

**September 2004**

Welcome to the fourth edition of *Working with Wastewater*. You can find an electronic version of this document on our website at [www.dh.sa.gov.au/pehs](http://www.dh.sa.gov.au/pehs) then select "Environmental Health" then "Wastewater Management".

## Welcome to Jeff Clark

A warm welcome is extended to Jeff Clark, Coordinating Officer, Development Services Branch at SA Water who has accepted an offer to assist the DH with plumbing issues arising from the new standard and regulations revision.

Jeff is well known to many people in local and State government agencies and his expertise is greatly valued in the areas of plumbing and trade waste.

Jeff has also graciously offered to contribute to the newsletter on a regular basis with regard to plumbing and trade waste issues. This will add a new dimension to our newsletter and allow all of our readers to keep up to date with happenings in the plumbing world.

We are hoping to start publishing Jeff's "column" in the next newsletter.

## Staff Changes

We welcome Katie Rouse to the Wastewater Management Section.



A few words from Katie:

"I have come to the DH with a vastly different perspective than many of my colleagues. My background is Environmental Science with majors in 'Conservation Biology and Biodiversity' and 'Environmental Chemistry,' and first class honours in Marine Ecology (I spent the better part of 4 months tramping over sections of an intertidal reef on the Yorke Peninsula, monitoring the impacts on and recovery of macrofauna/macroalgae!).

The lure of a full-time permanent position attracted me to the DH, but having said that, I am looking forward to the new challenges this will bring me. I hope to be able to combine my interests in chemistry and biology by working as a Scientific Officer with the Wastewater Management Section, and I look forward to meeting many new people".

## Aerobic Wastewater Treatment Systems Taskforce

At the SIG group meeting on 29 July, discussions included topics relating to Aerobic Wastewater Treatment systems. A task force was formulated to take a closer at several issues raised.

These included:

- ▶ Inspections of systems
- ▶ Environmental Health Officer's responsibilities
- ▶ Owner, operator and service agent responsibilities
- ▶ Dissemination of information on the systems to new home owners
- ▶ New code strategies to deal with non compliance
- ▶ Updating the water control regulations to address issues
- ▶ Strategies to improve communication and reporting procedures within councils.

Discussions were very fruitful and resulted in several courses of action including letters to be drafted to major stakeholders on specific topics and identification of servicing issues.

Watch this space!

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# WORKING WITH WASTEWATER

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## On-site wastewater code review

As you know, the code review is well underway and we are meeting regularly to produce a well-refined and inclusive document. First consultation will hopefully be in late September.

## New products

- ▶ RI Industries 3250L & 4250L septic and effluent holding tank combination unit
- ▶ Smithers chemical toilet 230L
- ▶ Waterboy HSTP Model 10 Aerobic Treatment Plant
- ▶ Combination of Septic and Holding Tank - RI Industries
- ▶ Hytek Concrete Products Pump Sump.

*\*\* Please note the formal advice for product approval will be forwarded following inspection of the products.*

## Amendments to the occupational health safety and welfare regulations (regulation 2.2.5)

To improve hygiene standards and environmental impacts on building sites, the above regulations have been amended with the changes to be implemented on 18 September 2004.

On construction sites in the metropolitan area, employers must provide a water closet attached to a sewer, septic tank or a fresh water flush chemical closet.

Outside of the metropolitan area, an earth closet (borehole privy), water flush chemical toilet or other approved system can be used.

Where no more than 5 people are working on the same site (at the same time) and the owner has given permission for workers to use existing toilet and hand wash facilities, it is not necessary for the employer to provide additional toilets. For additional information, refer to the following link:

[http://www.eric.sa.gov.au/uploaded\\_files/toiletswashinfacilities.pdf](http://www.eric.sa.gov.au/uploaded_files/toiletswashinfacilities.pdf)

Or contact Workplace Services, on 1300 365 255 or 8303-0400

## Greywater

The City of Tea Tree Gully featured an article in their recent newsletter "Gully Grapevine" concerning greywater reuse. It also appeared in the local Messenger. The article informs the residents of what greywater is, its quality, approval requirements for reuse of greywater, relevant authorities and various treatment methods. We are told that it will be available on their web site soon.

Using multiple communication media to inform the public about emerging technology and issues is the way to go. Well done Tea Tree Gully!!!

The City of Tea Tree Gully's web address is: [www.teatreegully.sa.gov.au/council](http://www.teatreegully.sa.gov.au/council). To read the article you will need to click on "Gully Grapevine" and choose the August 2004 issue.

As you may be aware, you can also find information on greywater reuse and approval requirements on the Department of Health web site [www.dh.sa.gov.au/pehs](http://www.dh.sa.gov.au/pehs) by choosing "Environmental Health" and then the "Alternative onsite systems" page under the "Wastewater management" heading

## Contact us

For any further information regarding newsletter content or if you wish to contribute, raise other issues, provide feedback etc, please ring us or contact us on one of the email addresses below.

## WORKING WITH WASTEWATER

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