

NEWSLETTER

4th Edition : 1st October – 31st December 2021

Merry
CHRISTMAS



PACIFIC WATER &
WASTEWATER
ASSOCIATION

From the Head of Secretariat

Farewell Council Members:

PWWA would like to pay tribute to two long-serving members of the Council and the Board of Directors, Mr Raka Taviri and Mr Joseph Batol who are now retired from their public services in Water PNG and Majuro Water of Marshall Islands respectively.

Thank you for your active and passionate support for PWWA and especially on the Board of Directors. Mr Taviri departed having served two terms on the Board since the new Constitution lately as Deputy Chairman. Joseph Batol also served two terms as a Board Director.

PWWA wishes you well in your new callings and retirement and long life. The Secretariat would also like to give special thanks to Raka and Joseph for their active support and understanding of its work. God bless you!

Election of the Chairman and Vice Chairman for Board of Directors:

The Board at its meeting held in November nominated and approved the election of Mr Ian Gooden, CEO of Solomon Island Water Authority to serve as Chairman for the remaining time of the current term of the Board of Directors which finishes in November 2022 at the annual General Meeting of the Association. Mr Fuimaono Dominic Schwalger, Managing Director of Samoa Water Authority was elected as Deputy Chairman; Mr Schwalger will also serve as Deputy Chairman for the remaining time of the current term of the Board until the next AGM in November 2022. Mr Schwalger was elected to join Mr Gooden (Chairman), Mr Jim Keary (Treasurer) and Mr Erickson Sammy (Secretary) on the Executive Board.

Thank you to Ian Gooden and Fuimaono Dominic Schwalger for accepting the roles and we wish the new Officers the very best in their respective roles!

IN THIS ISSUE:

1. *Foreword from Secretariat – pg1 – pg2*
2. *MOERK Water – pg3 – pg5*
3. *Solomon Islands Water Authority -pg6-pg7*
4. *Independent Water Schemes Water Association – pg8 – pg12*
5. *Update on Allied Members – pg12*
6. *Christmas Message from CEO – pg14*

Dates for the 2022 PWWA Annual Conference

The Board had approved Solomon Islands request to host the Annual Conference next year following the cancellation of this year's conference. The dates are tentatively set for the **week of the 14th November 2022**. The Board is fairly keen to host a face to face meeting and will look at alternative locations should circumstances during these difficult times deter us from a conference in the Solomon Islands.

Faafetai.



(source Moerk Water)

Festive greetings to our Pacific Family from Moerk Water.

Technical Assistance conducted by Moerk Water for Kiribati, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea.

We are so grateful that despite the closed border in Western Australia we were able to continue servicing our clients in the Pacific countries – implementing new water projects and conducting ongoing technical support for daily operators and service technicians on the ground.

Kiribati:

In 2021, we were able to kickstart our three machines in Kiribati through a series of online trainings with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy (MISE) and Kiribati Green Energy Solutions Company Ltd (KGES) in Tarawa. As a result, the teams from MISE and KGES were empowered to successfully install the systems in the outer islands.



After the implementation of the machines, we received encouraging feedback and testimonies from the Tebikerai community:



Accredited Water Sector Skills Training: KIRIBATI



We were fortunate this year to start working with the Kiribati Institute of Technology (KIT). We supplied them with a RO250L/h seawater desalination unit that arrived safely in the port of Betio, Tarawa Atoll, Kiribati. The system will be used for training purposes, and we look forward to continuing our collaboration with KIT in early 2022.

Vanuatu:

This year a local film maker in Vanuatu produced a film on our Uripiv project. The heart-warming story communicates a transformation in the community. The residents of Uripiv lived constantly at risk of climate disasters and endures years of uncertainty around their needs, and in times of drought, they are also able to share the water with surrounding communities.

