

PWWA NEWSLETTER

02nd Edition, 01st April – 30th June 2025



From the Secretariat

Needless to say, the 2nd quarter was full on with conference preparations and ticking off the checklist of items that are needed to trigger other actions in the lead up to the conference. We had our funding approved from ADB, our major partner/sponsor early in the quarter and we also had AWP come in to support the Young Water Professionals program and kickstart this off with a different approach.

In May 7-8, the CEO attended the Australian Water Partnership's Partners Workshop in Melbourne as a keynote speaker along with the Secretary General (SG) of the Forum Secretariat. While there the CEO also had bilateral meetings on this occasion with the SG of the Forum Secretariat on the upcoming Water Ministerial Forum in Solomon Islands – a good opportunity to talk about the work of PWWA and how we can collaborate with them in elevating water to Pacific Leaders and through regional processes. Bilateral meetings were also held with staff members of DFAT and the Ministry of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (ECCEW).

In collaboration with Beca Hunter Water as Project Manager, the Young Water Professionals Program started in this quarter with exciting new opportunities. Generously funded by the Australian Water Partnership (AWP), the program offered opportunities for past YWPs who showed a high level of commitment and interest in the program to participate in either of two opportunities: (1) to attend and participate at Ozwater Conference– Australia's largest water and wastewater conference, held in Adelaide Australia from 19 – 22 May 2025; and (2) to mentor this year's YWPs by attending two of the online YWP sessions and attending this year's PWWA Conference in the Solomon Islands. EOIs were sought from selected past YWPs and three were selected to attend and participate as the Pacific YWPs at the Ozwater Conference in Adelaide.

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These three YWPs included Tua Vaai YWP 2024; David Bai YWP 2023 and Aetrian Roberts – YWP 2022. This was a wonderful opportunity for the selected YWPs.

The 2025 cohort of YWPs started their online program on 26th June and a total of 30 YWPs were nominated and accepted, including 3 past YWPs as mentors, and one self-funded by their utility.

During this quarter, with the assistance of a new IT-provider, the PWWA website and other IT-related platforms were upgraded and enhanced to streamline and improve the accessibility of the PWWA website and use for the Secretariat as well as its members. The Secretariat also sought the assistance of a Communications consultant to review and revise the Communications Strategy 2024. Following the review with the consultant a new 2025-2027 Communications Strategy was developed along with a Conference PWWC'25 Media Campaign Strategy. Having the upgrade to the website as well as consolidating all our IT services under one provider enabled this quick review of where our Communications Strategy 2024 needed improvement and streamlining to enhance clarity, efficiency and impact while aligning it with our organisational priorities (in the Strategic Plan). We were keen to get this going to capitalise on the upcoming conference which is our only major revenue earning event and where we can capture all of our stakeholders.



At the beginning of the second half of the year, we are excited to see the conference registrations increasing and the growing number of our Allied members booking booths to participate at the Conference in August. Your Secretariat has been working very closely with our host utility SIWA who are supported and working with their government Ministries officials to make sure the preparations and your experience of the 9th Pacific Ministerial Forum and 16th Pacific Water and Wastewater Conference and Expo 2025 is a success. Please visit your website at www.pwwa.ws for updates and we will start featuring some stories and updates on Facebook and LinkedIn soon in the lead up to the Conference on 25-29 August 2025!

Stay connected, register and join us in August!

God bless

Pitolau Lusua Sefo Leau
Chief Executive Officer



(source Bluemont)

Big Impact for Small Pacific Island Communities 🌻

We're incredibly proud to announce that [Blueмонт Pty Ltd](#), supported by **Pacific Technologies** have been awarded a grant by [Powering Renewable Energy Opportunities](#) (PREO) and **UK Carbon Trust** to deliver two [Elemental Water Makers](#) solar desalination units to the Pacific—one to Tonga and one to another Island, TBC. This isn't just a technology deployment. It's a vital step toward tackling a regional water crisis. Right now, 45% of Pacific Island populations, that's 6.7 million people, lack access to safe drinking water. We're working to change that, one community at a time.

