
Editorial

Well, EnviroTox 2001 is now long gone - although you will be pleased to know that reference is still made to it in this issue (possibly the next Endpoint won't make any mention to it!). And you'll also find reference to the next conference in this issue.



So, to start, here is something that didn't get used - I can't tell you what it wasn't used for, but I thought it might make a reasonable editorial (noting that a lot of water has gone under the bridge since I wrote it)!

If you picked up a newspaper in the latter half of 2000, the news headline might have read "SA damns NSW on Murray River water use". In one state, portioning river flows to give certainty for an "environmental" flow is seen as critical (ie SA), while in another (ie NSW), the government of the day rebuffs the idea using a report commissioned by their Department of Water Resources.

So how is a coherent policy developed for the Murray-Darling catchment, especially one that incorporates sound science for a pragmatic and desirable outcome?

An hypothetical issue identified from the newsclip might be "What role do environmental flows play in water trading for ecologically sustainable natural resource management". If we were to develop policy for this issue, say because of overwhelming public demand, we would need to do at least two things. Firstly, we must critically examine just how scientifically based is this notion of critical environmental flow. Then secondly, we must clearly determine the outcomes and objectives that we want to achieve.

In relation to the above suggested hypothetical, I am sure you will agree there are clearly at two very important outcomes that any sensible policy would want to achieve:

1. Ensuring resource use for today and for the future (ie in the context of ecologically sustainable development); and that
2. Resource use is coordinated across the catchment.

Subordinate objectives might consist of a mixture of what we could call output and input objectives, and might consist of:

3. Developing a program to work out how to incorporate the need for environmental flow into water trading (an output objective). That is:
 - Review current program of water-trading (cost/benefit analysis of taking water from the system, cost/benefit analysis of the return of waste water to the river with or without treatment), and
 - Economic valuation of environmental flows (cost/benefit analysis of returning flow for the environment, long-term costs to agriculture if no environmental flow); and
4. Restructuring the water-trading system to accurately account for environmental flows - for example through regulations and incentives, governments buying water licenses (an input objective).

The above concentrates on the demonstration of benefit and cost. But to whom? The stakeholders in the Murray-Darling catchment are many and varied. A list of the stakeholders will include:

Tourist operators, recreational fishers, bird watchers, primary producers, manufacturers, industry, special interest groups like the Ramsar Bureau, indigenous groups, green groups, landholders, irrigators, communities, commonwealth departments like Australian Forests, Fisheries and Agriculture, ourselves (ie Environment Australia), the Murray-Darling Basin Commission, and then the numerous state departments and local governments.

In achieving sound outcomes, we must ensure that these stakeholders are consulted and listened to, but sound policy does not necessarily mean that the lowest common denominator should be adopted. The establishment of good communication for stakeholders in the policy process, will nevertheless, help to overcome even institutionalised barriers (even those that exist between Commonwealth Departments!). And part of this management of knowledge must be the identification and setting out of

fundamental concepts, and their communication to stakeholders. This is particularly relevant when scientific data are needed to help determine policy outcomes. Importantly, however, it is essential that scientific data are not presented in isolation from the cultural, ethical and political context. When this is done, as for an issue like environmental flows in the Murray River, we then face various "messy" problems, issues or concepts. Some of these are currently seen as major environmental issues, such as global warming, gene technology, persistent organic pollutants, the precautionary principle, and so on. We have a community who is mis-informed or uninformed on these subjects, and who sometimes hears data from the same source presented by opposing proponents to support their respective views.

So, how do we go about understanding what the real world situation is and moving from there to develop really good, sound and relevant policy and regulation? How do we do that in the often more difficult context of political reality? This brings me to the theme of EnviroTox 2001: From Reality to Regulation.

In the context of ecotoxicology, I am told that EnviroTox 2001 with its theme From Reality to Regulation aims to capture two concepts that must be brought together successfully in order to ensure effective environmental protection.

Firstly, it reflects that in ecotoxicology, as in any science, different representations of a subject and its environment are possible. As scientists, you are acutely aware at times of the inadequacy of your experimental methods, or instrumental techniques and sampling procedures - you continually ask yourselves: "are the data real" as you know you can never account for all possible interactions of the subject with its environment. Some of you may

favour a reductionist approach, seeking to understand 'cause and effect' by the use of more simplistic models of 'reality' in the laboratory and sometimes by the use of mesocosms. Others of you may be involved in field investigations, looking at populations and their interaction with environmental parameters to better understand the whole ecosystem.