You can watch the full film here (feel free to share the story with friends, family, and colleagues):



<https://www.moerkwater.com.au/uripiv-case-study>

The unit in Uripiv has been operating successfully for 4 years now. After tropical cyclone Harold, the people in Uripiv were able to start the machine immediately and had immediate access to safe drinking water. The solar panels on the roof of the Health Centre were mounted to be cyclone-proof and the machine continued to operate. The Uripiv project is excellent case study in demonstrating how to ensure rural communities in the Pacific are resilient to climate change challenges whether it be a drought, storm or flood.

Here in Western Australia, a group of seasonal workers from Vanuatu met with our team. Richard T. from Uripiv recounted that since the unit was installed the people don't suffer anymore from high blood pressure, caused by saline water from the well.

The head of nurse also reported improved outcomes, now that the people are drinking for a verifiable clean water source (the Moerk Water desalination machine).

Papua New Guinea.

After the success of the Uripiv film we are happy to announce that we will soon be releasing a film about our East Cape project, in Milne Bay.

The water treatment system provides water for over 350 students across multiple schools for residents of the villages, for the Health Centre and the local market. Different to the Uripiv project, the East Cape system purifies the water produced from a contaminated groundwater well rather than the ocean.



Students with their Moerk Water stainless steel water bottles.

The machine is overseen by a daily operator and the teachers at the local schools. For over 4 years now the system has been operating with ongoing technical support from Moerk Water to help the people on the go to confidently operate the technology. The easy-to-service and low maintenance design has proven to be a key contributor to the success of the project.

We thank the Alotau Administration and the Hon Charles Able MP for our partnership.

Perth, Western Australia

In the midst of the travel restrictions, we have focused more on running educational webinars for the region. Many people attended and we received a lot of positive feedback. It was an avenue for us to continue having face-to-face communications with a broad range of business, private individuals, and government officials. Special thanks to the PWWA CEO Pitolau Lusie Sefo-Leau for her support addressing the PWWA members, utilities, and young professionals.

We wish all a beautiful festive season; God's blessings and we look forward to another fruitful year 2022 ahead.

Author



Barbara Brezger is the Director of International Business Development at Moerk Water Solutions, Asia-Pacific. We look forward to hearing back from you. Please don't hesitate to reach out and send an email to Barbara.brezger@moerkwater.com.au



(source SIWA)

INCREASING ACCESS TO SAFE WATER: SOLOMON WATER EXPANDS TO HONIARA INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

There is no health without accessible, safe and clean drinking water. A lack of access to clean water presents numerous challenges – children suffer from waterborne diseases, women and girls risk their lives and safety to trek long distances and hours to fetch water.

Through the vision: “Safe Water for a Healthy Nation” and the Water Supply and Sanitation for Vulnerable Communities Project, Solomon Water is implementing a subproject to connect vulnerable households to its water distribution network. The Australian DFAT funded Honiara Vulnerable Households Water Supply subproject will construct new water mains and reticulation lines and install new household level water connections to customers who currently use poor quality surface water for their household needs. Many of these households are in the informal and vulnerable settlements in Honiara.

Savo Heights in far west Honiara is a beneficiary of the project and over 300 potential customers have applied for a water meter and connection to their homes. Trenching and pipelining works to connect customers in the area has just started and Savo Heights residents describe the project as a blessing.

Resident Osborne Tuhenua said the community is grateful that they will soon have access to safe clean drinking water. *“We look forward to the day when a water tap is turned on in our homes. We walk almost two kilometers every day to fetch water from the Kongulai stream or from a well at the Savo market sea side. This routine is tiring and unsafe for our children, girls and women. The water is also unsafe, so as their security”.*

May Sausau has been a resident of Savo Heights since 2007. She said the project will change their struggles for good. *“The water experience here is not easy. We carry water every day from the stream. This water supply project will ease our burdens” she said.*

Another resident Cathy Rose said the project will solve a lot of their problems. *“It’s been a sad experience, especially for us women and girls as well as our children. We have to walk an hour every day just to fetch water and do our washing. There are times we face harassment by drunken people along the way. It’s unsafe – the water quality and our security” she said.*

Customers in the Savo Heights Settlement should be fully connected by January next year.



