



AUSTRALIAN  
WATER  
ASSOCIATION

# WEN e-news

Newsletter of the Water Education Network



water education network

Issue 16, December 2005

## This issue

WEN Survey Now  
Open!

News from the  
Network - Ollie's  
Island

Water Industry  
Training and  
Professional  
Development  
Initiative

Other Network  
News

Education  
Conference 'From  
the Waters Edge to  
the Red Centre'

Welcome to the final issue of WEN e-news for 2005! Like many of you, I am looking forward to taking some time to plan my activities for the year ahead after the Christmas break. The 2005 WEN Survey results are providing excellent feedback and ideas to assist AWA's 2006 activities in the area of education.

The survey closes next week and the results will be published in the next issue of WEN e-news. The prize winner will be drawn and notified before Christmas. Good Luck to everyone who entered by providing your contact details when taking the survey!

Almost 200 WEN members have responded in the survey's first week. If you haven't already participated, please do. Your participation will increase the relevance of WEN activities to your area of interest. Don't miss this opportunity to have input and be in the prize draw! The survey takes less than 15 minutes to complete and is available online until next Wednesday 21st December. **Click here** to take part in the survey now!

WEN has grown at an astounding rate since the first WEN e-news circulated in September 2004. To enable us to better service the network, WEN subscriber details are now in AWA's membership management system. This will make it easier to update details when people move positions or join the network. We have introduced online subscription so if you know someone who is interested in subscribing to WEN they can do so by visiting the **WEN website** and completing the online form.

As most people take extended leave over the next two months I will spend my time in the office rather than 'on the road'. I will organise WEN Network Meetings again from February 2006 focussing on places that I haven't visited in some time. If you would like to have a WEN Network Meeting near you please **email** your suggestions.

Remember to check the conference website for updates. Presentation and workshop titles are now included in a comprehensive preliminary program. Go to [www.awa.asn.au/events/educationconf06](http://www.awa.asn.au/events/educationconf06) to take a look.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of WEN e-news. Best wishes for a wonderful festive season!

**Corinne Cheeseman**  
Education Program Manager



## News from the Network

### Ollie's Island - An Exciting New Edu-tainment Resource

A new state of the art edu-tainment program titled Ollie's Island will give the user an interactive opportunity to explore a range of issues associated with chains of production and consumption across all major industries in Australia. Launched early in the 2006 school year, Ollie's Island will primarily be directed towards secondary school students and other sectors of the community will also access this innovative new program. Available in CD ROM Ollie's Island contains more than 40 hours of interactive edu-tainment allowing users the opportunity to explore a range of issues relating to chains of production and consumption.

The Ollie's Island Program contains an extensive encyclopaedic reference section that will include a wide range of information about major industries in Australia including; Water, Dairy, Grains, Horticulture, Meat & Livestock, Animal & Plant Fibre, Fisheries, Forestry and Minerals and more. The program has extensive information about wise water use in Australia and information relating to sustainability, energy, waste, biodiversity, land management and a range of other relevant issues.

The Ollie's Island Program will also contain case study information from a range of supporting industry groups and organisations committed to the principles of the program. As a supporter of the program, AWA will showcase some current and innovative programs that incorporate wise water management principles, so as to encourage further uptake in communities and schools across Australia.

This new resource is accompanied by an extensive distribution, dissemination and promotional campaign to maximise its uptake across Australia. One free copy of Ollie's

Island CD ROM will be delivered to every primary and secondary school and relevant community groups nationally. AWA will have Ollie's Island CDs available for sale through the WEN in 2006. For more information on this exciting new resource ***click here***.



Some of you will be familiar with the primary school resource 'Ollie Saves the Planet'. This new interactive resource for high school students builds upon its predecessor and provides a unique and comprehensive collaboration of information on sustainability issues for resource management in Australia.

Jane Stewart, the creator of Ollie's Island is presenting a paper at next year's Water Education Conference. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about the features of this amazing program from its creator.

*Corinne Cheeseman*

*'News from the Network' is open to participants of the Water Education Network across Australia, providing an opportunity to showcase water education programs/activities etc. If you have a story you feel is of interest to the WEN network to feature in this segment please email [ccheeseman@awa.asn.au](mailto:ccheeseman@awa.asn.au). 'News from the Network' stories up to 400 words in length. Please include a photo or picture.*

## WEN Network Meetings



WEN Network Meetings start February 2006. Unfortunately the November Adelaide meeting was cancelled due to other events in Adelaide at the time. That meeting will be rescheduled early next year.