Secondly, in policy and legislation development, scientists often know little of the responsibilities and obligations of government agencies in the translation of scientific information into policy formulation and implementation. However, the way in which reality is represented affects how policy, legislation and regulation are developed. Conversely, policy and legislation development and regulation affect the way reality is investigated (eg. if laboratory ecotoxicity tests are more cost-effective than mesocosm or exhaustive field studies, the former will be more attractive to regulators). With EnviroTox 2001 being held in Canberra, the opportunity now exists to explore this theme by those of you here: scientists, industry representatives, managers and regulators.

JG Tisdell has written a paper on "The environmental impact of water markets: An Australian case-study". The abstract states that "The consequences of these policies on river health is yet to be fully understood, but recognised as having significant interrelationships which need to be explored". To read more on the consequences of introducing trade and allocating water for environmental use in the Border Rivers region of Queensland, find his paper in *Journal of Environmental Management* (2001) 62 113-120. (Academic Press).

Position Vacant

The Risk Assessment and Policy Section of Environment Australia in Canberra seeks expressions of interest for temporary three-month contract positions (with possible extension) at the EA 5 level (annual salary range \$44,125 - 47,297). Major duties include conducting environmental risk assessments of pesticides and industrial chemicals. Tertiary qualifications in a relevant discipline (eg. ecotoxicology, environmental chemistry, agricultural science, statistics, ecology, etc.) and/or experience with risk assessment methodology are highly desirable. For more information, please contact Chris Lee-Steere on (02) 6250 0256 or chris.lee-steere@ea.gov.au.

It seems like just yesterday that we were all attending the highly successful "Envirotox 2001" conference. All the members of the Organising Committee and the Scientific Committee for this conference did a fabulous job and brought us yet another great conference. I particularly liked the workshops that exposed us to experts from a variety of fields that we might not usually encounter but that have great bearing on aspects of ecotoxicology.

It is now only twelve months to our next ASE conference. This is being run in conjunction with the Analytical Chemistry, Environmental Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Science Divisions of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute and the International Chemometrics Society (statistics applied to chemistry). The conference will be held at the University of Technology, Sydney where we have previously held two ASE conferences. The venue is very conveniently located opposite Central Railway station and near to the CBD, Darling Harbour and Chinatown and a wide variety of accommodation is available within walking distance.

The title of the Conference is INTERACT 2002. As the name implies the aim is to bring together these related disciplines so that scientific interaction and exchange can be facilitated. It is planned that between 500 and 600 people will attend the conference, which would make it the largest conference that ASE has been involved with. There has been close interaction between the Environmental Chemistry Division and ASE regarding the development of joint strands and invited speakers. The invited speakers look very promising and cover a broad range of topics. The invited international speakers of interest to us are:

- Dr Chris Wood (McMaster University, Canada) whose title is 'Toxicity of trace metals to aquatic organisms'
- Dr Michael Newman (Virginia Institute of Marine Science, USA) 'Ecotoxicological modelling'
- Dr Ed Tipping (Institute of Freshwater Ecology, UK) 'Transport and fate of contaminants'

We also have a number of invited Australasian speakers;

- Dr Graeme Batley 'Regulating toxicants in the environment'
- Prof. Doug Holdway 'The impact of pulse-exposure to chemicals on aquatic organisms'
- Dr David Jones 'Environmental issues facing Australian mining'
- Dr Mike McLaughlin 'Bioavailability of contaminants in soil'
- Dr Peter Nelson 'Urban Air quality in Australia'

All of the invited speakers are internationally renowned experts in their disciplines and their presentations should be extremely interesting and stimulating.

Preparations are going well for the conference. Hopefully you have all received the Expression of Interest form for Interact 2002 that was included with the last mail out of the journal and newsletter. If you haven't returned the expression of interest form don't forget to do so. A registration and call for papers brochure should be sent out in October so keep your eyes open for that.

We have been very fortunate in being able to negotiate a favourable profit/loss agreement with the other three organisations involved in organising the conference (Analytical, Environmental and Pharmaceutical Chemistry). Basically, any profits will be split amongst the four organisations based on the proportion of attendees from each society. While losses will be split amongst the organisations on basis of the size of the organisations. As we are the smallest society we will only be liable for 10% of any loss. The registration form will ask each person to identify the society or societies that they belong to, and this will be the basis for the sharing of any profits. It is therefore vital to ASE that you clearly indicate that you are an ASE member. If you are a member of more than one society then please indicate that as well.

The long awaited **Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality** have finally been released on the Environment Australia website <http://www.ea.gov.au/water/quality/nwqms/index.html#quality>.



