

February Newsletter

This month featuring highlights such as **Capacity Building & Leadership Workshops, The Urban Sustainability Support Alliance, Managed Aquifer Recharge CSIRO Report, EEA Stormwater Management Workshops** and much more.



Hello All,

There is a lot of information in this month's e-newsletter. Worth the read though I would suggest as it is all about how you can build your own capacity while working with your peers across the water sector and leveraging off existing resources.

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA extended the Water Sensitive Cities Workshop \$200 subsidy from Sydney Metropolitan councils to also include all NSW Government (including Sydney Water and Ministerial Staff) employees. Registrations close this week. Refer Item 1 below for more information.

Any Sydney Metropolitan council officer who has already registered for the event and not applied for the subsidy, please re-send your registration forms following the directions on my website www.wsud.org/seminar.htm. If you have already applied for the subsidy, please check to ensure the subsidy has been recorded by the event organiser and you have been invoiced the right amount of \$350 per person.

This morning I read about an "Australian-first" project in my old home town of Orange where they will be harvesting an average of about 2200 megalitres of stormwater annually for reuse in its potable water supply. The stormwater will be harvested from a waterway that runs through the city of Orange, but which does not feed into the city's main reservoir. Limits on harvesting will ensure environmental flows are maintained and downstream users who rely on the water for their livelihood and lifestyle are not adversely affected. How far we've come.

Refer to Item 6 (and pdf attached) to learn how you can help your council harness the potential of stormwater and be at the forefront of stormwater research. Tony Wong and Monash University are seeking NSW councils as research partners for a five year project that will be delivered Australia Wide. The Sydney Metropolitan CMA will send out invitations this week to all councils to attend a presentation about the project in the first week of March 2009. Register your interest via kate.black@cma.nsw.gov.au today to ensure your involvement.

I've hit the mother load with grants and rebates this month, refer to Item 7 to see how your council can benefit or promote sustainable practices amongst your community. Refer also to Item 8 for an up-to-date events listing.

If you have an item that you would like to promote, please email me the details. If appropriate, I will include it on the www.wsud.org website and/or distribute via this e-newsletter.

Be in touch. Cheers, K.

Kate Black

Program Manager

The **February 2009 (No. 55) WSUD e-newsletter** contains information on:

(1.) Capacity Building & Leadership Workshops – SMCMA \$200 Subsidy (2.) www.wsud.org website updates (3.) Urban Sustainability Support Alliance – Resources & Tools (4.) Managed Aquifer Recharge CSIRO Report (5.) EEA Stormwater Management Workshop – March 2009 (6.) Research Linkages & Opportunities (7.) Grants & Rebates (8.) Events Calendar (9.) Websites of Interest

1. Capacity Building & Leadership Workshops - SMCMA \$200 Subsidy

Registrations close Wednesday, 18 February 2009 for the Creating Water Sensitive Cities - Capacity Building & Leadership Workshops which will be held in Sydney on 23rd to 24 February 2009 at the Novotel, Sydney Olympic Park.

Learn from leading Australian (including Rebekah Brown and Tony Wong) and International experts on how we can all be better urban water managers while using your own knowledge and expertise to generate locally and nationally relevant policy recommendations. The outcomes and how Sydney can transition to a water sensitive city will be reported and presented to the National Water Commission and Senior Policy Strategists across Australia.

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA is encouraging all Sydney Metropolitan Councils (maximum 2 per council) and NSW Government (including ministerial and Sydney Water staff) to attend through the offer of a \$200 subsidy on registration costs. Only 20 subsidies remain you will need to be quick in order to qualify. To learn more about the subsidy, refer to Item 2 at <http://www.wsud.org/seminar.htm>

2. www.wsud.org website updates – Tools & Resources

Refer to <http://www.wsud.org/literature.htm> for a range of council focussed technical stormwater management resources and tools that were developed (or are in development) by the NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) and the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority (SMCMA). Development was to facilitate the application of improved stormwater management practices in NSW. I have included links to DECC's *Managing Urban Stormwater* (MUS) series of documents as well as information on materials and tools to assist local councils and development proponents implement improvised stormwater management practices. Release dates have also been included. Keep an eye out in future editions of this newsletter for promotions once those still in development have been released.

3. Urban Sustainability Support Alliance – Capacity Tools & Resources

The aim of the Urban Sustainability Support Alliance (USSA) is to assist NSW Councils who are implementing sustainability projects and share the lessons learnt by councils 'in the journey to sustainability'. The USSA deliver training and professional development sessions (organisational change, professional capacity building and peer-to-peer learning); maintain communication networks (Sustainablenet, USSA website, networking and discussion forums, events & newsletters); and development of tools and resources (case studies, evaluation framework, sustainability health check, Sustainability Planning and assessment tools and online resource database). For more information, refer: <http://www.lgsa-plus.net.au/www/html/2312-urban-sustainability-support-alliance.asp>

