

NZWWA SWANS-SIG – Small Wastewater and Natural Systems Special Interest Group

NEWSLETTER No.4 September 2004

EDITORIAL

Since the issue of Newsletter No. 3 in January, this year has seen a NZ presence at two international conference events, being the February IWA “6th Specialist Conference on Small Water & Wastewater Systems” held jointly with the “1st International Conference on On-site Wastewater Treatment & Recycling” in Fremantle WA, and the March ASAE “10th National Symposium on Individual and Small Community Sewage Systems” in Sacramento CA. Reports on some of the issues raised in papers from these events will be covered in the On-Site NewZ newsletter in due course. Indeed, the April issue has provided a Part 1 “special report” summary of key topics presented in Fremantle, with Part 2 due later this year.

On the local scene we have the SWANS-SIG workshop in association with On-Site NewZ coming up at the NZWWA 46th Annual Conference and Expo in Christchurch next month. Details are provided later in this newsletter. What is encouraging is that contributing presenters to the workshop are coming across from Australia, thus broadening the topic coverage into areas of mutual interest between our two countries.

Hence much of this year’s activity related to SWANS-SIG has been in the on-site wastewater area. The AGM, to be held on the day of the Christchurch workshop, Tuesday 5th October, will provide opportunity to discuss the direction future activities might take, and even if you are not attending the workshop, you are encouraged to come to the AGM which is in the hour 5pm to 6pm immediately prior to the Conference Welcome Function 6pm to 7pm.

Ian Gunn
Editor

SWANS-SIG and the NZWWA New Web Site

SWANS-SIG has recently provided copy for the current upgrade of the NZWWA web site. The information on the old web site is two years out of date, and the upgrade will bring SWANS-SIG information up-to-date to October this year. The web site material will cover the background to the group, membership, management committee members, newsletters, events, and will also provide information on On-Site NewZ and OSW-SIG (the on-site wastewater special interest sub-group). In addition we have asked for past newsletters to be available on-line via a suitable link.

OSW-SIG (On-site Wastewater Special Interest Group).

OSW-SIG is an affiliated sub-group of SWANS-SIG, and consists of representatives of on-site wastewater treatment plant manufacturers who have as their goal “to raise the standard of on-site wastewater manufacturers and influence councils regarding quality on-site practices and standards”. OSW-SIG has entered into dialogue with the Auckland Regional Council regarding the update of the TP 58 design manual, provided input to the NZWERF small wastewater treatment plant monitoring project, and supported the production and distribution of the On-Site NewZ booklet “On-site Wastewater Systems – Selecting a System for Your Property”. Contact person is OSW-SIG Chairman Peter Carroll at peterc@hyndsenv.co.nz.

Manufacturers not represented on the group are invited to contact Peter for further information about participating in the group's activities.

1st National On-site Wastewater Workshop

This workshop is organised for Tuesday 5th October by SWANS-SIG in association with On-Site NewZ as a pre-conference event associated with NZWWA's 46th Annual Conference & Expo in Christchurch. It will be the first national workshop event in this topic area, and will be of benefit to surveyors, engineers, soil assessors, designers, contractors, manufacturers, installers, regulators, inspectors and others involved in the on-site and small wastewater industry. The workshop will consist of short presentations followed by discussion on a range of topic areas with the aim of providing opportunity to exchange ideas and share practical approaches toward achieving better management of on-site wastewater systems in the NZ context. There is also a "Meet the Manufacturer" final session during which short presentations will be made by four on-site wastewater equipment manufacturers on the latest commercial technologies. The final programme for the workshop is enclosed with this newsletter. To register, use the Conference Registration Form from the NZWWA web site and mark the box for the Workshop. If proposing to attend the full conference, the early bird deadline is Monday 6th September.

ON-SITE NewZ, Issues 04/1, 04/2 and 04/3

On-Site NewZ is a newsletter and information service for the on-site domestic wastewater industry and is associated with SWANS-SIG through joint activities. The three newsletter issues published to date this year cover the following topic areas:

Issue 04/1 January: The main features deal with EPA informational materials related to on-site and small community cluster wastewater servicing, and the EPA guidelines for management of on-site and cluster systems. The list of EPA references available on the web are detailed along with the range of technology fact sheets available. There is also a contributed item from Helen Codlin of Hawke's Bay Regional Council regarding compliance monitoring results for household size wastewater secondary treatment plants.

Issue 04/2 April: The main feature deals with a performance study on textile filters reported in a paper to the ASAE 10th on-site wastewater symposium in Sacramento. The research on which the paper was based had been carried out at the Colorado School of Mines on local Orenco AdvanTex installations, and the results questioned the performance of such units. The full story on the research results along with comment sought by On-Site NewZ direct from Orenco is included. A follow-up item is to come in later issues of On-Site NewZ. The other major item covers the topic of secondary effluent loading rates for land application systems such as trenches. This issue is also accompanied by Part 1 of a special report on the Fremantle 1st International On-Site Wastewater Treatment and Recycling Conference in February.