**The following is something
you might be interested in**

Dear colleagues,

It is with pleasure that the organising committee under the chairmanship of Dr Ravi Naidu invites you to attend the Bioavailability Workshop to be held in Adelaide, South Australia during 18-20 November 2001. The focus of this workshop "Chemical Bioavailability in the Terrestrial Environment", recognises the contrasting views that microbiologists, plant scientists, regulators and toxicologists have on bioavailability of both nutrients and contaminants.

Bioavailability is now recognised as the single most important parameter in risk management and remediation. It is often linked to risk as the product of exposure and toxicity although the latter is based on short-term contamination studies that may not bear any resemblance to long-term contaminated soils. If bioavailability is to be the core of any remediation technology then there is a need for reassessment of our approach to assessing bioavailability.

The proposed workshop aims to bring together scientists, toxicologists and regulators leading research on bioavailability from all over the world to share their knowledge on bioavailability and environmental health risk assessment for contaminated soils.

A key feature of this workshop is the inter-laboratory assessment of contaminant bioavailability using similar techniques by different international research teams. The workshop also provides an opportunity to agronomists for an assessment of bioavailability indices currently being used for fertiliser recommendations. We look forward to seeing you in Adelaide in November 2001. For details please see the web address below.

<http://www.clw.csiro.au/conferences/bioavailability/>

If you need any further information please do not hesitate to contact either Dr Mallavarapu Megharaj or Dr Komal Vig at the following email address:

Megharaj.Mallavarapu@adl.clw.csiro.au
or Komal.Vig@adl.clw.csiro.au

The 3 Rs

Riveting Reports

Chemical Safety Information Now Free To The World

Thousands of chemical safety documents are now available for free at one site on the Internet. This information is a useful tool for those concerned with chemical safety and the sound management of chemicals.

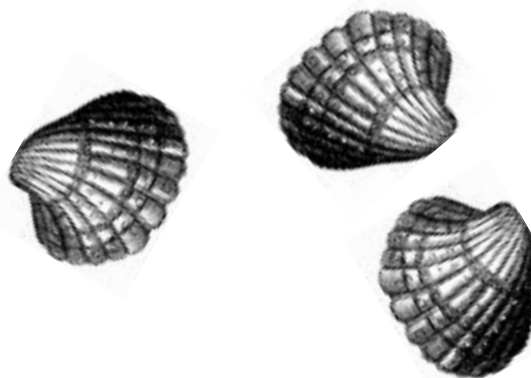
The International Programme on Chemical Safety's (IPCS) INCHEM service, www.inchem.org, became free of charge to people around the world via the Internet beginning in June 2001. This service now offers quick and easy access to thousands of searchable full-text documents* from international bodies on chemical risks and chemical risk management.

IPCS INCHEM directly responds to one of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) priority actions to consolidate current, internationally peer-reviewed, chemical safety-related publications and database records from international bodies, for public access.

IPCS INCHEM is produced through cooperation between IPCS (a joint activity of the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme) and the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS).

More chemical safety information from international bodies will be added progressively to the collection.

The IPCS INCHEM Programme was developed in 1997 as a co-operative undertaking between IPCS and CCOHS. The IPCS INCHEM Programme is based at CCOHS, Canada's national agency dedicated to eradicating workplace illness and injuries and creating a safe and healthy working environment for everyone.



* The IPCS INCHEM collection currently includes Environmental Health Criteria (EHC) monographs, Concise International Chemical Assessment Document (CICADS), Health and Safety Guides (HSGs), International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSCs), IPCS/EC Evaluation of Antidotes Series, JECFA (Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives) monographs and evaluations, JMPR (Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues) monographs and evaluations, Pesticide Data Sheets (PDSs), Poisons Information Monographs (PIMs), Screening Information Data Set (SIDS) for High Production Volume Chemicals, CIS Chemical Information (ILO/CIS) and International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) Summaries and Evaluations.

Source: Note for the Press N° 10, 25 July 2001
For further information, please contact: Melinda Henry, Office of the Spokesperson, World Health Organization, Geneva; Tel. (+41 22) 791 2535, Fax (+41 22) 791 4858, E-mail: henrym@who.int or Eleanor Irwin, Manager, Marketing, Sales and Communications, CCHOHS; Tel. (+1 800) 668 4284, Ext. 4408 (from Canada and the United States) or (+1 905) 572 2981, Ext. 4408 (from other countries), E-mail: eleanori@ccohs.ca



MTBE

Technology, December 1, 2000, 516A-521A).