4. Managed Aquifer Recharge – An introduction: NWC/CSIRO Report

The CSIRO report commissioned by the National Water Commission summarises the relevant information needed to consider managed aquifer recharge (MAR) (alongside other alternatives), as a prospective new water supply for drinking or non-potable uses. To date, MAR has not been considered on an equal footing (or as part of) more established alternatives for diversifying urban water sources. Relevant for cities, but also regional communities and rural areas, the report's aim was to enable decision makers, water utilities and the broader community to consider MAR projects, where appropriate, as part of the water supply portfolio, taking account of costs, security, quality of supply and environmental and social benefits and constraints. <http://www.nwc.gov.au/www/html/996-mar--an-introduction---report-no-13--feb-2009.asp?intSiteID=1>

5. EEA Stormwater Management Workshop – March 2009

Led by Professor John Argue, a 2-day Engineering Education, Australia (EEA) Workshop - "*Stormwater Management (source control)*" will be held 12th to 13th March, 2009 in Sydney. The course is based on the content of the award-winning manual "*WSUD: basic procedures for 'source control' of stormwater – a Handbook for Australian practice*" edited by Professor John Argue (University of South Australia). The

content features a balance between the three domains of WSUD (stormwater) practice - quantity control, pollution control and stormwater harvesting.

The course includes, design procedures based on state-of-the-art analyses and best overseas practices adapted to Australia-wide conditions; case study illustrations drawn from field installations with between ten and 16 years of Australian operational history; design 'worked examples'; introduction and access to rainwater tank sizing software applicable across Australia.

Attendance at the Workshop earns 32 hours credit for continuing professional development purposes with Engineers Australia. More information about the workshop including course content, cost and Registration Forms may be obtained from Ms Ann Ellis on (03) 9326 9777 or via ann@eeaust.com.au

6. Research Linkages & Opportunities

This Monash University research program will be Australia wide and aims to harness the potential of stormwater to overcome water shortages, reduce urban heat island effects and improve the landscape and liveability of Australian Cities. Supported by the National Water Commission, Monash is currently seeking research partners in local councils who are interested in achieving the following deliverables:

- Sustainable stormwater harvesting technologies
- Assessing rainfall patterns in localised urban environments under a changing climate
- Assessing the micro-climatic and liveability advantages of stormwater harvesting solutions
- Net improvement in the health of aquatic ecosystems
- Health and safety standards
- New governance and policy mechanisms
- A framework for the economic valuation of stormwater harvesting solutions, as multi-purpose urban assets, for current and future economic contexts and
- Demonstrated integration into the urban form

The 5 year research program will consist of eight integrated projects directed through one of the above deliverables with a view to creating Water Sensitive Cities. Refer attached pdf for further information. The Sydney Metropolitan CMA will be arranging a presentation from Monash and the NWC in the first week of March. A blanket invitation will be sent next week. In the meantime, if your council is interested, please contact me on kate.black@cma.nsw.gov.au

7. Grants & Rebates

Following are current Grant Programs that Councils may want to apply for and/or promote within their communities. As ever, anyone wanting to seek partners and/or input to grant applications should send an email to kate.black@cma.nsw.gov.au. Please make sure you allow a minimum of 3 days notice for a response:

Australian Government Programs are as follows. Refer also

<http://www.environment.gov.au/water/programs/index.html> :

- **Education for Sustainability Grants Program 2008-2009.** Applications close Monday, 23 February 2009. Refer: <http://www.environment.gov.au/education/programs/guidelines.html>
- **Local Adaptation Pathways Program** helps councils conduct climate change risk assessments and develop action plans to prepare for climate change. Applications close 25 February 2009. Refer <http://www.climatechange.gov.au/impacts/localgovernment/lapp.html>.
- **Rebate Schemes** provide up to \$500 for the purchase and installation of a new rainwater tank (internal use) or permanent Greywater Treatment. A \$400 rebate is available for a 2,000-3,999 litre tank and a \$500 rebate is available for a tank greater than 4,000 litres. Refer <http://www.environment.gov.au/water/> for more information.
- **National Urban Water and Desalination Plan** includes grant funding of up to 10% of the eligible capital costs (capped at \$100 million per project) will be available to the successful proponents. Applications close 30 June 2009. Refer <http://www.environment.gov.au/water/programs/urban/index.html>

Sydney Water Programs include:

- **Sydney Water's Water Saver Grant Program** is available to small to medium businesses in Sydney, the Illawarra and the Blue Mountains that use between 20 kilolitres and 80 kilolitres of water a day. Funding includes up to 50% of a new water saving project whereby Sydney Water will reimburse successful applicants for half the cost of water efficiency projects valued between \$4,000 and \$40,000. Apply via: <http://www.sydneywater.com.au/SavingWater/InYourBusiness/BusinessWaterSaverGrant.cfm>
- **Sydney water's Single Flush Toilet Replacement Service** will remove old single flush toilets and replace it with a choice of three different 4-star water efficient toilets and installation. For more information, refer <http://www.sydneywater.com.au/SavingWater/InYourHome/Toilets.cfm>

NSW Department of environment and Climate Change initiatives include:

- **Climate Change Fund Local Promotion Program** offers councils up to \$5000 to promote the NSW Climate Change Fund rebates to their residents encouraging householders to take advantage of the rebates for rainwater tanks, hot water systems and/or insulation. Please email Amanda Kane amanda.kane@environment.nsw.gov.au.

