

NZWWA SWANS-SIG

NEWSLETTER No.3 January 2004

EDITORIAL

The Editorial in the August 2003 Newsletter provided a pre-AGM background to the formation of the Group, and looked forward to the first 'formal' SWANS-SIG meeting during NZWWA Conference. In the event, seven members got together for a lively discussion that extended beyond the one hour programmed by NZWWA, the result of which is that we have a 'volunteer' Management Committee in place. For the Newsletter, the Interim Editor was confirmed as Editor, and it was agreed that some three issues per year be the objective, the publication intervals to be flexible. This issue covers the notes of the meeting, as well as publishes the full Steering Group report as tabled and discussed by those present.

Ian Gunn
Editor

REPORT on the AGM, 18 September 2003

As only seven members were in attendance (three short of a quorum), a general discussion was held on the activities of the group, and a 'volunteer' Management Committee was set up. The Committee consists of:

- Ian Gunn, (Auckland – Chair and Newsletter Editor),
- Ray Hedgland (Auckland – Secretary),
- Peter Carroll (Auckland),
- Finley Mason (Palmerston North),
- Dave Miller (Palmerston North),
- Rob Potts (Christchurch) and
- David Ray (Hamilton).

The Management Committee is to operate via e-mail contact (and conference calls where appropriate), and will meet annually prior to the AGM. Although a number of potential group activities and assignment of portfolios were down for discussion, the low turnout at the meeting left the development of activities in the hands of the Committee on an "as required" basis. The next AGM is to be held during the NZWWA Conference in Christchurch, 6 to 8 October 2004.

SWANS-SIG STEERING GROUP REPORT to the AGM

Formation of the SIG

Following informal discussion amongst interested members of NZWWA and support from Chief Executive Len Clapham, the idea of forming such a group was floated at the "Rural 2001" Workshop in Hamilton, May 2001. The workshop theme was "Small Water and Wastewater Systems – Management and Maintenance".

Subsequently, a voluntary Steering Group was set up comprising:

Member and Affiliation	Interest
Ian Gunn, Auckland UniServices, Auckland (Convener)	On-site wastewater systems
Rob Potts, Glasson Potts Fowler, Christchurch	Small community wastewater treatment systems
Chris Tanner, NIWA, Hamilton	Natural systems (ponds and wetlands)

During 2002 a set of “management guidelines” detailing the relationship of the Special Interest Group to NZWWA was drafted and confirmed by the Steering Group. This was placed before the NZWWA Board for approval in November that year. SWANS-SIG also sent a representative to the NZWWA Drainage Managers Group Annual meeting (November 2002) when, with all other related Special Interest Groups (stormwater, trade wastes, treatment plant operations, modelling, pollution prevention officers), a summary report of SIG activities was presented.

In January 2003, SWANS-SIG Convener Ian Gunn attended a planning meeting with NZWWA Chief Executive and SIG liaison staff in Wellington following the NZWWA office move to the capital. At that meeting the activity programme for SWANS-SIG was discussed, including the holding of the inaugural AGM in conjunction with the NZWWA Annual Conference in Auckland in September.

SIG Management Guidelines

The initial drafting of the “Guidelines of the NZWWA Small Wastewater & Natural Systems Special Interest Group” was carried out by NZWWA staff based on a set of such guidelines developed for the ‘small water systems special interest group’. The guidelines (copies available at the AGM) include the following matters:

- Terms of reference (setting out the group’s objectives)
- Membership (which includes for affiliate members, being persons not financial members of NZWWA, but who have an interest in one or more of the three strands of group activity, these being on-site, small community and natural systems)
- Management of the Group (including composition of and elections to the Management Committee)
- Powers and duties of the Management Committee
- Finance
- AGM and voting at meetings
- Projects
- Alteration of the Rules and winding up of the Group

The introduction of the ‘affiliate’ membership category was based around the fact that in the on-site wastewater strand of activity, a quarterly national newsletter entitled “On-Site NewZ” with a subscriber list of some 240 has been produced by Ian Gunn (as editor and contributing writer) since 1996. It is envisaged that in due course “On-site NewZ” could become one of the SWANS-SIG specialist products produced by NZWWA, who would then administer the publication and distribution process. SWANS-SIG members would automatically receive “free” copies, while affiliates (as non-NZWWA members) would likewise receive such copies through their payment of annual affiliates membership fees. This arrangement would replace the subscription that currently exists for “On-Site NewZ”, and enable professionals in the on-site wastewater industry (such as building inspectors and environmental health officers) who are members of other professional groups with an interest and involvement in this area to continue to receive the newsletter along with all other SWANS-SIG members.

Election of the Management Committee

Over the past year SWANS-SIG has sought expressions of interest from persons willing to help within an expanded 'steering group' with a view to being available for election to the Management Committee at the AGM. Chris Tanner has recently stood down from the initial Steering Group, but put forward a potential replacement. Hence, those persons indicating their willingness to stand for election are as follows:

Name	Affiliation
Peter Carroll	Hynds Environmental, Auckland
Ian Gunn	Auckland UniServices, Auckland
Ray Hedgland	Fraser Thomas Ltd, Auckland
Dave Miller	Dave Miller Environmental Engineer, Palmerston North
Rob Potts	Glasson Potts Fowler, Christchurch
David Ray	NIWA, Hamilton

The 'Guidelines' state that the composition of the Management Committee shall be no less than four members of NZWWA including the Chair and Secretary.

