

Friday 8 September 2017

## Full house at Research on Tap #3

The third session of the CWRR's Seminar Series Research on Tap, themed Droughts and Disaster Management was a success. The recent drought experienced in South Africa has been of an extreme nature in comparison to historical records. Was this drought a natural phenomenon or purely a result of water management? What can or is being done to mitigate harsh effects through disaster management? What are other methods and techniques being used globally to address low flows during droughts? We had a big and enthusiastic audience listening when the following four presenters shared highlights from their current work and thoughts around the topic: ♦ Kevin Meier, Umgeni Water ♦ Prof. Michael Savage, Agrometeorology, UKZN ♦ David Clark, CWRR and ♦ Thomas Rowe, CWRR. Their presentations will be available at [cwr.ukzn.ac.za](http://cwr.ukzn.ac.za) shortly.

### Pietermaritzburg residents protest over water cuts

Municipal workers briefly held hostage



### Msunduzi denies manipulating water supply

Water politics adds to ANC-IFP tension in run-up to elections



## Soccer tournament

On 9 August (Women's Day) the Agricultural Engineers and the Hydrologists met for a friendly soccer tournament, however, on the pitch competitive battles ensued between both the women's and men's teams. At the end of the day the Hydrologists triumphed, 2 – 0 and 3 – 2 respectively. All in all the event was a great bonding opportunity and fun filled day.



## The CWRR Newsletter

You are reading the fourth issue of the CWRR's new Newsletter. The aim of the Newsletter is to keep everybody at, and interested in the Centre updated about the movements and improvements – of our colleagues' achievements and endeavors, projects, outputs and outreach.



The Newsletter will come out monthly and requires inputs from all of us! Please send photos of your fieldtrips, information on your conferences, links to publications, and more, to [CWRR@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:CWRR@ukzn.ac.za) or [MalingaR@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:MalingaR@ukzn.ac.za)

The Newsletter is now also available online at [cwr.ukzn.ac.za](http://cwr.ukzn.ac.za)

## Important dates

- ♦ Sharing and Caring for Water conference **14-16 September**, Durban, co-hosted by the Global Participatory Water Management Network, Wildlife & Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA) and eThekweni Municipality. [Read more here!](#)
- ♦ Water Research Commission Symposium **18-20 September** themed "Adaptation to the new normal", Johannesburg. [How to get involved!](#)
- ♦ Wednesday **27 September**: Research on Tap CWRR Seminar 4. Theme, time and venue to be announced.

## CWRR vision workshop

Again, coached by Dr. Monique Salomon ([www.korumo.org](http://www.korumo.org)), CWRR gathered on 30 August to report, reflect and regroup around the shared Centre vision that was agreed on during the strategic planning session in May this year. The objective of the workshop was to further strategize the ways forward to establish the Centre as THE 'go-to' research and education centre in South Africa on pressing issues in water.

## Forecast Early Warning System Master Class

The Delft Flood Early Warning System (Delft-FEWS), developed by Deltares in the Netherlands, is described as an “Expert data handling and model integration software for flood forecasting, drought and seasonal forecasting, and real-time water resources management”. Find more information [here](#). The Coastal Stormwater and Catchment Management Department (CSCM) at eThekweni Municipality has been piloting the use of the Delft-FEWS software to set up and operate a flood warning and management system for the municipality. CSCM worked closely with Deltares to set up the system, but as far as possible have opted to build capacity in-house with their own staff setting up and operating the system. This approach has put eThekweni Municipality in the position of being able to encourage and assist other municipalities in South Africa with setting up their own disaster management systems. CWRR member, David Clark, attended a 3-day Delft-FEWS training course titled “Forecast Early Warning System Master Class” at Moses Mabhida Stadium in Durban 1-3 August 2017, organized and facilitated by the CSCM and the Municipal Institute of Learning (MILE). Technical expertise were provided by two Delft-FEWS experts from Deltares. The system brings together data and modelling to provide support for real-world operational decisions that affect people’s wellbeing and potentially save lives. Together with Trevor Lumsden from the CSIR, David plans to test Delft-FEWS in a WRC funded project investigating agricultural related indicators based on climate forecasts. David will also investigate Delft-FEWS for use in producing annual catchment scale water resource accounts.



## Call for Doctoral Scholarship

29 September is the closing date for the Southern African Systems Analysis Centre (SASAC) Doctoral Scholarship, which is a great opportunity for potential PhD students who are interested in research using a Systems Analysis Methodology. The application is done through the [NRF Online Submission System](#) and needs to be submitted by the supervisor. Find more info [here!](#)

Centre member Stefanie Schütte is one of the students who was awarded this scholarship in 2017. “I think this is a great opportunity to work towards getting a PhD, while at the same time getting additional support in developing capacity, and meeting bright PhD candidates from various disciplines and backgrounds” says Schütte. The program has so far involved two fruitful and interesting courses and field visits to Stellenbosch University, and this month the students are travelling to the international Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in Vienna, Austria.



## Did you know...

...that the CWRR logo was skillfully created by our Centre member Sean Thornton-Dibb in June 2016 and was launched in September the same year? With input from Mark Horan, Thornton-Dibb sought to keep with the Corporate Identity of UKZN, and co-brand the Centre logo with a subsidiary brand that is harmonious and complementary.



The Centre logo is primarily a stylized water drop encompassing the Centre’s theme of Water Resources Research. The water drop is tilted in a manner that when read from left to right creates the sense of moving or looking forward. It is made up of the colors representing the various campuses of UKZN, since one of the Centre’s core aims is interdisciplinary research. The multi-layered drop also highlights the complexity and multifaceted nature of water resources research.

## Latest publications – journal articles and reports

- ◆ Shaeden Gokool, Dr. Eddie Ridell, Kershani Tinisha Chetty and others, have quantified riparian evaporation along the Groot Letaba River and had their paper published in *Journal of Arid Environments*. Read the paper [here!](#)
- ◆ Prof. Roland Schulze and others contributed to a new WRC [technical research report](#) titled “Vulnerability, Adaptation to and Coping with Drought: The Case of Commercial and Subsistence Rain Fed Farming in the Eastern Cape” (Ed. A.J. Jordan).