WEN Network Meetings are open to anyone with an interest in water education. All are welcome. Details are included in WEN e-news and available on the **website**.

If you are interested in hosting or speaking at a WEN Network Meeting in 2006 please email [ccheeseman@awa.asn.au](mailto:ccheeseman@awa.asn.au).

### ***Water Industry Training & Professional Development Initiative***

In October, AWA's Board approved the appointment of a contractor to assist in the delivering the outcomes of the 2005 Water Industry Training Forum. The core objective is to provide greater national coordination of training, professional development and associated education and training resources, and will include a mapping exercise to identify current gaps and future needs of the water industry.

The first meeting of the steering group, Water Industry Capability Development Committee, will take place this week in Sydney. The meeting will develop a funding subscription model for organisations to commence in 2006.

A broader working group, selected by the steering committee, will convene at the Water Education Conference 2006 to ensure key people have input and involvement in the development of this important initiative.

## Other Network News...

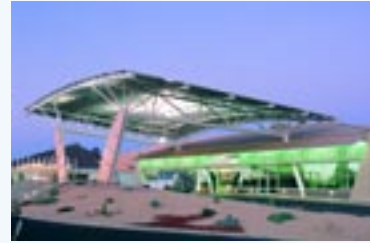
- A call for entries from senior high school students to be in the running for the prestigious AUSTRALIAN JUNIOR WATER PRIZE (AJWP). Entries for the national competition will close on 13 February 2006. The Awards Ceremony will be held at the Water Education Conference April 2006. The winner of the national prize will represent Australia in the international Stockholm Junior Water Prize in August. For more details go to the updated information kit at the 'Junior Water Prize' **website**.

- AWA's Board recently approved sponsorship of OLLIE'S ISLAND, a new interactive high school educational resource. AWA Corporate Members are invited to submit relevant CASE STUDIES for possible inclusion. Case studies are required no later than Friday 16 Dec. Topic areas & format guidelines available at **WEN website**.

- A report "National Guidelines for Water Recycling - Managing Health and Environmental Risks-Impact Assessment", has been released in conjunction with draft Water Recycling Guidelines. Closing date for submissions is Friday 13 January 2006. Visit the **website** for more information.

- The knowledge repository NAIAD, developed as part of the Sustainable Water Sources Program of the CRC for Water Quality & Treatment has its own web site. The purpose of Naiad is to facilitate the sharing of lessons learned from innovative water schemes. Visit the **website**.





## 'From the Waters Edge to the Red Centre'

18 - 21 April 2006

Alice Springs Convention Centre

### Preliminary Program now online!

The Conference Organising Committee has received a high quality and diversity of abstracts ensuring a very full program that contains something for everyone!

The program lists titles and speakers of accepted presentations and workshops. In early 2006 you may view abstracts for papers submitted to assist managing your time at the conference.

Registrations are now open with discounts for early registrations before 10 February 2006!

*For all conference and program updates visit:*

[www.awa.asn.au/events/educationconf06](http://www.awa.asn.au/events/educationconf06)

### International Invited Speakers

Two international speakers will give presentations to showcase their initiatives:

Marie Fatiaki of the Live and Learn Organisation (based in Fiji) will give a perspective from the South Pacific Region.

Lorraine Loken is Senior Manager of Public Education at the Water Environment Federation (WEF) and will present the US perspective.

### *Would you like to chair a session?*

Due to the number of sessions in the conference program the Conference Organising Committee is calling for volunteers to chair a session or two. If you are interested (and have not already indicated you would like to assist) please contact Corinne on (02) 9495 9907.

### *Dear WEN members,*

Thank you for your contribution and feedback during 2005. The growth of WEN this first year has been fantastic to see and shows the importance education has nationally in the management of our most precious resource - water.

I look forward to building on the momentum and enthusiasm with delivery of new initiatives in response to feedback from the current WEN survey.

On behalf of AWA, I wish you a very happy and safe holiday season and look forward to supporting you in 2006.

*Corinne Cheeseman*



## Contact Details



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*You can now subscribe to the WEN online.*

**CLICK HERE** and follow the prompts to register.

Promoting the sustainable management of water

