

Hello All,

I was very sad to hear that Peter Cullen died recently. Since his death, I've read many wonderful and inspiring comments by his friends and colleagues. John Williams, the former CSIRO Land and Water Chief captured perfectly the teacher I remember when he wrote in Peter's eulogy - "He knew how important it was to be able to provide solutions. He tried to teach us when to listen, when to sit still and think, and when to speak. That's wisdom. Wisdom he was willing to share. Today we feel the loss of a pillar of environmental leadership. Today we remember his humour and warmth, his foresight and wisdom." It is indeed a loss. Rest in peace Peter Cullen you will be sorely and surely missed. If you would like to read the complete eulogy, please refer to http://www.wentworthgroup.org/docs/Eulogy_to_Peter_Cullen.pdf.

Last months e-newsletter call for interest, seeking partners for developing WSUD and/or sustainable urban water management projects linking Government, Industry and Research Institutions was a great success. The Parramatta River Catchment Group, currently coordinated by the Sydney Metropolitan CMA (SMCMA) has partnered with Dr Ataur Rahman, Senior Lecturer of the School of Engineering at the University of Western Sydney. Thank you to Blacktown, Burwood, Holroyd and Parramatta City Councils for participating.

Four (4) final year students will assess council stormwater and WSUD maintenance practices and recommend changes in accordance with best practice. Recommendations would include cost benefit and sensitivity analyses that can be applied to other councils.

An Operations and Maintenance Manual for Stormwater Treatment Measures currently being prepared by the SMCMA and DECC; and proposed to be published by the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (IPWEA) will also form an important part of the project.

Once completed, it is intended that the research output will be applied to the other Parramatta River Catchment Group Councils and will assist in the revision of the aforementioned Operations and Maintenance Manual. Similarly, the capacity building tools will be made available via the www.wsud.org website.

Regards, K.

Kate Black
Program Manager

The **March 2008 (No. 45) WSUD e-newsletter** contains information on:
(1.) SMCMA Waterways Health Strategy Project **(2.)** 2008 Banksia Award **(3.)** Australian Museum Eureka Prize **(4.)** FAWB – Advancing Stormwater Biofiltration **(5.)** Research Linkages & Opportunities **(6.)** Grants & Rebates **(7.)** Events Calendar **(8.)** Websites of Interest

1. SMCMA Waterways Health Strategy Project – GIS Data Available

The Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority's (SMCMA) Waterways Health Strategy Project assessed the current condition of all rivers and small streams in the Sydney basin and identified priority reaches for rehabilitation and/or protection. Among other project outputs including a tool for monitoring waterways health progress, the SMCMA distributed \$630,000 for river and stream works. For further project information, refer

http://www.sydney.cma.nsw.gov.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=41&Itemid=58

The SMCMA are pleased to offer Sydney Metropolitan Councils the opportunity to access sub-catchment GIS data layers produced by the project. Data is provided free of charge, but a Data Licence Agreement must be signed. For further information and to discuss other opportunities such as sharing stormwater data (major outlets, structures etc.) please contact Jo Ann Moore on 02 9895 5016 or via Jo.Ann.Moore@cma.nsw.gov.au

2. 2008 Banksia Award – Entries Open

Founded in 1989, the Banksia Environmental Foundation was developed to do more to support and recognise members of the community for their positive contribution to the environment. Primarily, its aim is to achieve a sustainable Australia through recognising and rewarding environmental excellence; promoting best practice principles; and contributing to action-learning and education. Entry for all awards will close on Monday, 5th May 2008. Refer to <http://www.banksiafdn.com>. Good luck.

3. Australian Museum Eureka Prize – Entries Open

Presented annually by the Australian Museum, the Australian Museum Eureka Prizes reward excellence in the fields of research & innovation, science leadership, school science and science journalism & communication. The Land & Water Australia Eureka Prize of \$10,000 for Water Research and Innovation is awarded to an individual, team or organisation for research and innovation that has made or has the potential to make an outstanding contribution to the sustainable use and management of Australia's water resources. Entries close on Friday 2 May 2008. For further information refer to <http://www.australianmuseum.net.au/eureka> or email eureka@austrmus.gov.au

4. FAWB – Advancing the Design of Stormwater Biofiltration

The Facility for Advancing Water Biofiltration (FAWB) released a report in September 2007 summarising the key findings of its scientific research on the performance of bioretention systems. The document outlines the typical design of biofilters; explains the program research methodology; and a summary of key findings, including 12 published research papers. A great resource for designers accessing best practice research and particularly in preparation for the FAWB training course that will be held in Sydney in June 2008. Remember to keep an eye out for FAWB Workshop notices in future e-newsletters. To download a copy of the report, please refer to http://www.healthywaterways.org/external_documents.html

5. Research Linkages & Opportunities

Opportunities to be involved in the development and/or delivery of research related projects are as follows. Please send me an email to indicate your interest and to learn more about the effort involved (eg. 2 hours per month to attend meetings and allow access to Council's sites and/or associated records). This is a great chance to expand individual and organisational networks and capacity through experience. Please contact me directly if you are interested:

- *A Study of WSUD Life Cycle Costing.* The three (3) year project would enhance financial viability of WSUD techniques by identifying key cost elements in WSUD techniques and finding innovative ways to achieve cost savings to reduce the overall life cycle cost of WSUD techniques. Further, the project would quantify total benefit of the WSUD techniques which will increase WSUD benefit-cost ratios. Only 3 council places remain. First in best dressed, so please be quick.

