

Message from the Hydrators

CWRR Student Club



laking a difference - One drop at a time.

Friday 24 April 2020

Words from the CWRR Hydrators' Student Club

Dear Members of the CWRR and the General Public,

Thank you for taking the time to read this very first newsletter edition from the CWRR Hydrators' Student Club. Here we intend to address current affairs, projects being undertaken by the club, as well as feature CWRR student accomplishments.

During early March, the Hydrators' Student Club embarked on the mis-

Hydrators' Special Edition Newsletter **Addressing COVID-19**

This edition of the Hydrators' newsletter aims to address concerns around water associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic.

sion to appoint new committee members for the 2020 academic year. There was an enthusiastic response from students resulting in a vibrant new team. Please join me in welcoming the 2020 Hydrators Committee Members: Nalin Singh (Chairperson), Thobeka Nsibande (Deputy Chair), Michelline Goodjarran (Secretary), Thando Mthembu (Treasurer), and Mkholo Maseko (Public Relations and Social Media). Though 2020 presents us with special challenges that we are experiencing through this COVID-19 pandemic, I am certain we will rise to the challenge and overcome!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the previous Hydrators' Committee from 2019. Without their hard work and dedication, the initiation of a CWRR Student Club would not have been possible. Thanks to Ryshan Ramlall (Chairperson), Trisha Sukhdeo (Secretary), Udhav Maharaj (Treasurer), and Thivashnie Naidoo (Social Media) for paving the way for future leaders!

Kinds regards, Susan Risko, CWRR Student Club Mentor

Follow the Centre for Water Resources Research's Social Media Pages



Website: https://cwrr.ukzn.ac.za/

Twitter: other

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/TheCWRR



Instagram: @cwrr ukzn





Nalin Singh



Michelline Goodjarran



Mkholo Maseko

2020 Hydrators Committee Members

Nalin Singh (Chairperson) graduated with a BSc in Hydrology and Geography summa cum laude and is currently studying towards an Honours in Hydrology. His current research includes the water quality and isotope hydrology of Lake Sibaya.

Thobeka Nsibande (Deputy Chair) graduated with a BSc in Hydrology and Soil Science and is currently studying towards an Honours in Hydrology. Her current research includes the baseflow contribution to South African rivers.

Michelline Goodjarran (Secretary) graduated with a BSc in Hydrology and Geography and is currently studying towards an Honours in Hydrology. Her current research includes rain gauge networks vs remote sensing methods in the Cathedral Peak area.

Thando Mthembu (Treasurer) graduated with a BSc in Hydrology and Soil Science and is currently studying towards his Honours in Hydrology. His current research includes the water use and yield of taro and sweet potato.

Mkholo Maseko (Public Relations and Social Media) graduated with a BSc in Environmental Science and is currently studying towards an Honours in Hydrology. His current research includes the water level reduction of Lake Sibaya and potential ground water discharges to the ocean.



Thobeka Nsibande



Thando Mthembu

RISING TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



A message from the Hydrators

As the COVID-19 pandemic sweeps across the world the very nature of everyday life is being challenged. With every aspect of society being impacted, what does this global crisis mean for the water sector? South Africa must now begin to critically reflect on this.

The importance of hygiene has been brought to the global forefront. Key to in the fight against COVID-19 is good hygiene and sanitation coupled with access to drinking water. Therefore, pota-

ble water is essential. In South Africa, the issue of water inequality has been starkly highlighted. Many vulnerable communities lack sufficient potable water and adequate sanitation. As a result, the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) and the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) have engaged in a rapid programme of distributing static water tanks to municipalities. This, however, has placed an increased strain on the already limited capacity of our municipalities. Dire as it may be, COVID-19 could be the driver needed to push forward co-ordinated WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) programmes in South Africa.



With the importance of handwashing being driven home, the general public has also become significantly more aware of the importance of hygiene and sanita-



tion. This will prove beneficial in slowing the spread of COVID-19 now and other WASH diseases in the future. This newfound awareness, along with the fact that so many are under lockdown in their homes and under economic stress, creates a unique opportunity to instil basic water saving into the lives of the people.

By Nalin Singh, Chairperson

For the latest information regarding the COVID-19 pandemic be sure to follow South Africa's National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) with up to date alerts at https://www.nicd.ac.za/media/alerts/.



Easy Water Saving Tips for COVID-19 and Beyond

- Switch off the tap/shower in-between wetting and scrubbing your hands/body respectively.
- Similarly, switch off the tap when not needed during brushing your teeth, shaving and washing dishes.
- Spend no more than 5 minutes showering.
- Repair leaking fixtures, every drop adds up!
- Capture shower water in a bucket and use it for the garden or a toilet.
- Only water your garden when needed and around dusk or dawn.
- Place a 1 L bottle of water or a brick in the cistern of your toilet or lift the handle immediately after flushing, both methods reduce water used per flush.

Centre for Water Resources Research, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa Contact, tips and enquiries: phone +27(0)33 260 5678, or e-mail CWRR@ukzn.ac.za cwrr.ukzn.ac.za