‘ARC Grant Success’ below for details).

The WW/RW Program has supported the following project for the November ARC Linkage funding round:

- Fate and Effects of Micropollutants in Water Recycling: Influence of Dissolved Organic Matter (Prof Beate Escher, University of Queensland)

WQRA, in collaboration with UNSW, has also recently submitted a project proposal to the WaterReuse Foundation to address their advertised RFP titled, ‘New Techniques for Real-Time Monitoring of Membrane Integrity for Virus Removal’. This project, if successful, will be led by A/Prof Greg Leslie (UNSW).

Drinking Water Program

A project team meeting was held on the 15th October to review the progress of WQRA Project 1010 ‘Identification and Prevention of Chemical Contamination Causing Taint and Odour in Water from Coal Tar Enamel Lined Pipes’. The summer 2009/10 sampling regime was reviewed and additional opportunities to sample the T&O issues in the field were identified by the Industry partners. This project is due to be completed at the end of 2010 and is progressing well.

Education Program Update

Various initiatives are commencing shortly – for more information visit the [WQRA website](#).

WQRA Summer Scholarships

To date 9 projects / students have been confirmed including one co-funded project from Melbourne Water. The students will give presentations on their research outcomes on 24 & 25 February 2010 at the Members meeting.

Honours Scholarships – Student applications open 4 November 2009

Student applications open 4 November and **close 2 December 2009**. Please encourage suitable students to apply.

WQRA PhD Scholarships – Student applications close 30 October 2009

Student applications **close 30 October 2009**. Please encourage suitable students to apply.

CRC Graduates

Somprasong (Lek) Laingam recently submitted his PhD thesis *Investigation into the Genotoxicity of Certain Disinfection By-Products Isolated from Australian Drinking Waters* through University of Adelaide. Lek has since taken up employment with SA Water.

David Stork recently received his Masters of Applied Science conferral from RMIT for his thesis *An Investigation into Membrane Fouling from Algae-containing Waters*.

Sylwia Solarska recently submitted her PhD thesis *Utilisation of White Rot Fungi for the Removal of Natural Organic Matter from Potable Water* through RMIT.

Daniel Couton submitted his PhD thesis *The Structure and Chemistry of Natural Organic Matter in Groundwaters from the Gngangara Mound* in September 2009 through Curtin University.

Advanced Water Management Centre – seeking postdoc in membrane filtration

The **Advanced Water Management Centre (Brisbane, Australia)** is currently advertising a **3-year position for a postdoctoral / academic researcher in the field of membrane filtration** in the context of water recycling. The position will certainly be an interesting placement involving close collaboration with industry and PhD students. The remuneration package is flexible and will be offered in agreement with expertise and experience of the candidate relevant to the position.

Application closes November 6th and detailed information and selection criteria can be downloaded at

<http://seek.com.au/users/apply/index.ascx?Sequence=23&PageNumber=1&ChannelID=1&SiteID=1&JobId=16138558&Keywords=>

ARC Grant success

Congratulations to the following WQRA Members who were successful in obtaining ARC grants with WQRA support.

“Optimisation of nutrient removal, membrane fouling and sludge dewatering in hybrid coagulation/submerged membrane bioreactor treatment of wastewaters” has been awarded \$548K over three years (2010 – 2012). The project is led by The University of New South Wales and partners are Beijing Origin Water Technology Co Ltd, Sydney Water, Water Quality Research Australia Ltd

“Investigation of endocrine disruption in Australian aquatic environments” has been awarded \$395K three years (2010 – 2012). The project leader is Dr Frederic D Leusch, of Griffith University and partners are Landcare Research, Melbourne Water Corporation, QLD Department of Environment and Resource Management, South East Queensland Water Corporation, Sydney Water, Water Quality Research Australia Ltd, Western Australia Department of Water

NHMRC Grant success

Congratulations to Karin Leder and Martha Sinclair from Monash University who were successful in receiving a NHMRC grant in the announcement on 13 October. The Project is ‘Establishing Australian Health Based targets for microbial Water Quality’ has been awarded \$173,240.

The purpose of this project is to develop health impact models for waterborne pathogens, evaluate updated international weightings given to gastroenteritis outcomes and from these activities develop Australian-specific DALY models for key waterborne pathogens to support the ADWG and AGWR

Community Water Planner

The National Water Commission issued a press release to launch the Field Guide to the Community Water Planner. The Field Guide was developed by Robyn Grey-Gardner, CAT, as part of the NWC project ‘Guidelines and best practice documentation - water services in remote Indigenous communities’. Further information regarding the media release and the project are available on the [National Water Commission's website](#). Robyn has been interviewed by SBS radio, ABC radio in Darwin, Radio 4KIG in Townsville, National Indigenous Radio in Brisbane, and the Koori Mail.

Monash Rainwater Drinking Project

Shelly Rodrigo (Monash) has all but completed her PhD and along with it the report on her project which looked at the health effects of drinking rainwater in about 300 households in Adelaide. Shelly will be presenting her findings in the US in November at the American Public Health Association 137th Annual meeting in Philadelphia.

New publications

Research Report 79: Understanding the Growth of Opportunistic Pathogens in Distribution Systems has been completed, and is available as a pdf on the website. The report will also be available in hard copy. Member representatives will receive copies - other newsletter readers should let Angela Gackle know if they want a hard copy.



Wordsmith alert! Help us find a new name – last chance to submit ideas!

Time is running out to think of an appropriate name for our new Members quarterly update. Some of the suggestions so far include “Water Views”, “Tap into WQRA”, “Quality Bites”, “At the Water Table”. Many thanks to the thinkers who have contributed. If this inspires you, send more suggestions to Angela Gackle (angela.gackle@wqra.com.au). There is a small prize (to be awarded at the AGM) for the winning entry.

Contributing to WQRA News

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

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