Issue 04/3 July: This issue is a single topic issue dealing with drip irrigation of septic tank effluent. It is a six page extended issue with five pages devoted to the topic, and was initiated by a clear and current interest in this matter by a number of designers around the country. It reviews US practice and experience in the area, and provides overview findings which could act as a basis for developing NZ guidelines on this topic.

A range of enclosures are also provided with this issue including:

- The draft programme for the Christchurch on-site wastewater workshop.
- Details of a one day training seminar programme available through On-Site NewZ.

- A sample copy of the On-Site NewZ information booklet re selecting an on-site wastewater system “for your property”.

ON-SITE NewZ Booklet: “On-site Wastewater Systems – Selecting a System for Your Property”

An information booklet has been prepared by On-Site NewZ on the initiative of the On-site Wastewater Special Interest Group (OSW-SIG).

The idea for the booklet came about from a concern that the community and councils throughout NZ had limited up-to-date information available to them regarding new technology in the on-site wastewater industry, and the potential of that technology to achieve improved on-site wastewater servicing and deliver sound environmental performance in implementing rural residential development. The booklet has been prepared with the objective of making it widely available to the public and to professional groups involved in land development and rural residential subdivision practice. It has been distributed to all district and regional councils with an invitation to consider using within their information services to the public.

On-Site NewZ has produced the booklet with an initial funding guarantee from members of OSW-SIG, and is distributing it on a user-pay basis. A cost of \$1.50/copy applies to a minimum order of 20 copies, and covers postage. For a free sample copy, contact On-Site NewZ by phone [(09) 579 2327] or fax [(09) 579 2324] or e-mail ian.gunn@xtra.co.nz.

NOTICE of SWANS-SIG AGM

The AGM of SWANS-SIG is to be held 5pm to 6pm immediately following the conclusion of the on-site wastewater management workshop in Christchurch on Tuesday 5 October. The Agenda will include the election of the management committee for 2005, a report on this past year’s activities, and discussion of future activities for the group.

**NZWWA 46th Annual Conference and Expo, Christchurch Convention Centre,
5 – 8 October 2004
PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP**

SWANS-SIG and On-Site NewZ 1st National On-site Wastewater Workshop

Tuesday 5 OCTOBER 2004

ON-SITE WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT

PROGRAMME

<u>Time</u>	<u>Session</u>	<u>Presenter</u>
8.30 am	Assemble and Registration	
9.00 am to 9.30 am	Session 1: Using Tracers to Manage Performance of On-site Wastewater Systems	GEARY Phillip, The University of Newcastle
9.30 am to 10.00 am	Session 2: Determination of Buffer Distances from On-site Wastewater Systems	GEARY Phillip, The University of Newcastle, and PANG Liping (Dr), ESR Ltd
10.00 am to 10.30 am	Session 3: Managing Nitrogen Losses from On-site Wastewater Systems in the Lake Taupo Catchment	TREBILCO Urlwyn, and FLETCHER Brent, Environment Waikato
Tea Break		
11.00 am to 11.30 am	Session 4: Successful Management of the Complexities of On-site Wastewater Treatment System Performance	LEONARD Margaret (Dr), ESR
11.30 am to 12.00 pm	Session 5: What do we Measure when Assessing On-site Systems and what do the Measurements Mean?	PATTERSON Robert (Dr), Lanfax Labs
12.00 pm to 12.30 pm	Session 6: Performance Management and Sustainability Considerations for Alternative On-Site Systems	RAMBECK Uli, Pure by Plants, and RIMMER Tim, Environmental Engineering, Unitec
Lunch Break		
1.30 pm to 2.00 pm	Session 7: Land Application Systems – Design and Construction	POTTS Rob, Glasson Potts Fowler Ltd
2.00 pm to 2.30 pm	Session 8: On-site Wastewater and Landslide Risk Assessment	WHITEHEAD Joe, Centre for Environmental Training
2.30 pm to 3.00 pm	Session 9: Holcim Cement Works On-site Sewage System –Cape Foulwind, Westport	MILLER Dave, Environmental Engineer and CHAFFEY Vaughan, Holcim
Tea break		
3.30 pm to 4.00 pm	Session 10: SAVORY Peter, Netafim NZ	Drip Irrigation Design Criteria
4.00 pm to 5.00 pm	Session 11: Meet the Manufacturer	
	(a) WILLIAMSON John, KiwiTreat	(a) Aeration of Domestic Wastewater using a Batching Process
	(b) SORENSEN Don, ECO Water Recycling Systems	(b) The New ECO Plus Recycling System
	(c) CARROLL Peter, Hynds Environmental	(c) Hynds Environmental Wastewater Systems
	(d) MOON Neville, RX Plastics	(d) AirTech Wastewater Systems