- **National Solar Schools Grants** of up to \$50,000 (GST exclusive) are available to install solar and other renewable power systems, solar hot water systems, rainwater tanks and a range of energy efficiency measures. Refer <http://www.environment.gov.au/settlements/renewable/nationalsolarschools/index.html>

8. Events Calendar

The following events are scheduled in February 2009:

- 4th Annual Water Symposium: L'Aqua, Terrace Level, Cockle Bay Wharf, Darling Harbour, Sydney. 20 February 2009. For an information brochure refer: [http://www.wsud.org/downloads/Seminars%20&%20Events/Water%20Symposium%202009%204p%20\(ebook\).pdf](http://www.wsud.org/downloads/Seminars%20&%20Events/Water%20Symposium%202009%204p%20(ebook).pdf) or refer http://www.legalwiseseminars.com.au/product_details.asp?prodID=12643
- Water Sensitive Cities – Capacity Building & Leadership Workshops: Novotel, Sydney Olympic Park. 23 to 24 February 2008. For more information or to register refer: <http://www.watersensitivefutures.org/>
- Dr Stephen Schneider – Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation. The Institute of Environmental Studies, University of NSW. 16 March 2009. Refer <http://www.ies.unsw.edu.au/newsevents/news-events.html#schneider>
- Intelligent Use of Water Summit: Grand Hyatt Melbourne, 123 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria. Entry is free and will look at a range of outdoor water conservation issues from climate change through to water efficient landscape design and alternative water sources for irrigation. This is the first time the Summit has been hosted in Australia and includes a mix of international and Australian panellists. 19 March 2009. Refer http://www.smartwatermark.info/home/news_details.asp?id=70&snav=405
- Engineering Education Australia's Stormwater management (Source Control). Sydney. 12th to 13th March 2009. Contact Ms Ann Ellis on (03) 9326 9777 or via ann@eeaust.com.au
- SIA Seminar – The Future for Stormwater Management Plans. Dooley's Lidcombe Catholic Club. 9am – 1.30pm 23 March 2009. To register refer www.stormwater.asn.au/nsw/events.asp
- Media Filters Seminar held in conjunction with WIOA Conference (below). 31st March 2009. Refer www.wioa.org.au for more information.
- 3rd Annual WIOA NSW Water Industry Engineers & Operators Conference. Tamworth Regional Entertainment & Conference Centre. 1st & 2nd April 2009. Refer www.wioa.org.au for more information.

- 5th Australian Water Summit 2009: Sustainable Water Resources Management. Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour. 1st to 3rd April 2009. For further information, please refer <http://www.acevents.com.au/water2009/pdf/AustralianWaterSummit2009-3.pdf>
- WSUD 09 – Towards Water Sensitive Cities and Citizens. Perth. 5th-8th May 2009. Refer www.keynotewa.com/wsud09
- NSW Sustainable Development Conference, Dockside Convention Centre. 12th -13th May 2009. Refer <http://www.halledit.com.au/nswsdc>
- Stormwater 2009 – Lets think systems. NSW and VIC Stormwater Industry Association Conference. Albury Wodonga Convention Centre. 7th – 10th July 2009. Refer www.gemspl.com.au/stormwater for more information.

9. Websites of Interest

The following website may be of particular interest to Councils who may like to promote the site within their own councils or use the information, tools and resources within their own projects.

- From archived pages of Christchurch City Council's (New Zealand) website, is some great information about the concept of '**Living Streets**' – an ideal where streets should be designed or redesigned with the priority on living and community interaction, where residents, businesses, pedestrians and cyclists at the very least have equality with cars. The concept is hardly revolutionary and yet one which many councils struggle to deliver. Living Streets is a perfect opportunity to embed sustainable practices in your council operations using water sensitive urban design, local provenance species and reducing the urban heat island effect while preparing for climate change through the adoption of adaptation and mitigation practices. For more information refer <http://archived.ccc.govt.nz/programmes/livingstreets/>
- **Growing Up – The Blue Print to Greenroof Melbourne** - An initiative of the Committee for Melbourne Future Focus Group, the project is dedicated to making Melbourne a leader in green roofdesign. This is one of the best greenroof websites I've seen and I particularly like their clever ideas to encourage the uptake of greenroofs. Councils may like to replicate the competition they are running within their own LGA's. The website includes greenroof benefits, myths, links and videos, fact sheets, research material and a great image library. Refer www.growingup.org.au

Please forward the e-newsletter via your networks and for those who may benefit.

If you would like to receive future WSUD e-newsletters please send an email with **join** in the subject heading to kate.black@cma.nsw.gov.au.

If you no longer wish to receive this e-newsletter, please email kate.black@cma.nsw.gov.au with **remove** in the subject heading.