

SASaQs news April 2002

From the EXCO:

Each new Executive Committee sets itself certain goals, which it strives to achieve during its term of office. The SASaQs Exco have decided to address the issue of integrating science and management during the 2002-2004 term of office. During this period we would also like to promote and increase connectivity within the Society and with other relevant organizations. The function of the monthly issue of SASaQs News is the first attempt at achieving greater connectivity within the Society. Anybody wishing to submit an item for inclusion in the next issue must please email the information to Victor Wepener (mvw@na.rau.ac.za) before the 10th of the particular month.

In Brief: 2

1. *JLB SMITH INSTITUTE HAS A NEW NAME: 2*
2. *DATABASE FOR RIVER REHABILITATION EXPERTISE 3*

Meetings: 4

1. *SASaQs Conference 2002 4*
2. *Biodiversity Conference 4*
3. *SASaQs Conference (2003) 4*

Publications: 4

1. *Latest Water Research Commission Reports 4*
2. *PUBLICATIONS BY SOCIETY MEMBERS 6*

International News: 6

1. *EUROPEAN WATER ASSOCIATION (EWA) 6*

Job opportunities/ Bursaries and Fellowships: 7

In Brief:

1. JLB SMITH INSTITUTE HAS A NEW NAME:

The world-renowned JLB Smith Institute of Ichthyology has recently changed its name to the South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity as part of the strategic process of assuming the role of a National Facility. The new name was made official in the Government Gazette no. 1241 on the 30th November 2001 and backdated to 1 October 2001. The Institute has existed since Prof. JLB Smith's death in 1968. Prior to that it was the Department of Ichthyology at Rhodes University. In 1980 the Institute became a Declared Cultural Institution under the Department of Education, and later, in 1994 the Department of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology (DACST).

On 1 January 1999, the JLB Smith Institute of Ichthyology, with its impressive research record and valuable fish collection, was recognised as a national asset when it became a National Facility of the Foundation for Research Development (FRD), which soon after became known as the National Research Foundation (NRF). Since receiving National Facility status, the JLBSI has been through some major strategic changes and part of the process has been identifying areas where the Institute would better serve the aquatic biodiversity needs of South Africa and its SADC neighbours. A 5-year strategic plan was drawn up to include a vision of serving Africa's needs in understanding fishes and aquatic environments. The Institute's mission is to be an interactive hub focused on serving the nation through generating, disseminating and applying knowledge to understanding and solving problems on the conservation and wise use of African fishes and aquatic biodiversity.

The name, South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity, serves to represent its mandate as a National Facility, which has developed into a service-providing hub, facilitating the aquatic biodiversity requirements of South Africa and its neighbours. Prof. Paul Skelton, the Director of the South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity said, "By becoming a National Facility, the Institute has undergone a fundamental change in function and structure. It is important that the public and other stakeholders become aware of these changes and the name change is a vital part of this communication process. Whilst we regret losing the prestigious name 'JLB Smith' with its obvious links to an outstanding and famous South African scientist, the public nature and broad scope of the Institute as a National Facility is more accurately reflected by the new name". Retaining the names of the Institute's well-known collections such as the Margaret Smith Library and the JLB Smith Fish Collection will continue to commemorate the Smith name.

26 January 2002

Paul Skelton comments :

Yes it is sad to see a familiar name pass into history. The reason for the change is complex but best summarised as being the need to ensure that the new status of the Institute as a National Facility is clearly communicated to the public. The old name reflected the exclusivity of the old Institute and especially tied it to one institution - Rhodes University. A National Facility must not have such exclusive public 'perceptions'. This does not for a moment mean that we are not still closely linked to Rhodes -we continue with a strong association there, just that that association must not exclude others from our services etc. A broader vision? - Yes, but again this does not mean we will not remain basically focused on fishes for a long time to come - all our expertise is essentially in that discipline. We also do not intend to build new collections etc - only to facilitate these wherever they exist or might exist in future. Our attention to aquatic biodiversity and conservation will of course extend much of what we already do without restricting us narrowly to fishes.

2. DATABASE FOR RIVER REHABILITATION EXPERTISE

Dear Colleagues

During 2002/3, myself and others will be working on a SA Water Research Commission project entitled 'The consultative development of a national programme for river rehabilitation in SA'. Many of you have expressed interest in this field. This is your opportunity to translate thoughts into participation in this project! We would welcome your input. For those already involved in wetland rehabilitation and other projects associated with rehab., we hope to create appropriate links with you, and this is receiving attention in the early phases of the project.

The first phase of the project will be the development of a database of expertise and available tools in, or associated with, the field of river rehabilitation. If you or your colleagues have skills, projects or 'tools' which you believe are relevant to this database, it would be great to hear from you. It will take a few minutes to fill in your details on the attached spreadsheet, and to email it back as an attachment to me at laughingh2o@icon.co.za. The spreadsheet is simple and self-explanatory, and one line has been filled in as a guide to the information required. There are further details on info. requirements later in this email. You may fill in either the MS Excel or the Corel Quattro Pro version, and save it with the filename "your surname".xls or .wb3, as appropriate.