Invitation for Bids

SW0192019: Honiara Water Supply Trunk Main Upgrade

The Solomon Islands Water Authority, trading as Solomon Water ("SW") has received financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and World Bank (WB) toward the cost of the Honiara Water Supply Trunk Main Upgrade project.

SW invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the construction and completion of the Honiara Water Supply Trunk Main Upgrade project. The works include the construction, installation, testing and commissioning of approximately 10 km of welded high-density polyethylene (HDPE) water trunk mains (225, 315 and 400 mm diameter) and associated works ("the Works").

Open competitive bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB's **Single-Stage: One Envelope** procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.

Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding:

1. Participation as a contractor, Joint Venture partner, or Subcontractor, in **at least two** contracts involving the construction and commissioning of a potable water supply trunk main that have been successfully or substantially completed within the last **10 (ten) years**, where the value of the Bidders participation under each contact exceeds **USD 3,500,000** (three million five hundred thousand dollars).
2. Experience in constructing operational municipal potable water supply system, including pressure testing, connecting to live service mains & disinfection, constructed in tropical regions and in an urban environment.

To obtain further information, bidders should contact **Everlyn Basi – Procurement Team Leader** on phone **+677 44660** or via email procurement@solomonwater.com.sb

Bidding documents and instructions for submission of bids will be available electronically on Solomon Water's Tenderlink site: www.tenderlink.com/SIWA

Bids close at 10am on Monday 21 February 2022 (Solomon Islands time).

Bids will be opened immediately after the deadline for bid submission in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.



IWSA - Independent Water Schemes Association

(source IWSA)

As mentioned in our last Newsletter that the Samoa Independent Water Schemes Association has been conducting Trainings for the UV Filtration Systems that will filter water from Kiosks for communities to access clean and safe drinking water. Within the months of October – December, the Association has been busy with the launching of these Kiosks for the communities.

All these were made possible by the European Union in the Pacific, in partnership with the Government of Samoa through the Civil Society Support Program-Samoa.

Nuusuatia IWS UV Kiosk Launch



Maasina IWS UV Kiosk Launch



Sataoa IWS UV Kiosk Launch



Lona IWS UV Kiosk Launch



Aufaga IWS UV Kiosk Launch



Patamea Savaii IWS UV Kiosk Launch



8th October

Two programs ran simultaneously

1. Savaii UV filtration system Operations & Maintenance Workshop

Workshop included water committee representatives from Paia IWS, Patamea IWS & Salailua IWS.

2. Drinking Water Safety Plans (DWSP) review by the Water Quality Subsector Committee here in Upolu 😊

The committee comprises of the following representatives:

- Samoa Water and Sanitation Sector Coordinator Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Samoa (MNRE)
- Acting Chief Executive Officer of the National Disease Surveillance & International Health Regulations Ministry of Health
- MNRE's Water Resources Division Team
- The head of the Samoa Water Authority's Water Quality Laboratory
- IWSA's Environmental Scientist & Program Manager

DWSPs reviewed were for the following Schemes

Leusoalii IWS

Luatuanuu IWS

Saoluafata IWS

Falevao IWS

These programs are funded by the European Union



20th Oct

IWSA presented at the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector Review on works conducted in FY20/21.

We presented our achievements, lessons learnt and the way forward from the last financial year.

From our project with the European Union, we were able to complete the following works in the FY 20/21 to fulfil our obligations under Samoa's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene plan for 2020-2025

- Pilot of Water Meters in an Independent Water Scheme
- Development and endorsement of 11 Drinking Water Safety Plans
- Procuring of 10 UV Filtration System Units and the awarding of the contract for the Construction of 10 Kiosks
- Awarding of the Ecological Purification System contract to start next month.