Group Finances

The group has no funding base. Members and Affiliate Members annual fees are paid to NZWWA, and used to support the administration of activities related to the Group, including the publication and mailing of newsletters, and developing other contacts between Management Committee and membership. A liaison person is assigned to SWANS-SIG from NZWWA head office. This is Deli O'Leary of Business and Events support <delio@nzwwa.org.nz>.

There are no funds set aside to facilitate travel by Management Committee to meetings, or to facilitate project development. However, NZWWA will assist in obtaining sponsorship for specific activities or projects when called upon.

Newsletter

An important means of communication between Management Committee and members is to be a Newsletter. To date this year, two issues have been published, No. 1 in May, and No. 2 in August. The Steering Group Convener has acted as Interim Editor meanwhile.

Projects

Projects will arise out of the setting up of 'project groups' of interested members to develop a special activity.

During 2002 a group of manufacturers of on-site wastewater treatment plants formed an association aimed at providing better information to the general public regarding this type of on-site wastewater servicing technology. In discussions with NZWWA Chief Executive, the association decided to become a subgroup of SWANS-SIG. The goal of the manufacturers' sub-group is "to raise the standard of on-site wastewater manufacturers and influence councils regarding the quality of on-site practices and standards".

Activities to date have been the drafting of an information booklet on on-site wastewater system treatment technologies, and the entering into discussions with NZWERF over a WERF initiative re the accreditation of such technologies through a national testing programme. Peter Carroll, as Convener of the subgroup, was co-opted onto the SWANS-SIG Steering Group, and Ian Gunn has attending meetings of the subgroup as NZWWA liaison.

It is expected that as SWANS-SIG activities evolve, further projects will be initiated by the Management Committee or groups of members with a common interest in an on-site or small community or natural systems area.

COMING ON-SITE WASTEWATER COURSES

cet Site and Soil Assessment Courses for Christchurch and Hamilton , Jan/Feb 2004

This three-day course provides a comprehensive grounding in the principles and practice of site and soil assessment for on-site wastewater management systems, and covers the application of the Standard AS/NZS 1547. Presented by a joint Australian and NZ team under the auspices of the Centre for Environmental Training, NSW, it has been submitted to IPENZ for CPD accreditation. Separate brochures are available for both North Island and South Island courses.

Dates: 28-30 January, 2004, Christchurch
2-4 February 2004, Hamilton.

Web Site: www.ecoeng.co.nz/On-site_04.htm

COMING CONFERENCES

Joint IWA International Conference – On-site and Small Community Wastewater Treatment and Recycling, 11 to 13 February 2004

The Environmental Technology Centre at Murdoch University, Perth, is the organising body for the “6th Specialist Conference on Small Water & Wastewater Systems” and the “1st International Conference on On-site Wastewater Treatment & Recycling”. Centre Director, Dr Kuruvilla Mathew, is Convener of this joint conference, which is scheduled for 11 to 13 February 2004 at the Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle. The three days of sessions will involve several keynote speakers together with a range of technical sessions in the area of small water systems, small community wastewater and on-site wastewater topics. The provisional programme has now been issued, and includes presentation of 6 keynote addresses and 105 technical papers. The keynote addresses will be delivered at plenary sessions, while four technical streams will cover presentation of the technical papers. A large range of poster papers will also be on display.

See <www.etc.murdoch.edu.au> for more information and the conference registration and programme details.

ASAE 10th National Symposium on Individual and Small Community Sewage Systems, April 14 to 17, 2004, Sacramento CA: This premier on-site and small community wastewater event is to be held in Sacramento at the Sheraton Hotel and Sacramento

Convention Center, Wednesday April 14 to Saturday April 17 (immediately after Easter). The last ASAE event in this regular series was in Fort Worth, Texas, in March 2001.

Details of the programme along with registration forms are to be mailed on January 15, 2004. To ensure you are on the mailing list, or to make enquiries re the conference, contact Symposium Chair, James Converse of the University of Wisconsin, Biological Systems Engineering Department, 460 Henry Mall, Madison, WI 53706-1561. Ph: (608) 262-1106; Fax (608) 262 1228.

E-mail <jconver@facstaff.wisc.edu>.

ON-SITE NewZ, Issue 03/4 October 2003

This latest issue of On-Site NewZ (produced for the on-site wastewater servicing industry) is spent mainly on coverage of “On-site ‘03” held at the University of New England in Armidale, NSW, October 2003. The news content covers four of the five keynote addresses, while a special supplement presents the fifth keynote paper in full. This final keynote provides a summary of the conference themes as covered by the content of all the papers, and presents observations on future challenges arising from the topics presented at conference.