🔌 Each solar-powered Elemental Water Maker unit will deliver up to 4,300 litres of clean, WHO-standard drinking water every day, without using a single drop of fossil fuel.

💡 Why this solution works:

- ✅ 100% solar powered
- ✅ Zero emissions, zero chemicals 🌱
- ✅ Designed for remote coastal communities
- ✅ Minimal maintenance, maximum resilience
- ✅ Proven track record: 82 systems in 30+ countries



👤 As part of this project, we'll be partnering with **Tonga Water Board** to:

1. Select the most water-stressed communities
2. Install and commission the systems
3. Train local water authority teams
4. Empower local women through technical training and system management

👏 This is a people-first, planet-positive project led by an international team of passionate changemakers:

Together, we're proving that innovation, sustainability, and equity can go hand-in-hand. 🌍💧

✉ For more info, reach out to [Paul Hart](#) at paul.hart@bluemont.com.au



Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Samoa

(source MNRE)

WASH Sector School Awareness Campaign Program - 7th -8th April, 2025

The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector recently hosted a successful School Awareness Campaign Program aimed at promoting and raising awareness on the important work carried out by the sector and its Implementing Agencies as outline in the WASH Sector's National Communication Strategy 2022 – 2025. Student from colleges of the West and Southeast side of Upolu had the opportunity to learn more about the importance of clean water, safe sanitation, and proper hygiene practices, while also exploring the different roles and expertise within the sector. It was interactive and educational experience that empowered young minds to become future champions of WASH in their communities.



Day One - 7th April, 2025.

The first day of program was hosted at Satapuala Methodist Congregational Hall focused on engaging students from the West Side of Upolu, including: Wesley College, Leulumoea College, Sagaga College, Paul VI College, Nuausala College, and Aana 1 & 2 College.

Day Two - 8th April, 2025.

The second day of program hosted at Malaemalu Falealili Methodist Congregational Hall continued with colleges from the southeast side of Upolu, including: Lefaga College, Safata College, Palalaua College, Falealili College, and Aleipata 1 & 2 College.



Key presentations were delivered under the 6 ESPOs (End of Sector Plan Outcome) by sector experts as follows:

- ESPO 1: Water Resource Management Subsector – July Lelevaga (MNRE - WRD)
- ESPO 2: Water Supply Subsector – Emma Sinclair (IWSA) and Robyn Lei Sam (SWA)
- ESPO 3: Drinking Water Quality Subsector – Hinoma Tapu & Michelle Sialeipata (MOH)
- ESPO 4: Sanitation Subsector – Tupuola David Elisara (MWTI - PUMA)
- ESPO 5: Flood Mitigation and Drainage Subsector – Tagaloa Etiseli Fauatea & Silaulii Patu (LTA)
- ESPO 6: Sector Governance and Orientation Subsector – Peni Allen (MNRE – WASH)

The Ministry extends its sincere gratitude to all participating schools, teachers, and students for their enthusiasm and engagement throughout the School Awareness Campaign Program. Special thanks to our dedicated sector experts and representatives from the [Ministry of Health Samoa](#), [Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure Samoa](#), [IWSA - Independent Water Schemes Association](#), [Samoa Water Authority](#), and [Land Transport Authority - Samoa](#) for sharing their invaluable knowledge and expertise, including the unwavering support of our implementing agencies, partners whose contributions were instrumental in making this program a success.



THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR WATER, WETLANDS, FORESTS AND BIODIVERSITY IN SAMOA 2025

22-23 MAY 2025

The Government of Samoa in its efforts to align its national environmental programs with international initiatives have been celebrating the World Water Day, World Wetlands Day and the International Day of Forests and Biodiversity for more than a decade, through the coordination of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE).