- Development of a WSUD Introductory short course that will be developed for Councillors and Senior Management, but will also build council officers, industry and student's capacity. The course will be outcomes focussed and include capacity building resources that can be applied to council operations.

6. Grants & Rebates

The following grants have been announced in March 2008:

- The Environmental Trust will offer grants in 2008 for Education, Research, Echo-schools, Protecting our Environment (Indigenous), Restoration and Rehabilitation and Urban Sustainability. Refer www.environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au
- NSW Green Business Program provides \$30 million over five years for projects that will save water and energy in business operations in NSW. Refer <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/grants/ccfgbp.htm>
- The NSW Government and the Natural Resource Advisory Council announced Forging Partnerships Program Funding – Round 4. Note, only one application per organisation will be accepted. Applications close on 21st April 2008. Successful applicants from Round 1 (2005) and Round 2 (2006) are not eligible to apply. Refer http://www.nrac.nsw.gov.au/projects/fp_intro.htm Round 4 provides two types of grants:
 - Sponsorships grants for smaller projects such as events or workshops – up to \$10,000;
 - Project grants for partnership development and related activities – up to \$60,000.
- The NSW Office for Science and Medical Research makes available each year a small amount of funds to support conferences and events. 2008 Round 2 funding closes on Friday, 18th April 2008. Refer http://www.osmr.nsw.gov.au/funding_and_awards/conferences_and_events
- Australian Research Council and the National Water Commission have co-funded to the value of \$30 million a Centre for Groundwater Research and Training. The Centre will support novel, innovative and cross-disciplinary research and training in the field of groundwater. It will provide scale and focus to Australia's groundwater research, building research capacity and providing outcomes of significant national benefit. Refer <http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/sri/groundwater.htm>

7. Events Calendar

The following events are scheduled in the next few months, refer weblinks for further information:

- Flood Modelling with HEC-RAS - UTS Sydney 17th to 18th April 2008. Refer attached pdf document for course detail and registration.
- Australian Water Summit 2008 – Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, 29th to 30th April 2008. Refer www.acevents.com.au/water2008/
- Enviro 08 – Australasia's Environmental and Sustainability Conference and Exhibition – Melbourne, 5th May to 7th May 2008. Refer www.enviro08.com.au
- Benchmark: The NABERS Conference Series – Powerhouse Museum, Sydney, 08 May 2008. Refer <http://www.nabers.com.au/news-detail.aspx?newsid=28&code=NEWS>

- Stormwater Industry Association Joint NSW & QLD Conference - Surfers Paradise, QLD, 8th – 11th July 2008. Refer <http://www.gemspl.com.au/stormwater>

8. Websites – new and/or potential interest

The following websites may be of particular interest to Councils who may like to promote the sites to their own community groups or use the case studies to develop their own community engagement strategies:

- The URP Toolbox is a free resource of principles and strategies to enhance meaningful stakeholder involvement in decision-making. The focus is on coastal and catchment environments, but the principles can be used in other areas and for a wide range of issues. Meaningful involvement of all stakeholders occurs through a commitment to social learning - learning on the part of communities, other stakeholders and institutions. This is a fantastic resource, please refer <https://www3.secure.griffith.edu.au/03/toolbox/index.php>
- The NSW Government's communitybuilders website aims to help local communities across the State share ideas on how to enhance and strengthen their community. It was developed in response to the desire expressed by communities to access information about what others are doing and what works to make their community safer, healthier, inclusive, and more vibrant and enterprising. Refer <http://www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au>

If you have WSUD or Sustainable Urban Water Management related policy, case study, report or an event/seminar coming up, please email me the details and I will endeavour to put the information up on the www.wsud.org website and/or include it in this e-newsletter.

Please forward this on to colleagues who may be interested in Sustainable Water Management and/or WSUD.

If this e-newsletter was forwarded to you and you would like to receive future WSUD e-newsletters please send an email to info@wsud.org and put **join** in the subject line.

If you want to be removed from this e-newsletter list please email info@wsud.org with **remove** in the subject line.

Regards,

K.

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Program Partners - NSW Stormwater Trust, Sydney Water, Sydney Metropolitan CMA, WSROC, UPRCT & SCCG