Three Australia Pacific Training Coalition Plumbing Short courses for our community reps funded by the Australian Aid and the European Union;

Three minor and one major infrastructure upgrades; and

Development of our Asset Management System

In FY 20/21 IWSA was also a recipient of two Grant Funding worth AUD 10k each which is the Impact Fund for the purchase of our Ultrasonic Flow Meter as well as the Giveback Grant for the development of our IWSA organisation manual. This is funded under the Australian Volunteers Program

We would like to thank Ministry of Health Samoa, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Samoa, Ministry of Women, Community & Social Development and Samoa Water Authority for all the assistance provided in ensuring our communities are supported.

A special mention to the Civil Society Support Program - Samoa for ensuring the IWSA office is well-supported.

More IWS UV Kiosk Launches & Drinking Water Safety Plan Reviews

4th November

Paia IWS UV Kiosk Launch

We were grateful to have our partners join us in celebration of another Independent Water Scheme having access to safe and clean drinking water.

- Ministry of Health Samoa
- Ministry of Women, Community & Social Development
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Samoa
- Civil Society Support Program - Samoa



5th Nov

Consultation with reps from Sili IWS, Satupaitea IWS & Salailua IWS where Water Network Operations and Maintenance manuals and maps were prepared and handed out. They say “Knowledge is power”



9th November

Manunu IWS UV Kiosk Launch

A joyous event seeing the children’s excitement as well as the people of Manunu IWS finally having nearby access to clean & safe drinking water.

Guests included

Honourable Minister of Health le Afioga ia Valasi Luapitofanua Toogamaga Tafito Selesele
Samoa’s Civil Society Support Program (CSSP)
UV Kiosk Contractor: Rockworkz Ltd

This project is funded by the European Union



Side note: In 2019, IWSA installed a UV Filter for the children’s drinking water at Manunu’s primary school which they are still currently using. This was funded under the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives grant.

10th Nov

Uafato IWS Fagaloa UV Kiosk Launch

Uafato IWS is one of nine small village settlements situated at Fagaloa Bay that all manage their own water supply networks. Uafato has the biggest rainforest in the Pacific, a Key Biodiversity Area, home to the endangered bird species such as the Manumea and Mao.

There are about 254 residents of Uafato whose water source is a river where there is currently no centralised treatment.

A partnership between the Government of Samoa and the European Union has allowed the IWSA pilot standalone UV Filtration Kiosks where communities such as Uafato can now finally access clean and safe drinking water.

IWSA today launched this project together with the Minister of Health Honourable Valasi Toogamaga Tafito Selesele, Minister of Natural Resources & Environment Honourable Toesulusulu Cedric Schuster, MNRE Chief Executive Officer Frances Reupena, MOH Director General Leausa Toleafoa Dr. Take Naseri and the Civil Society Support Program.



22nd November

Drinking Water Safety Plan reviews with our schemes in Savaii namely Patamea IWS, Paia IWS and Matautu IWS.

23rd November

Salailua IWS UV Kiosk Launch



1st December

Drinking Water Safety Plan reviews with our schemes in Lotofaga.



Special acknowledgement and thanks to **European Union in the Pacific** for their continuous support and assistance that has enabled the implementation of this program for various communities.



EUROPEAN UNION



3rd December

The Australian Pacific Training Coalition are pleased to collaborate with the IWSA - Independent Water Schemes Association and Samoan village water committees to deliver a short course in plumbing .

Twelve men and women from IWSA completed the APTC Plumbing Short Course Level 2 and were awarded their certificates from the Australian High Commissioner to Samoa, Her Excellency Emily Luck.

The training equipped participants with the necessary skills and knowledge to improve and maintain sustainable water management systems within their respective communities.

Thanks 🇺🇦 IWSA - Independent Water Schemes Association and

Australian High Commission, Samoa for building the capacity for Samoan communities for the provision of clean, safe and affordable water.



9th December

IWSA presents another four Drinking Water Safety Plans to the Joint Water and Sanitation Sector Steering Committee for endorsement.

The Joint Water and Sanitation Sector committee (JWSSSC) meets quarterly, operates at the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) level and comprises CEOs from key Implementing Agencies (IAs), private sector and NGOs with representatives from key development partners.