Dear AWA Member/affiliate,

I'd like to call your attention to something that should be a serious issue to anyone with an interest in water in Australia. The Federal Government appears to be poised to make a decision that would sanction the importation of fuel into Australia that contains the additive MTBE. Experience in the use of MTBE elsewhere, particularly in the US, demonstrates a very high risk of undesirable, long term adverse impacts on surface and ground water supplies.

The introduction of MTBE was initially driven by air quality considerations, and it has delivered demonstrable benefits in those regards. However, in our mind the risks to water resources outweigh the air quality benefits - and there are other less hazardous ways to address emissions concerns.

Current consideration of the issue in Australia appears to be driven by economic considerations, with environmental concerns having relatively little weight in the discussion. We'd like to enlist your assistance in redressing this balance.

This is from the AWA newsletter (Brian McRae, Technical Director, Australian Water Association) - I include it here because it demonstrates how policy can be made as opposed to how policy could be made (see the editorial). Any counter views would be welcomed. Also, if you want more background from a recent article, try "The complicated Challenge of MTBE Cleanups" by Lisa S Dernbach (Environmental Science &

As you may be aware, AWA doesn't typically engage in "activist" politics. This issue has prompted this level of reaction because we see an issue where there is substantive evidence of environmental hazard and insufficient weight being given to that evidence. We see a decision with potential long term ramifications for water supplies and little or no public awareness or debate. We think the issue needs to be given broad exposure and believe that AWA's distributed network can have an impact on this issue by collectively raising it at a local level. Some key issues that you may want to include in communications about this issue are provided below, along with some key contacts. More information on the issue has been placed on our website at: www.awa.asn.au/news&info/h2oInfo/MTBE.asp.

PLEASE CONSIDER CONTACTING YOUR FEDERAL MEMBER, YOUR LOCAL MEDIA AND/OR THE MINISTERIAL CONTACTS ON PAGE??

KEY ISSUES:

The Federal Government, in a follow-up to the Fuel Quality Standards Act 2000, is considering whether importation of petrol containing the additive MTBE should be allowed.

There is substantial, well documented evidence that the use of petrol containing MTBE has led to water quality problems. The problems have arisen in surface waters where recreational boats with outboard motors are used. Recreational lakes may be a source of drinking water. (If it is in your area, this may be a very good point to elaborate on).

Groundwater contamination has occurred in a number of places, resulting in the water source either being made unavailable as a water source without very expensive remediation. (If your area relies on groundwater supplies, point this out to your local contacts).

Areas where MTBE has been used have been banned, or are considering banning, its use and agencies and institutions that have studied the issue extensively have concluded that it should be withdrawn. (There are a number of different sources referenced on our web page).

Environment Australia concluded that "based on the concerns surrounding the use of MTBE, in particular its potential to contaminate surface and groundwater supplies, the Commonwealth proposes to prohibit its use in all grades of Australian petrol". (This quote is taken from an article in the Australian Financial Review, 2-3 June, p 28, and is attributed to a report done prior to the consideration of the Act in November 2000 entitled "Setting National Fuel Quality Standards").

Continued page 9

Special ASE Symposia at IUTOX, Brisbane, July 12, 2001

After the success of EnviroTox in Canberra in February, why wait another 18 months until our next ASE Conference in Sydney? Instead, ASE is co-ordinating a workshop on "Developments in Ecotoxicology – Links with Human Toxicology" at the forthcoming International Congress of Toxicology, Brisbane Convention Centre on Thursday July 12. The aim of the workshop is to highlight some exciting new areas in ecotoxicology that will also be of interest to toxicologists worldwide. Talks cover biomarkers, ecology, bioaccumulation and new techniques in ecotoxicology.

Guest speakers include:

- **Dr Lynn McCarty** (Canada) "Issues at the interface between ecology and toxicology"
- **Prof Nick Fisher** (USA) "Toxicological consequences of the trophic transfer of metals in aquatic animals"
- **Dr Charles Eason** (New Zealand) "Biomarkers in toxicological versus ecotoxicological risk assessment"
- **Dr Jenny Stauber** (Australia) "New applications of flow cytometry in ecotoxicology"

Apart from the special ASE workshop, other sessions of interest to ecotoxicologists include multiple sessions on:

- Risk Assessment (including a talk by Davide Calamari, Italy) and
- Endocrine Disruptors,

together with a large poster and trade display.