These global programs aim to promote the protection of water, wetlands, forests and biodiversity through annual targeted themes that highlight various priority issues pertaining to their sustainable management worldwide. This year, the MNRE facilitated commemoration activities targeting the youth and communities, and their significant role as vehicles of change, bringing about effective water resources management, sustainable forest development and protection, as well as wetland and biodiversity conservation.

The National Theme for this year's commemorations is; “Protecting Samoa’s Water, Wetlands, Forests, and Biodiversity Resources for Our Resilient Common Future” (Lātasi le Folauga Samoa mo le Puipuia o Punaoa o Suavai, Laufanua Vailaloa, Vaomatua ma le Ola Faanatura). This theme reflects a national commitment to resilience, sustainability, and collective stewardship of our natural heritage. It highlights the critical role of Samoa’s ecosystems in supporting livelihoods, safeguarding biodiversity, and building resilience in the face of climate change and socio-economic pressures.

This message is particularly significant given Samoa’s vulnerability to extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and ecosystem degradation. Our water sources, wetlands, and forests are not only essential for daily survival but also serve as natural buffers against climate impacts. Biodiversity underpins these systems, contributing to food security, cultural identity, and ecological stability.



By calling for the protection of these interlinked resources, the theme encourages coordinated action at all levels, from community-based conservation efforts to regional partnerships, and reflects Samoa's vision of a resilient and inclusive future for all.

This year's celebration involved two-days of Action and Awareness.

Day 1 (22 May): Official Opening and Student Forum

The official opening ceremony was held at the Apita o Pisaga Hall in Salelologa on Thursday, 22 May 2025. It was attended by over 200 students and stakeholder representatives. The Honourable Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, delivered the keynote address.

A key highlight was the launch of the National Drought Policy and the National Drought Management Plan 2025–2035, which was developed under European Union funding support. The JICA Representative Ms. Yumiko Asakuma launched the documents on behalf of the Government and the EU. Three Memorandums of Understanding were also signed between the Ministry and community farmers, who are involved in agroforestry and sustainable land use practices, an important step to engage community leaders in the reforestation and rehabilitation of degraded forest and watershed areas.

Day 2 (23 May): Three Million Planting Campaign and Forestry Management Workshop & Educational Tours

A workshop for farmers and foresters was conducted as part of the second day of celebrations to raise awareness on the progress and issues pertaining to the 3-Million Tree Planting Campaign as well as the provisions of forestry management legislation governing the sustainable harvesting of forest plantations. Moafanua Tolusina Pouli (ACEO Forestry Division) delivered the key note address to open day-2, noting the importance of forests in delivering the ecosystem services vital to the development of Samoa's social, environmental, and economic sectors.



A parallel program was also held as part of Day 2, for selected colleges from around Savaii and the National University of Samoa. Approximately 100 students participated in field tours and visits to local conservation projects related to water, wetlands, forests and biodiversity conservation. Activities during these tours looked at the following areas:

The MNRE expresses sincere thanks to all the development partners for their continued support in water, wetlands, forests and biodiversity management in Samoa. Special acknowledgements are extended to the main sponsors of the 2-day event : the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) at SPREP, the European Union (EU), the Pacific Community (SPC), the Government of Samoa and all the implementing agencies of the Environment, and the Water and Sanitation Sectors.

The Ministry also conveys sincere gratitude to the colleges around Savaii and the communities supporting sustainable natural resources management initiatives, and to SWA and EPC for granting access to their water treatment and hydropower generation facilities.





Water Authority of Fiji

(source WAF & Fiji One News)

Clean water finally reaches Nadroga villages.

Residents from the village of Vusama and Navisabasaba in the district of Malomalo in Nadroga, were all smiles after the commissioning of their \$3.4m new water project recently.

Navisabasaba village Turaga-ni Koro, Emoni Rokomoce says that having clean water gushing through their taps was something the village had been trying to achieve for over four decades.