Leusoalii, Luatuanuu, Falevao and Saolufata's Drinking Water Safety Plans have now been endorsed and are ready for implementation. This brings the total of DWSPs developed and endorsed to nineteen (19).

We would like to thank our partners from the Ministry of Women, Community & Social Development , Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Samoa and Ministry of Health Samoa for their continuous support in developing the plans.



THANK YOU EUROPEAN UNION



Allied Members Monthly Meetings

As each country struggles with impact of COVID-19, PWWA Secretariat together with PWWA Allied Committee, on the 11th of November 2021, commenced hosting online monthly meetings with other Allied Members to gauge “experiences and observations about working in the Pacific during 2021”

For each month different Allied members together with one Utility CEO, will present on their experiences. At the same time, the Secretariat will use this platform to have a face-to-face online update with members on progress of activities.

Common issues noted from November and December meetings are noted below:

- Supply and Demand Issues (shipping costs, shipping issues etc)
- Lack of Face-to-face contact (borders restrictions)
- Not a lot of work in the Pacific for last two years
- High turnover of Utilities Management

CEO for SIWA, Ian Gooden also presented on issues facing its utility with COVID-19 plus the recent civil unrest in Solomon Islands. Noted below were the presented issues:

COVID Impacts

- March 2020 national public emergency
- SIWA cashflow issues, casuals laid off, non-essential staff – 3 days /week (mid-Oct got back towards normal), CEO – pay cut
- Donor funded stimulus 2020 – SBD 5M
- Donor support ex DFAT & NZ – 2021-SBD 39M
- Design works hugely overdue – Suez Consultants; three years into 14 month contract
- Training/twinning programmes halted
- Border restrictions – impacts on resources/breaks for expatriates
- Solomon Island Govt has done very well in Covid management
- Biggest risk is PNG border interactions between families, also shipping across Asia

Civil Unrest

- Escalated very quickly – little warning
- Minimal damage to SIWA facilities, just in Chinatown pipes broken – meters broken
- Main depot adjacent Chinatown - smoke/tear gas
- Direct threats made against water and power infrastructure
- Staff – very unsettled, previous trauma resurfaces
- Quiet but tense now
- Day 2 – East side chlorine ran out, pump stations
- Dispersal of vehicles. Plant away from depots

Extra security, keep working, liaison with Police These forums will continue for 2022 to gauge perspectives from both Allied Members and Utilities and for PWWA through the Allied Committee to review and see how the association can best assist.



Dear PWWA Members and Partners

I trust all of you are doing well at this busy time of the year.

*As we prepare for another unprecedented Christmas season, I wish to extend on behalf of the Secretariat my **sincere** gratitude and appreciation of your support and commitment to PWWA throughout this year. It has been a different and an extraordinarily busy year by all accounts with some challenging times for the work of the Secretariat, and I'm certain for yourselves too.*