So if you are in Brisbane, come along and support ASE's initiative to link with a major international conference. Full details, registration forms etc. are available from the website: www.uq.edu.au/ICT9/

Louis Tremblay also draws your attention to the following:

Landcare Research is hosting an ICT-9 satellite workshop: 'Integration of Toxicological Tools: Solution to Environmental Management', 16-17 July 2001, Queenstown, New Zealand. For more information visit: www.landcare.cri.nz/conferences/toxicology



MTBE continued

The current level of debate appears to lack consideration of environmental issues and be centred solely on competition issues - in this case protection of independent retailers. The environmental hazards associated with this decision have potentially several cost implications.

WHO TO CONTACT

Ideally, someone you have some sort of established relationship. In the absence of any personal connections, your local federal member. (<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/members/index.htm>). If you have any media connections, consider informing them about the issue. If you feel particularly proactive, the federal Ministers involved are: Hon. John Howard, Premier, Hon. Peter Costello, Treasurer, ministerial@treasury.gov.au, Hon. Nick Minchin, Minister for Industry, Science, Resources, senator.minchin@aph.gov.au, Hon. Warren Truss, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry, W.Truss.MP@aph.gov.au, Hon. Robert Hill, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, S.Stone.MP@aph.gov.au (Sharon Stone, Parliamentary Secretary).

Change of email

Jill Woodworth
Geotechnical Services, Perth
Email: jill@geotechnical-services.com.au
Phone: 08 9458 8877
Fax: 08 9458 8857

STOP PRESS

Another Rick at SKM! Rick van Dam has left eriss for the big smoke (really big after Jabiru and Darwin!!). He'll also hit the big time next issue when a Snapshot will be done on him.

The National TBT Contamination Assessment Project

This current project is being jointly funded by the National Heritage Trust (Coasts and Clean Seas) and the Environmental Protection Agencies or their equivalent in each Australian State.

The background to the project is that in the late 1980s the use of tributyl tin (TBT) based antifoulant paint was restricted to the hulls of vessels of 25 metres or greater in length. This paralleled similar restrictions in many overseas nations. Effectively this banned the use of TBT-based paint on the multitude of recreational vessels on which it had been used up to that time and restricted its use to mainly commercial vessels. This was expected to reduce the growing problems in Australian waterways associated with TBT contamination of biota and sediments which was linked to losses of aquatic invertebrate fauna, in particular gastropods and bivalves in a similar fashion to established TBT-related impacts elsewhere.

Since the introduction of restrictions on the use of TBT-based antifoulants in Australia, there have been other measures adopted to clean up the other major source of TBT contamination, which is the poor management of paint residues containing TBT in contaminated blasting grit and paint scrapings from the hulls of vessels slipped for repair and repainting. The Queensland EPA recently successfully prosecuted a case involving this material which resulted in jail sentences and large fines.

Unfortunately few if any reliable benchmark studies were conducted to enable the effectiveness of the TBT restrictions in Australian waters, although studies in Sydney harbour and elsewhere have indicated that since the restrictions were introduced, previously impacted bivalve and gastropod populations have recovered. There is also an ongoing problem with the reliability of TBT analysis in environmental material, which of course is a crucial component in any benchmark studies.

The current project has three components. The first is an interlaboratory trial involving analysis of TBT in typical environmental samples of water, sediment and bivalve tissue. This aspect is being managed by Graeme Batley and his laboratory at Lucas Heights. As well as being assessed on their performance with samples of known TBT content, participating laboratories are getting assistance with QA/QC to improve their reliability in dealing with TBT analyses. The second phase of the project involves the collection, using standard collection protocols, of sediment and bivalve tissue (and in some cases water samples also) from a series of recreational boating and commercial shipping areas. It is intended that this collection will be the benchmark against which further collections using the same protocols at the same sites can be assessed in another five years time. Further detail of these protocols is given below. The third phase of the project is the compilation of a compendium of all known background data and related reports on TBT contamination in Australian waters. At present most of this information is lodged in collections of grey-literature held by various EPAs, port authorities and their consultants. The second and third phases of the project are being coordinated by the Queensland EPA.

An overview of the project sample collection protocols:

- ***Biota***

Pooled replicate collections of bivalves are being made near areas of known TBT contamination. Where bivalves are not present in sufficient numbers, bivalves from TBT-free areas may be deployed in cages.

- ***Waters***

Replicate samples of water are being collected from below the surface at sites near areas of severely TBT-contaminated sediments and/or biota.

- ***Sediments***

A recognised problem with quantifying TBT in contaminated sediments is the extreme small-scale variance which in some cases results from the presence of actual TBT-based paint fragments in the matrix.

