

Chair's message

To reflect the mission for a long-term, strategic, whole-of-system approach, the Lower Burdekin Water Futures group believed it necessary to change its name.

The new name BURDEKIN WATER FUTURES (BWF) encompasses not only the entire physical region, but also the group's aim to support management of economic, social and environmental outcomes for sustainability of the entire region.

The new logo (above) represents the groundwater, soils, crops and surface water of the region and how these need to be considered together, not independently.

Cr Lyn McLaughlin, BWF Chair

International Hydrology Expert meets with BWF

Professor Roland Schulze from the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa has just spent a highly-productive fortnight interacting with groups across Australia.

Organised by Dr Keith Bristow and funded by the CRC for Irrigation Futures, Professor Schulze travelled to Canberra, Townsville, Burdekin, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth to meet staff from a range of organisations and present a series of seminars.



BWF Deputy Chair Michael Hoey with Prof Roland Schulze and Dr Keith Bristow

During his visit to the Burdekin region, Professor Schulze met with members of the Burdekin Water Futures group to share his knowledge on integrated water resources management and potential impacts of climate change on agriculture. This included a trip to the Burdekin River where he saw sand dams used as part of the Burdekin Water Board's groundwater recharge program, pump stations and recharge pits.

Professor Schulze also presented a seminar in Townsville on the topic of: *Climate Change and the Agriculture Sector in South Africa: To Stress or not to Stress? . . . That is the Question*. The seminar raised considerable discussion amongst participants, who were keen to see a similar approach linking potential climate change impacts on hydrology and agriculture used in Australia.

Professor Schulze has had a long and distinguished career and is an internationally-recognised expert in hydrology. He has worked and lectured in several countries around the world and is particularly well known for his work on the ACRU hydrological model, the South African Atlas of Agrohydrology and Climatology, and more recently on climate change impacts on the water resources of South Africa.



Pump Station at Hutchings Lagoon

Professor Schulze's time in Australia and his interactions with researchers across the country proved highly valuable. Those who participated in meetings, conversations and seminars were delighted with the opportunity to connect with the Professor and are keen to build further linkages with the work going on in South Africa.



Member Profile - Maree-Anne Gorizio, BWF Coordinator

Stepping into the newly-created role of BWF Co-ordinator is Maree-Anne Gorizio. Maree-Anne has a strong administrative background and brings to the group financial and organisational skills. Her support will enable the BWF group to keep a strategic focus on the long-term sustainable future of the Burdekin.

Married to a farmer and living in Brandon, Maree-Anne understands the regional issues within the Burdekin. "I fully support the objectives of BWF. Understanding and managing the Burdekin's water resources is imperative for the future of the region," she said.

Maree-Anne operates out of the North Burdekin Water Board.

2010 Official Launch

BWF is planning the official launch of the Burdekin as an Operational HELP Basin under the UNESCO-IHP Program.

Professor Shahbaz Khan, Chief of the Sustainable Water Resources Development and Management Section of UNESCO's Division of Water Sciences, will travel to the Burdekin next year to officially welcome the region into the HELP network. As part of an Open Water Forum, he will speak about emerging international water issues and how they relate to our region.

The forum will give stakeholders the opportunity to learn more about BWF, the HELP Program, and what they can do to ensure the sustainable future of the Burdekin region for generations to come.

Details of the forum will be advised in the new year once finalised.



Water Words

Following on from last issue, here are some more terms used within the water industry, with their common translation.

Volumes.

1000 litres = 1 cubic metre (m³) = 1 kilolitre (KL)
1 000 000 litres = 1000 m³ = 1 megalitre (ML)
1000 ML = 1 gigalitre (GL)

1 megalitre per hectare (ML/ha) = 10 centimetres of water depth over 1 hectare area.

1 acre foot = 43560 cubic feet = 1.23ML

Burdekin Falls Dam Record

As at July 21, the Burdekin Falls Dam had been overflowing for 182 consecutive days – a new record. It started overflowing on January 5, 2009 and, on July 21, 24,056,657 megalitres (24.05 teralitres) had spilled over the wall.

The previous record was 158 days, set in 1999 (November 1, 1998, to April 7, 1999).

The dam holds 1,860,000 megalitres.

Inflows are continuing into the lower Burdekin including:

- Burdekin River at Selheim 330 ML/day
- Bowen River at Myuna 190 ML/day