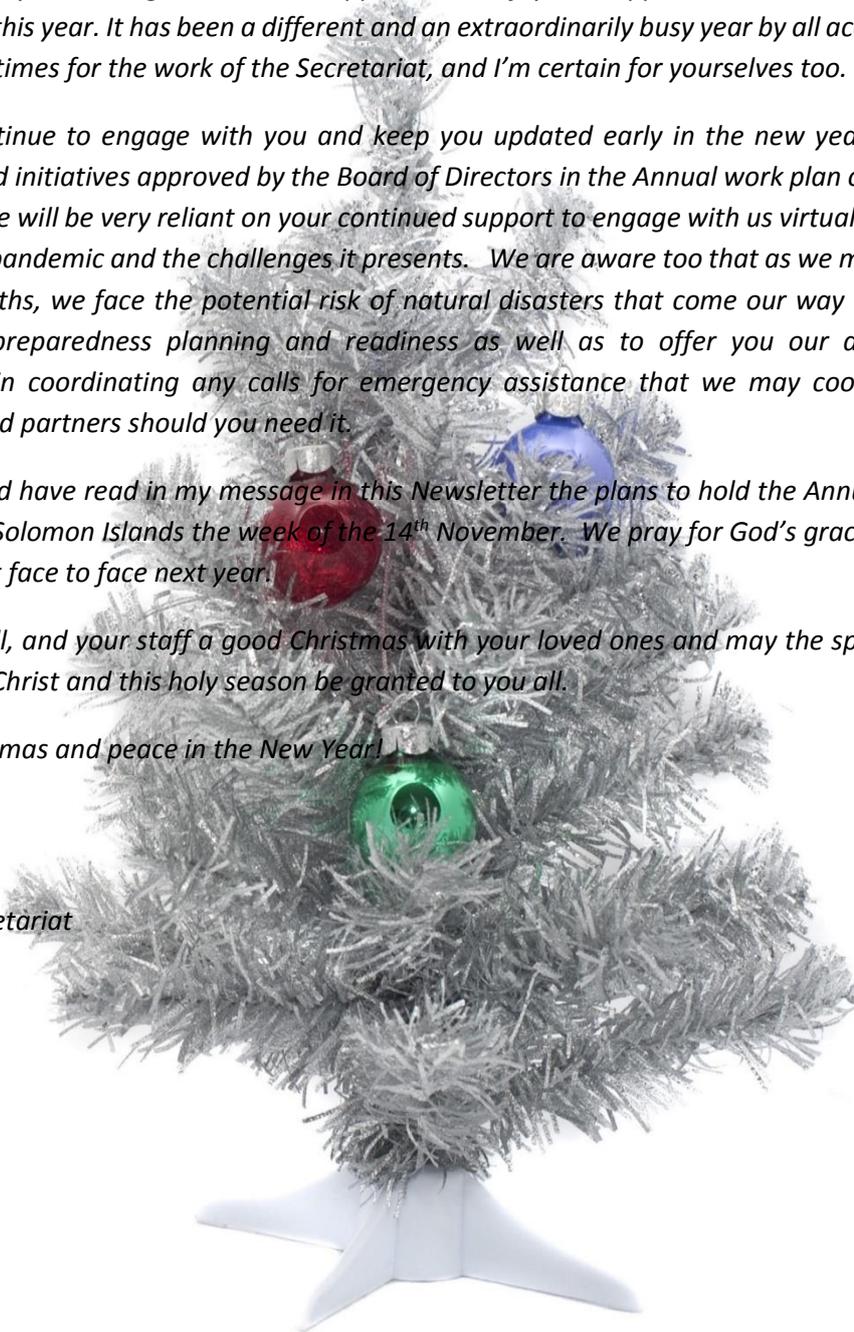
We will continue to engage with you and keep you updated early in the new year of some of the activities and initiatives approved by the Board of Directors in the Annual work plan of the Association for 2022. We will be very reliant on your continued support to engage with us virtually as we continue to face this pandemic and the challenges it presents. We are aware too that as we move into the next several months, we face the potential risk of natural disasters that come our way at this time. We encourage preparedness planning and readiness as well as to offer you our assistance at the Secretariat in coordinating any calls for emergency assistance that we may coordinate with our members and partners should you need it.

You all would have read in my message in this Newsletter the plans to hold the Annual Conference in 2022 in the Solomon Islands the week of the 14th November. We pray for God's grace and providence we will meet face to face next year.

I wish you all, and your staff a good Christmas with your loved ones and may the special blessings of the birth of Christ and this holy season be granted to you all.

Merry Christmas and peace in the New Year!

**CEO & Staff
PWWA Secretariat**



COVID-19

PROTECT YOURSELF



USE MASK



WASH YOUR HANDS



**MAINTAIN
SOCIAL
DISTANCING**

1 M



PACIFIC WATER AND WASTEWATER ASSOCIATION SECRETARIAT

P.O. Box 868
L4 FMFMII Building
Eleele-fou, Apia
SAMOA

PH: +685 30326

E-mail: info@pwwa.ws
Website: www.pwwa.ws