If you are in a position to contribute at this stage, you will be welcome to be involved in the following phases of the project if you so wish. The second stage will involve a more detailed questionnaire, which will to some extent be based on the sort of information gathered in this first exercise. Again, this will be kept as simple as possible so as not to request more than 10 or 15 minutes of your time. During the third stage, a representative sample of those who have contributed information to the database and questionnaire and wish to participate further will be selected, in consultation with the other lead agents in this research. These individuals will be consulted through personal interviews and other fora, for their opinions on a framework for a national R&D programme for river rehabilitation. Running in parallel with this consultative process will be the trialling of an actual river rehabilitation exercise.

Please feel free to email any questions or any information to me together with your reply. You are also encouraged to forward this email to other colleagues or email lists. If you are too busy to fill this in, you may 'reply' to this email with just your name and phone numbers and I will call you.

Please read on if you need further info. about the details required in the spreadsheet.

Examples of the CATEGORY appropriate to you include project, programme, authority, engineering, research science, landscape architect, organisations, private consultants, and community groups.

As rehabilitation is a fairly young field in this country, the PROJECTS which pertain in some way to river rehabilitation will, at this stage, include all those which relate in any way to surface or ground water 'improvement', river or catchment protection, and the mitigation of the social and ecological ill effects of developments on water courses. These include: any form of rehabilitation (wetland, river, estuarine or even terrestrial), EIAs relating to developments affecting rivers and the riparian communities (e.g. bridges, dams, weir or road construction), community consultation regarding similar developments, biomonitoring, flood control and mitigation, bank stabilisation, asset protection (e.g. bridges, roads), landscape planning, fishway design, determination of environmental flows, water quality enhancement measures, biodiversity enhancement or protection measures, pollution control, improvement of agricultural methods, biocontrol, clearing of alien vegetation, replanting or stabilisation of slopes and riparian areas, improvement for recreational or aesthetic purposes, indigenous species breeding or nursery programmes (for the purposes of restocking/replanting), etc. If you have done several of one type of project, please simply list the type and the approximate number you have done. Please request confidentiality where necessary. Confidential information will only be used for statistical purposes.

The TOOLS for rehabilitation will include legal tools (policy, laws, regulations), methodologies, models, guidelines, processes, software, hardware, databases, engineering materials, designs (e.g. weirs, fishway), and already available information or knowledge which may contribute to the development of the field in this country. All suggestions welcome. Only broad level information is required at this stage. Again, please request confidentiality where appropriate.

It would also be good to hear from those involved in 'hard' engineering projects (e.g. dam building) which could benefit from an environmental component, particularly in the design phase. There is a growing international pressure for environmental engineering approaches in development.

Thanks for your time, and looking forward to working with you on this project.

From: Mandy Uys, Laughing Waters, Aquatic Research, Consulting and Media, East London, South Africa

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Meetings:

1. **SASAqS Conference 2002**

SASAqS's 37TH Annual Congress will take place from the 30th June to 5th of July 2002 at the CR Swart Auditorium, at the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein. Please take note: you can only order congress sweaters if your registration form is received by 30 April if you have applied to present a paper or poster and we have not yet received your registration form, that you are not registered yet; you still have the opportunity to apply to present a paper or poster.

For more information refer to the website: <http://z2a.co.za/saiees/>

2. **Biodiversity Conference**

International Conference 21-25 October 2002 in Albany Western Australia "Prospects for Biodiversity and Rivers in Salinising Landscapes" <http://www.biodiversityconference.albany.uwa.edu.au/> . Contact Marcus Blacklow, Conference Chairman (<mailto:mblacklo@agric.uwa.edu.au>)

3. **SASAqS Conference (2003)**

The organizers of the 2003 SASAqS Conference in Cape Town have requested that anybody who would like to assist in the organization of the conference to please contact Dr. Heather Malan, Freshwater Research Unit, Dept Zoology, UCT, Rondebosch, 7701 Tel (021) 650 3636 email: <mailto:mhmalan@botzoo.uct.ac.za>

Publications:

1. **Latest Water Research Commission Reports**

433/1/00 The Engineering Characteristics of Important Southern African Rock Types with Emphasis on Shear Strength of Concrete Dam Foundations
AJ Geertsema

01/1/00 An Internet Service Centre on Water Modelling Systems for the Mining Industry
MR Howard, JJ Heymans

502/1/01 Plunge Pool Scour Reproduction in Physical Hydraulic Models
WJ van Aswegen, E Dunkley, KRK Blake

581/1/01 Research on a Computerised Weather-Based Irrigation Water Management System
JM de Jager, R Mottram, JA Kennedy

645/1/01 Optimale Bestuur van Wisselvallige Waterbesikbaarheid op Plaas-en Streeksvlak met Inagneming van Risiko en die Omgewing
LK Oosthuizen, B Grové

637/1/01 Hydrological Systems Modelling Research Programme: Hydrological Processes
Simon Lorentz

647/1/01 Assessment of the Effectiveness of Isotope Chemistry for Quantifying Acid Rock Drainage Contributions from Different Sources to Ground and Surface Water
BM Eglinton, R Meyer, AS Talma