Accordingly the protocol has been designed to assess the number of small samples which need to be pooled into composites to achieve an acceptable coefficient of variation at each benchmark site.

To ensure uniformity and reproducibility of sediment sampling, divers are being used to collect the samples using hand-held corers pushed into the surface sediment. The filled, and capped, cores are frozen in dry ice at the surface, for later slicing to separate the top 2 cms for analysis.

Fortunately for a project which has a high demand for dive time, the Royal Australian Navy (which has a stake in the mitigation of TBT contamination through its use in antifoulants on the hulls of naval vessels), has been very helpful in making naval divers available to assist.

Dear Members,

As part of the next ASE conference (Sydney July, 2002) we would like to run some workshops, along the lines of those run at the SETAC conferences. I would really appreciate it if you could take the time to answer the five questions below and return your answers to me by Friday 19 August.

Thanks,

Michael

Dr Michael Warne, contact details on inside of back cover

1. In addition to the four day conference would you be interested in attending
 - (a) a half day workshop
 - (b) a full day workshop
 - (c) a two day workshop
2. How much would you be willing to pay (per half day of workshop) to attend
 - (a) \$20
 - (b) \$20-50
 - (c) \$50-100
3. Would you be interested in attending a workshop on:
 - (a) Multi-variate statistics - principally CANOCO
 - (b) how to conduct acute and chronic cladoceran toxicity tests
 - (c) how to conduct microtox tests
4. Do you have any suggestions for workshop topics?
5. Would you be willing to conduct a workshop, if so on what subject matter?

While it has not been finalised payment for running a workshop would consist of free registration to the conference or the equivalent (\$600).

Any questions, just ask Munro Mortimer!

Thanks for the article Munro.



Contact details for Munro on inside of back cover

Cotton Research and Development Corporation Press Release

The Cotton Research and Development Corporation is calling for applications for research funding for the coming financial year.

With an annual research budget of approximately \$13.8 million, the Corporation is aiming to provide benefits to the Australian Cotton industry and the community by improving operational and environmental performance throughout the production chain.

More than 45% of the annual research funding administered by the Cotton R&D Corporation is directed towards improving the environmental and ecological sustainability of the industry, incorporating the development of Best Management Practices, natural resource management and biodiversity. Other broad areas of funding are "Profitability and Competitiveness" and "People and Communities".

In addition to funding provided for research projects, the Corporation provides a limited number of Post Doctoral Fellowships and Postgraduate Scholarships.

Applications for postgraduate scholarships will be accepted up to Friday 2 November 2001 for students wishing to align studies with the academic year.

Applicants are strongly advised to seek industry input before compiling submissions. Research Project, Post Doctoral Fellowships and industry Development Award applications close on Tuesday 29 January 2002.

For more information, copies of the "Researchers Handbook - A Guide to Applicants" or application forms, visit the CRDC Website www.crdc.com.au or e-mail research@crdc.com.au, telephone 02 6792 4088, fax (02) 6792 4400 or write to 'Project Applications' Cotton Research and Development Corporation, PO Box 282, Narrabri, NSW, 2390.

Membership and GST

All members residing in Australia must pay GST as stated on all current renewals and applications for membership. Please remember to add the GST to your payments. Full members are \$66 and students are \$27.50. Ignoring it doesn't work as our hard working treasurer still has to chase you for these small amounts as he must remit these to the taxation dept.

Members residing in New Zealand, South East Asia, USA, UK, Europe, Japan etc do not pay GST.

If you are using a form from a Newsletter or a Journal to sign up a colleague or friend - that is wonderful - but please be sure to use one which has GST prices - or better still download one from the website.

MEMBERSHIP AND JOURNAL ENTITLEMENT

Q. Are you feeling a bit left out because someone you now has just received their copy of the Journal and you didn't?

Q. Do you think you have been forgotten and missed out on the latest issue of the Journal?

Most of you are aware that the issue of Journals are running behind ... but it is catching up!

Volume 6 has just gone out and those who were members for the period 1999/2000 will have recently received their copy.

If you are unsure which issue you should be receiving

- * the table below lists the years and volumes - it is also on the ASE website
- * your receipt tells you the year of your membership.

New members joining after end of February each year are usually given membership for the next financial year. The membership year runs from July. But new members usually receive the newsletter from the time their details are on the database.

Be patient - provided your address is current, the Journal issues you are entitled to will arrive in due course - even if you cease membership in the intervening period.

