



## Inside this issue

- [Program Leader's Message](#)
- [Annual Stakeholder Forum](#)
- [On-line Questionnaire](#)
- [Welcome Department of Water \(WA\)](#)
- ['Transition to a Water Sensitive Urban Design' FAWB release](#)
- [New Research Fellow](#)
- [Internal Research Workshop](#)
- [Farewell to Jodi Clarke](#)
- [New Assistant](#)
- [Rock's Riverside Park Visit](#)
- [Call for Contributions](#)
- [Contact details](#)



## Program Leader's Message

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to inform you that by mid-year we will be making all our results of the first phase of the research publicly available. The research team has been working tirelessly on analysing the qualitative and quantitative results and the reports will focus on perceived 'Barriers' and 'Drivers' to advancing more sustainable forms of urban water management in Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth. Theme A involved interviewing (n=250) and surveying (n=1041) professionals in the urban water sector and other relevant stakeholders to better understand the institutional arrangements, cultures and capacity levels across each case study region.

The research team has been busy holding workshops and seminars to present the preliminary results of Theme A. For example, results were presented at the inaugural Annual Stakeholder Forum in December last year. This two-day workshop promoted great dialogue amongst Steering Committee members, industry experts and research team members and was a great forum for validating research results so far. Further information on this forum is covered in this newsletter. Other State-based presentations have also been held with research participants throughout February and March 2007. These forums have provided a great opportunity for improved validation, further networking and planning for future areas of research in the Program. As the first Phase of the Program begins to wind down, core research activities for **Theme B** or Phase 2 ('Institutional Capacity Development') are currently being organised.

In other news, I would like to extend a warm welcome to a new research funding partner, the **Department of Water** from Western Australia. The research team recently held a series of induction workshops to introduce Department of Water staff to the core research aims and preliminary findings.

Before I sign off, it is a great privilege to introduce two new Staff members to the research team: Research Fellow, **Dr Megan Farrelly**, and Research Assistant **Stacey Sawchuk**. Megan joins us from Perth, following the recent completion of her doctoral studies and Stacey joins us part-time while she completes her Masters studies at Monash University. However, it is also a time for goodbyes; the research team says farewell to **Jodi Clarke** and **Adriane Pollard**. Jodi has worked with the program since its inception and has brought much positive energy, enthusiasm and innovative research ideas to the team; she will be greatly missed. Adriane was only with the team for a short time and is now back in Canada, but nonetheless contributed greatly to the research process. On behalf of myself, the National Urban Water Governance Program and Steering Committee members we wish Jodi and Adriane all the very best in their future endeavours.

It is worth noting that from our humble beginnings with the newsletter being distributed to approximately 50 individuals; it has now increased to over 700 subscribers who are interested in urban water governance. With such a broad audience, we welcome your contributions regarding urban water management for our next eNewsletter, expected in July/August 2007.

We hope you enjoy this edition.

**Dr Rebekah Brown**  
Program Leader



## Annual Stakeholder Forum

# Inaugural Annual Stakeholder Forum

The first annual Stakeholder Forum was held over the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> December 2006 in Melbourne. The forum was attended by the Program's research team members and students, Steering Committee Members and invited Industry Experts. The forum was used to present the preliminary qualitative and quantitative findings of Theme A - Institutional barriers to advancing sustainable urban water management. The session was also designed as a validation process to ensure the results 'made sense' to industry and to provide an opportunity for industry leaders to make further comment. Questions were also asked of forum participants on how best to disseminate the research findings.

Day one began with Program Leader, Dr. Rebekah Brown introducing the background to the research, knowledge gaps the Program is addressing and key social theories the research draws from. Following this, Rebekah, along with Research Fellow Nina Keath, presented the results of 250 interviews and over 1000 questionnaire respondents from Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth. Following each case study presentation, forum participants were asked to comment on the results and assess each city's 'receptivity' to sustainable urban water management.



Workshop Discussion –  
Melbourne Table

Day Two focused on how the research findings could help inform current practice. Participants reflected upon the following questions:

- **What are the similarities and major distinctions among the three cities?**
- **What lessons from the other two cities are useful for your city?**
- **What lessons can your city productively offer the other two cities?**



Workshop Discussion –  
Perth Table

This process elicited much lively debate regarding the similarities and differences amongst the case study regions. Following these discussions, **guest speaker Dr Tony Wong** of Ecological Engineering presented *Water Sensitive Urban Design for Resilience to Climate Change*. Next, forum participants broke into 'city groups' to discuss what they perceived a 'water sensitive city' was for their region and what is required to achieve this vision? The final discussion focused on the possible methods for disseminating the research findings.



## On-line questionnaire wrap-up

# On-line questionnaire wrap up

In November 2006 the Program posted an on-line questionnaire survey that requested the anonymous participation of professionals in the urban water sectors and other interested stakeholders. Questions were designed to understand the perceived 'drivers' and 'barriers' to advancing sustainable urban water management across metropolitan Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth.