Vusama village Turaga-ni-Koro, Veniyasi Sokolevu acknowledges the government for the commissioning as it marks a new chapter for the 57 households in the village, as the village has always been known for not having enough water.

He adds that the first change they've seen was in the lives of small children; their bodies have changed and cases of skin diseases have decreased as there are also no issues of any children being affected with other waterborne diseases.

Both villages have expressed their gratitude to the government for the much needed assistance.





IWSA - Independent Water Schemes Association

(source IWSA)

14 April - Satupaitea

IWSA works have commenced with pipe trenching: existing galvanised iron pipelines are being decommissioned and replaced with high density polyethylene pipes.

Funded by: Government of Japan [Embassy of Japan in Samoa](#)

Contractors: [Apia Lua Construction Co Ltd](#) & SE



May

Saoluafata IWS Intake Transmission Works

In response to a request from the Saoluafata Water Committee, upgrade works were carried out at the intake area to resolve water supply issues affecting several households in the village.

The works involved replacing and securely mounting pipelines at the spring intakes, as well as reconnecting two previously disconnected springs. The original pipes, which were laid within the river channel, were frequently washed away during heavy rainfall. These have now been replaced with more resilient polyethylene pipelines.



27 June

Satupaitea District Water Supply Improvement Project Progress Update

The project is nearing completion! ✅

Site visits were made to key areas of the project, including the water intake works and the UV water supply kiosk at the Satupaitea District Hospital, to observe progress on the ground.

This project has been made possible through funding from the [Embassy of Japan in Samoa](#) and the Independent Water Schemes Association (through funding from the Samoa WASH Sector), helping to improve access to clean and safe water for the Satupaitea District.

Contractor: [Apia Lua Construction Co Ltd](#) ,Supervisor: Silisili Engineering



20–21 June

Upgrading Water Access at Luatuanuu IWS

Works were undertaken to extend a 150m Polyethylene submain to replace and decommission deteriorating GI Pipeline at the Luatuanuu Independent Water Scheme. New household connections were also established as part of the minor upgrade.

The works were carried out by the Luatuanuu Water Committee with supervision from the Independent Water Schemes Association (IWSA) office.





MOERK Water

(source Mork Water)

2025 continues to be a very full year for Moerk Water. Our engineers are currently busy completing a range of designs for water treatment systems and distribution networks in the Pilbara region of Western Australia, beginning construction of a marine based washbay water recycling system and building an iron removal system for an agricultural company in Western Australia. Four more of our water treatment systems have been commissioned in the last three months, producing much needed water in Papua New Guinea (separate groundwater Reverse Osmosis and UV irradiation systems), Vanuatu (seawater desalination) and South Western Australia (Reverse Osmosis production of boiler water). Here are some other activities we have been up to:

Community drinking water unit for Wewak ships out

A need for drinking water in a community in Wewak, East Sepik Province, Papua New Guinea was identified by WaterAid. Working in concert with local representatives of the community and WaterAid, Moerk Water designed a solar powered saline groundwater treatment system to produce drinking water for the local community. The unit produces an average of 10,000 L/day using solar energy alone. The containerised water treatment consists of a pre-filter, cartridge filters, a high recovery reverse osmosis system and a solar power system – all built by Moerk Water. The treated water produced by the reverse osmosis system will be pumped uphill to a holding tank where it can be piped around the community for use. Installation should begin later this year.



Drinking Water unit and distribution network for ADF base in Northern PNG

In the middle of June, Moerk Water were contacted by the Australian Defence Force who had an urgent need to provide drinking water to one of their bases in Northern Papua New Guinea. The base will play host to additional personnel, and the existing water treatment infrastructure is insufficient. Even though it was extremely short notice (the unit shipped out two weeks later in the first week of July), Moerk Water were able to complete the build and testing of the unit in this extremely limited timeframe. The chemical free, solar powered seawater reverse osmosis unit produces 10,000 L/day of drinking water. The system uses stabilised hydrogen peroxide to produce a disinfectant residual in the distribution network. Hydrogen Peroxide is much more stable at high ambient temperatures (such as those experienced in Papua New Guinea) than standard hypochlorite dosing. The solar power system uses a ballasted ground mounting system allowing for it to be moved and redeployed to another location when the exercises are complete.