1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/2002
Vol #5	Vol #6	Vol #7	Vol #8
Nos 1&2	Nos 1&2	Nos 1&2	Nos 1&2
Mailed	mailed	in prep	

Current membership (2001/2002) entitles you to Vol 8.

Monograph publications - OECD Series on Testing & Assessment

You can now find 5 new monographs on the OECD website: <http://www.oecd.org/ehs/test/monos.htm#ADOPTED> The monographs include the following:

- No. 24: Guidance Document on Acute Oral Toxicity Testing
- No. 26: Revised Analysis of Responses Received from Member Countries to the Questionnaire on Data Requirements for Acute Oral Toxicity
- No. 27: Guidance Document on the Use of the Harmonised System for the Classification of Chemicals which are Hazardous for the Aquatic Environment
- No. 29: Guidance Document on Transformation/Dissolution of Metals and Metal Compounds in Aqueous Media
- No. 30: Detailed Review Document on Hazard Classification Systems for Mixtures

If you would like paper copies of any of the above, please let Keri Aspegren know:

Keri Aspegren, OECD, Environment, Health and Safety Division.

tel. (33) 1 45 24 16 74; fax (33) 1 45 24 16 75; keri.aspegren@oecd.org

You might have noticed a copy of the flyer is enclosed - just in case you feel like signing up a new member(s).

Also, just a reminder that renewal notices were sent out in last issue of Endpoint (v7#3) - please don't forget to return with your subscription to Munro as soon as possible.

Narelle Richardoson

Postponed RMIT-UCLA water environment workshop

Dear All

Please note the postponement of the RMIT-UCLA water environment workshop as a result of the problems in the US in September.

Dayanthi

Unfortunately, due to events last week we have been requested by UCLA that the workshop be postponed.

Understandably, there is a lot of concern in the US about air travel. Professors Mike Stenstrom and Tom Harmon from UCLA and their families understandably have concerns about their travel arrangements.

In light of the unavailability of our guests from UCLA, the organising committee has decided that the Water Environment Workshop that was to be held from 24-25 September will be put on hold. Tentative dates of 10 to 11 December have been proposed as alternative dates.

We hope to confirm these dates in the very near future and will keep you informed as new information comes to light.

Our apologies for any inconvenience. We hope that under these most difficult circumstances you will appreciate our position. Please don't hesitate to contact Dr Michael Waters on 03 9925 3319 or myself on 9925 3795 should you have any enquiries about this issue.

Nira Jayasuriya

Conference Chair, Water Environment Workshop

Spare a thought for the bureaucrat!

Regulators, under unprecedented pressure, face a range of demands, often contradictory in nature: be less intrusive - but more effective; be kindlier and gentler - but don't let the bastards get away with anything; focus your efforts - but be consistent; process things quicker - and be more careful next time; deal with important issues - but don't stray outside your statutory authority; be more responsive to the regulated community - but do not get captured by industry.

M Sparrow, The Regulatory Craft, Brookings Institution Press, 2000, 17.

Students' Say

Warren Davies,
RMIT University

Welcome all to Students' Say

Just a reminder that if any ecotox Honours student is interested in putting in an application to win the ASE student prize (\$500), nominations are now being called for. So if you have submitted your Honours in the last 12 months of the nomination deadline (15th December 2001) and you think it is pretty good, why don't you put in a nomination. In this issue of Endpoint I am featuring an Ecotoxicology student from New Zealand. Lynn Booth started at Landcare Research in 1994 as a technician in the Toxicology Laboratory. Lynn progressed from a technician to conducting her own research and projects and started her PhD in 1998 in a collaborative project between Landcare Research and Lincoln University. Lynn met Dr Roman Lanno at the 21st Annual SETAC Conference in Nashville in November 2000, and he indicated he was looking for a post-doc for a project on developing EcoSSLs (Ecological Soil Screening Levels) for

polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), explosives, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and metals. Lynn has taken 1-2 years leave from Landcare Research to conduct this research and is currently at Oklahoma State University as a post doctoral fellow in the Zoology department, working with Dr Roman Lanno and Dr Nick Basta. She is principally responsible for evaluating the effects of three PAHs, pyrene, phenanthrene and benzo-a-pyrene, using the following soil invertebrates, the earthworm, *Eisenia fetida*, the collembola, *Folsomia candida*, and the enchytraeid, *Enchytraeus albidus*. Solid phase microextraction fibres (SPMEs) are to be evaluated as a surrogate measure of bioavailability of the PAHs to these soil invertebrates, and compared with effects on mortality, growth, fecundity, and or bioaccumulation. Lynns Leisure time activities include horse riding, gardening, and travel.

Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (2000)

The Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (2000) and the Australian Guidelines for Water Quality Monitoring and Reporting (2000) have just been released. In case you were not aware, the revised Water Quality Guidelines are now available. They come as a ring-binder containing 315 printed pages (Volume 1 only - the main Guidelines - plus index), an Introduction booklet, as well as a complete set of the Guidelines documents and information on a fully searchable CD-ROM, which includes Volumes 1, 2 (support information for aquatic ecosystems) & 3 (support information for primary industries) of the Water Quality Guidelines, the Monitoring Guidelines and the

NWQMS Implementation Guidelines (1998), as well as databases and software associated with the Water Quality Guidelines. This CD is only available with the Water Quality Guidelines. The Monitoring Guidelines comes as a ring-binder containing 252 printed pages (indexed) and a Summary booklet.

You can find the revised Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (2000) with Introduction, and two support volumes, and the newly drafted Australian Guidelines for Water Quality Monitoring and Reporting (2000) and information about how to order the ringbinder and CD package on the NWQMS web site at

<http://www.ea.gov.au/water/quality/nwqms/index.html>

ASE STUDENT PRIZE

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 15 DECEMBER 2001

For further information contact:

Dr Jenny Stauber:

(02) 9710 6808 or

jenny.stauber@det.csiro.au

The Australasian Society for Ecotoxicology wishes to encourage the development of ecotoxicological studies within the University system. With this objective in mind the Society calls for nominations for the ASE Student Prize under the following conditions:

1. The prize is offered for the best Honours thesis submitted at an Australasian University within one calendar year of the year when nominations are called and will consist of a Medal and a cash prize of \$500;
2. Nominations should be made within one year of submission of the thesis;
3. The criteria will be excellence in the field of ecotoxicology (as defined in the Aims of the Society);
4. The nomination should include:
 - The thesis,
 - Name and brief CV (half-page) of nominee,
 - Official statement of Honours results, and
 - Statement of support from the supervisor(s);
5. The Council of the Society will appoint a Judging Panel of three members of ASE to make a recommendation to the Council which will make the award; and
6. No award will be made if nominations are not considered to be of an appropriate standard by the Panel.

Applications should be submitted
by 15 December 2001 to:

Dr Michael Warne
Centre for Ecotoxicology
University of Technology Sydney,
Westbourne St, Gore Hill NSW 2065

What's On

30 September- 3 October 2001, 28th Annual Aquatic Toxicity Workshop, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. More information at www.atw.ca.

12-15 November 2001, Brighton Crop Protection Conference Weeds 2001, Brighton, UK. Contact The Event Organization, 8 Cotswold Mews, Battersea Square, London SW11 3RA, UK, eventorg@event-org.com, www.bcpc.org/bcpcconfer2001/index.htm, fax 44-171-924-1790.

4-8 February 2002, Joint International Seminar on Exposure and Effects, Modelling in Environmental Toxicology, Antwerp, Belgium. Contact SETAC Europe office at <http://www.setac.org/antwerp.html>.

7-11 April 2002, Mercury in the Environment: Assessing and Managing the Multimedia Risks, Orlando, Florida, USA. Contact William Stelz, Tel 202-564-6834, stelz.william@epa.gov; Thomas Atkeson, thomas.atkeson@dep.state.fl.us; Allan Ford, Tel 850-934-6014, fordam@worldnet.att.net; or Jonathan Herrmann, Tel 513-560-7839, herrmann.jonathan@epa.gov.

22-25 October 2002, The Annual International Conference on Contaminated Soils, Sediments and Water, Amherst, Massachusetts, USA. Contact Denise Leonard, Tel 413-545-1239, info@UMassSoils.com, <http://www.umasssoils.com/index.htm>.

WSL World of Congress

WSL - the World of Congress has opened its website and portal.

The WSL World of Congress Calendar, a transdisciplinary congress calendar of all scientific disciplines, is now targetting to be the worlds largest provider of congress information and booking platform to date - worldwide.

The calendar gives you free access to worldwide propagation and publicity information for your planned meetings at no charge.

Their main objective is: a high qualitative database for you as user!

If you would you like to enter other congresses your institution is planning to organize in the future, then look at http://www.world-of-congress.com/congress_calendar/default2.html.

If you would like to make any changes, additions or corrections send them to the E-mail: corr@world-of-congress.com. For any other contact use the following E-mail: office@world-of-congress.com.

<http://www.world-of-congress.com>