The response to the questionnaire was overwhelming with **more than 1000 respondents**:

**Melbourne:** 424 respondents; **Brisbane:** 307 respondents and **Perth:** 310 respondents.

Analysis is currently underway and scheduled for completion by May 2007. The results will be disseminated via a series of workshops and written reports. The research findings will be available on our website later this year.

The Research Team would like to extend thanks to all those who participated in the on-line survey. The team would also like to **congratulate three respondents** who won prizes for completing the questionnaire:

- **Stuart Craven**, Manager - Major Recycling Projects, Department of Sustainability and Environment (Melbourne)
- **Liz Ronson**, Development Manager, Mirvac WA Pty Ltd (Western Australia)
- **Nic Smith**, Environmental Engineer, Brisbane City Council (Queensland)

## Welcome Department of Water (WA)

# Welcome to the Department of Water

The National Urban Water Governance Program is pleased to announce the newest addition to the Program's funding partners; the Department of Water from Western Australia.

The Department of Water is a new department of the Western Australian Government designed to: provide information and advice on water resources issues, regulate and issue licences, prepare policies and plans for the State Government and protect the quality of Western Australian water. In March 2007, the Research Team conducted an induction workshop for relevant and interested staff members. The presentations included information on the aims and objectives of the Program, the research currently underway and a brief overview of existing preliminary research results.

The Department of Water joins a long list of other program funding [partners](#) that are leading the field in investigating sustainable urban water management issues in Australia.



Department of Water  
Government of Western Australia



## 'Transition to a Water Sensitive Urban Design'

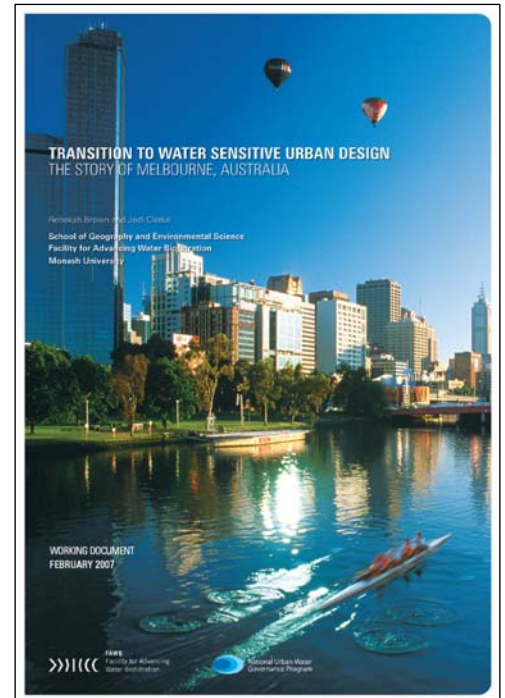
FAWB  
release

# 'Transition to a Water Sensitive City'

The Facility for Advancing Water Biofiltration (FAWB) in association with the National Urban Water Governance Program has released a working paper entitled *Transition to Water Sensitive Urban Design: The Story of Melbourne, Australia*. This report, the first in a planned series by FAWB, details the shifts in urban water governance in Melbourne over the last 40 years. The research, undertaken by the Urban Water Governance Program's Rebekah Brown and Jodi Clarke, examined the socio-technical initiatives, such as innovative technologies like water biofiltration and gathered a number of oral histories from industry experts. The report was released in Melbourne to industry experts to allow an opportunity for additional comments and feedback. Following any necessary revisions the document should be available to the public in May 2007.

The FAWB research report is expected to help the urban water sector learn about how innovative approaches are adopted and made mainstream in an attempt to become a 'water sensitive city'.

See the [FAWB website](#) for further information.



## New Research Fellow



# Dr Megan Farrelly joins the Team

In December 2006 Dr Megan Farrelly joined the research team to expand the team's expertise in institutional and governance issues associated with integrated environmental management. Dr Farrelly recently graduated from the University of Western Australia with a PhD in Geography. Her research on the regionalisation of environmental planning and management in Australia, involved an evaluation of the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust funding initiative. This research involved a comparative analysis of three NHT2 regions in Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria involving significant stakeholder engagement and analysis. These skills will significantly contribute to the Program's research.

Megan considers 'it is an exciting time to be working in urban water research'. Furthermore, Megan suggested the Program 'offers and great opportunity to make a positive contribution to improving governance arrangements in Australia, not only for urban water, but in all related environmental and sustainability challenges'.

Megan's research interests are varied and include: sustainable urban water management; integrated and participatory, regional, environmental planning; community engagement and participation; policy evaluation, and environmental management systems.

As an ex-Perthite we value Megan's 'local' knowledge and we look forward to Dr Farrelly's contributions over the coming years.