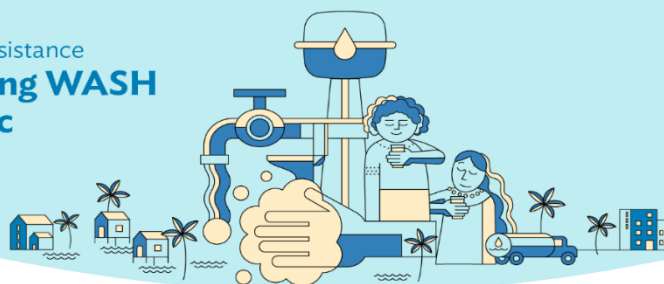
Moerk Water exhibiting at PWWC'25 and IWA ASPIRE/NZ Water Conference

Moerk Water are excited about attending an upcoming series of conferences in the Pacific. In August, Moerk Water Director of Technology Dr Mat Francis and Sales Executive Pablo Delegido will be attending PWWC'25 in Honiara, Solomon Islands. Moerk Water will again be exhibiting at this fantastic conference (come and find us at stand #23). Dr Francis will also be delivering a technical presentation on the pros and cons of decentralised seawater desalination systems. The following month, Mat and Pablo will also be heading to Christchurch to exhibit at IWA-ASPIRE/NZ Water conference to exhibit (drop by booth #254 to visit us). Mat will also be presenting on solar powered chemical free water treatment systems at the conference on Wednesday 1st October.

We are looking forward to seeing you all again soon at both the 2025 PWWA Conference in Honiara, Solomon Islands and IWA-ASPIRE in Christchurch. To find out more about how Moerk Water can help deliver a sustainable water treatment system tailored to your needs, contact us here: info@moerkwater.com.au

ADB Technical Assistance
**Strengthening WASH
 in the Pacific**

ADB



Pacific WASH Webinars 2025 Proposed

Mid September	<p>Pacific Water Utility Benchmarking: data for adaptive management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collecting and using data for improved and sustainable services - Aligning JMP data with utility benchmarking data; Help utilities and data collectors understand the new portal and online system, and use the data 	Bronwyn Powell	<p>Kencho Namgyal (UNICEF)</p> <p>Berta Macheve / Shona Fitzgerald (World Bank)</p> <p>Manasa Tusulu (Water Authority Fiji)</p>
29 October	<p>Water utilities of the future: creating an organizational culture for success;</p> <p>This can cover: Customer-centric business models; customer engagement; community valuing piped water; links to utility behaviour change <u>campaigns</u>; finance issues</p>	TBC	<p>Carmine Piantadosi (CEO) or Lucy Habu (Manager Retail), Solomon Water</p> <p>Lisa Fragomeni – Engineering Services Partnership Manager, Yarra Valley Water</p> <p>William Tuivaga / Ine Sosene (To Tatou Vai, Cook Islands)</p>

Upcoming Events

EVENTS	DATE
1. Pacific Water & Wastewater Conference – Solomon Islands.....	25 th – 29 th August
2. New Zealand Water & IWA Aspire Conference – Christchurch.....	29 th Sept – 3 rd Oct
3. Fiji Day.....	10 th October
4. Tonga Constitution Day 2024.....	4 th November
5. 2025 UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP 30)- Brazil.....	10 th – 21 st November
6. International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women 2025.....	25 th November

6 more weeks to go!!!

Register now...

PACIFIC WATER AND WASTEWATER FORUM & EXPO



Save the Dates: 25-29 August 2025

Venue: National Aquatic Centre, Honiara, Solomon Islands.



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