700/1/01 Pilot Scale Development of Integrated Passive Water Treatment Systems for Mine Effluent Streams
W Pulles, A van Niekerk, A Wood, A Batchelor, S Dill, P du Plessis, D Howie, T Casey

733/1/01 Utilization of Tracer Experiments for the Development of Rural Water Supply Management Strategies for Secondary Aquifers
B van Wyk, F de Lange, Y Xu, G van Tonder, W-H Chiang

739/1/01 A Guide for the Design of Chloramine Disinfection Facilities for Purified Sewage Effluent
WA Pretorius, PC Pretorius

741/1/01 Enteropathogens in Water; Rapid Detection Techniques, Occurrence in South African Waters and Evaluation of Epidemic Risks (Health-Related)
M du Preez, SN Venter, J Theron, M Matlala, M Gericke, Y Singmin

754/1/01 Assessing the Ecological Relevance of a Spatially-Nested Geomorphological Hierarchy for River Management
JM King, DM Schael

786/1/01 An Analysis of Informal Settlements and Applicability of Visual Settlement Planning (ViSP) in South Africa
J Abbott, I Martinez, M Huchzermeyer

786/2/01 A Methodological Approach to the Upgrading, in-Situ, of Informal Settlements in South Africa
J Abbott, D Douglas

809/1/01 Investigation of the Feasibility of Using Trunk Growth Increments to Estimate Water Use of Eucalyptus Grandis and Pinus Patula Plantations
P Dye, P Vilakazi, M Gush, R Ndlela, M Royappen

862/1/01 An Integrated Multi-Disciplinary Geophysical Approach to Groundwater Exploration in the Nebo Granite, Northern Province
WJ Botha, M Combrinck, FS Botha, JL van Rooy

889/1/01 Flood Damage Management Aids for Intergrated Sustainable Development Planning in South Africa
MF Viljoen, LA du Plessis, HJ Booysen, HL Weepener, M Braune, D van Bladeren, M Butler

897/1/01 Asset Management for the Water Services in South Africa
D Stephenson, B Barta, N Manson

921/1/01 Water Quality Deterioration in Potable Water Reservoirs Relative to Chlorine Decay
E Kruger

931/1/01 Transverse-Flow Module Fabrication Development
EP Jacobs, A van der Walt, C Nel, PD Rose, BA Hendry

1044/1/01 Guidelines for Financing Catchment Management Agencies in South Africa
G Pegram, I Palmer

1142/1/01 Information Management for the Water Services Sector with Specific Reference to the Regulatory Systems
Tim Mosdel
1144/1/01 Potential Application of Genetic Algorithms in the Water Industry
SJ van Vuuren, PG van Rooyen, WL Fouché, J Haarhoff
TT 142/01 A Guide to Non-Point Source Assessment
GC Pegram, AHM Görgens
TT 153/01 Cyanobacteria in South Africa: A Review
WR Harding, BR Paxton
TT 160/01 The Botanical Importance Rating of the Estuaries in Former Ciskei/Transkei
BM Colloty, JB Adams, GC Bate
TT 163/01 Using SAPWAT to Estimate Water Requirements of Crops in Selected Irrigation Areas Managed by the Orange-Vaal and Orange-Riet Water Users Association
PS van Heerden, CT Crosby, CP Crosby
TT 165/01 State of the Rivers Report: Letaba and Luvuvhu River Systems 2001
Mick Angliss, et al
KV 132/01 Improving Sanitation on Farms: Lessons from the Farm Dweller Sanitation Pilot Programme and the Emerging Western Cape Model
A Lagardien, D Cousins
KV 133/01 A Framework for Establishing Appropriate Trenchless Technology Guidelines and Standards in Southern Africa
A Mc N Goyns, FS Crofts
KV 143/01 A Pilot Environmental and Social Baseline Study for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Projects
N Motaung

The latest report can be obtained from the WRC by following the link below.

<http://www.wrc.org.za/wrcpublications/latest.htm>

2. PUBLICATIONS BY SOCIETY MEMBERS

All members of the Society are invited to send in the references of their latest publications. In this manner other members of the Society can remain updated with the latest research output in aquatic science in South Africa.

International News:

1. EUROPEAN WATER ASSOCIATION (EWA)

The European Water Association (EWA) is a non-profit association of European water management scientists and experts. If you like to know more or to participate in the activities - read more on: <http://www.ewaonline.de/>. As you know your colleagues can get a free subscription to this e-mail newsletter too. All they have to do is sending me (jan.van.de.kraats@kabelfoon.nl) a mail with "Subscribe European Water Management News" in the subject line. We have 5,300 subscribers now. This newsletter is only sent by request. You may read older issues at www.riza.nl (click on European Water Management News).

Job opportunities/ Bursaries and Fellowships:

This section of SASAQS News is aimed at advertising available employment opportunities, postgraduate bursaries, post-doc positions and fellowships in aquatic sciences. All information must please be sent to Victor Wepener (<mailto:mww@na.rau.ac.za>) before the 10th of the month.