**Internal  
Research  
Workshop  
(December 2006)**

## Internal Research Workshop Dec '06

In an effort to maintain good communication amongst the Program's research team members, an internal research workshop was held to learn about the different research being undertaken across the Program. This was a great opportunity for all research students involved in the Program to present early thinking about their research, or findings from research underway and/or completed. In all, 12 people attended the workshop and 10 presentations were held. Program Leader, Dr Rebekah Brown, kicked off proceedings with an insightful discussion about the differences between physical and social science methodologies. This was followed by Nina Keath, and then Jodi Clarke who presented on their research related to barriers and drivers to institutional change and transitions to a water sensitive city, respectively. Following morning tea, Susan, Peter and Andre (PhD students) presented on where they are up to regarding their thinking and research activities for their postgraduate studies. Honours student Richard Roberts along with Jeroen Rijke, combined to present case studies into 'technology diffusion' in urban water management. Research Fellow, Adriane Pollard provided insights into the history of urban water management in Brisbane and Stacey Bloomfield followed with key findings from her Masters research into the history of urban water management in Melbourne. To finish the day, new Research Fellow Dr Megan Farrelly, presented key findings from her PhD on integrated environmental planning and management in Australia.

All had a great day. This forum provided an important opportunity to consolidate all the research happening within the Program. It also dovetailed nicely into end of year Christmas celebrations.



**Richard and Jeroen present at the  
Internal Research Workshop in  
December 2006**



**The National Urban Water Governance Program's  
Internal Research Workshop**



## Farewell to Jodi Clarke

## Farewell Jodi Clarke



Jodi Clarke has been with the Program as a Research Assistant since its inception almost two years ago and has worked tirelessly with both the National Urban Water Governance Program and the Facility for Advancing Water Biofiltration (FAWB). During her time with the Program, Jodi was the co-researcher on *'The Transition to Water Sensitive Urban Design: The story of Melbourne, Australia.'* She also played a key role in writing the urban water context reports for Brisbane, Melbourne and Perth. Jodi assisted with the administration of the on-line survey, conducting interviews, presenting workshops, writing publications, and engaging with a range of industry stakeholders. Jodi has brought terrific enthusiasm and energy to her work and this will be greatly missed.

We wish Jodi all the very best for her upcoming travels and future career pathway(s).

## New Research Assistant

## Stacey Sawchuk joins the team

Stacey Sawchuk joins the team as a part-time Research Assistant. Stacey is currently studying for her Masters degree in Institutional Development and Environmental Analysis at Monash University and joins the team to assist with core research administrative duties and to work with the team on their research. Stacey has a background in Geography, International Relations and has broad administrative management skills. Stacey begins in late March and fills a much needed role within the Program and we look forward to her assistance.



## Rock's Riverside Park Excursion

## Rock's Riverside Park Excursion

At the last Steering Committee (29<sup>th</sup> March 2007), which was hosted by industry partner Brisbane City Council, Committee members and Council staff were provided an opportunity to visit Rock's Riverside Park, located in Brisbane's western suburbs. It is the largest riverfront parkland in Brisbane with over 500m of river frontage. The site is of particular interest as it incorporates Water Sensitive Urban Design principles including:

- a water mining processing facility that provides the park with recycled water for irrigation, &
- natural drainage channels and swales to improve stormwater quality.

The \$13.5 million development incorporates a water treatment facility that utilizes natural treatment processes of vertical and horizontal reed beds and ultraviolet disinfection. This new

26 hectare public park was the original site of the Queensland Cement processing park. It now features shelters, festival areas, barbecues and waterplay areas adjacent to preserved industrial machinery and artefacts. The detailed implementation was undertaken by Brisbane City Council 'City Design'. HASSELL, in association with Brisbane City Council 'City Design', won a 2004 National merit award for master planning from the Queensland Chapter of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architecture.





## Call for your Contributions

## Visit the Program's website for more information

## Contact Details

# Message to eNewsletter subscribers

We hope you have enjoyed reading this eNewsletter edition.

Finally, we welcome your contributions in our future eNewsletter editions. If you would like to add your thoughts, any insights from your organisation or sector, or include information about upcoming events relating to urban water governance in Australia, please contact Stacey Sawchuk (contact details below).

*We look forward to hearing from you!*

[www.urbanwatergovernance.com](http://www.urbanwatergovernance.com)

The website is currently undergoing a review phase and will be updated throughout April. The website contains information on the Research Program, the Research Team and the many corresponding projects the NUWGP is affiliated with. Further, the website also lists a range of useful website links that may appeal to urban water professionals.

If you note any errors or believe something to be missing from the website, then please contact us.

**Dr Rebekah Brown**  
Program Leader

Ph: (03) 9905 9992

Fax: (03) 9905 2948

[Rebekah.Brown@arts.monash.edu.au](mailto:Rebekah.Brown@arts.monash.edu.au)

**Nina Keath**  
Research Fellow

Ph: (03) 9905 4618

Fax: (03) 9905 2948

[Nina.Keath@arts.monash.edu.au](mailto:Nina.Keath@arts.monash.edu.au)

**Dr Megan Farrelly**  
Research Fellow

Ph: (03) 9905 2616

Fax: (03) 9905 2948

[Megan.Farrelly@arts.monash.edu.au](mailto:Megan.Farrelly@arts.monash.edu.au)

**Stacey Sawchuk**  
Research Assistant

Ph: (03) 9905 5441

Fax: (03) 9905 2948

[Stacey.Sawchuk@arts.monash.edu.au](mailto:Stacey.Sawchuk@arts.monash.edu.au)