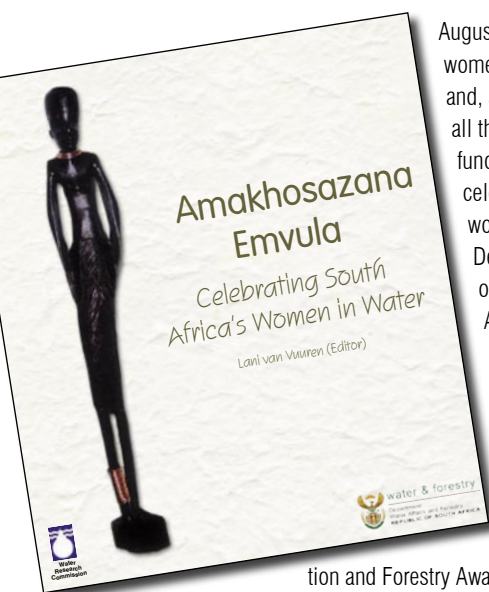




## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Editor's Letter Celebrating Water Women



August was women's month and, among all the other functions celebrating women, the Department of Water Affairs & Forestry hosted the 2006 Women in Water, Sanitation and Forestry Awards.

To coincide with these Awards, the Water Research Commission has published a special publication on women in the sector. Entitled *Amakhosazana Emvula* (Princesses of Rain), the publication features profiles on all the previous finalists and winners of the Awards since its establishment in 2002. In total, 48 women are featured in different categories from education, research, the environment to management and policy and community development. According to Minister of Water Affairs & Forestry Lindiwe

Hendricks: "this book is a lasting and beautiful testimony to some wonderful women who have squared up to the challenges of life and have gone that extra mile to make a difference."

The women in the book are strong, talented, and humble and despite their different areas of involvement they have one thing in common: an unconditional love for the sector and their work, which many of us working in this sector can relate to. *Amakhosazana Emvula* should serve as an inspiration, not only to other women in the sector, but to all that call this industry home. It proves that no matter what our individual talents, we can each in our own way contribute to the advancement of water and sanitation in this country.

To order the publication, contact Publications at Tel: (012) 330-0340 or E-mail: [orders@wrc.org.za](mailto:orders@wrc.org.za)

### One's solution another's problem

In the *Water Wheel* of July/August 2006, in the article "Guide to Help Authorities turn SALT into SWEET", one of the disposal options for the brine is given as "sewer discharge".

Having been involved in Wastewater Treatment for 36 years, I feel that I am qualified to speak on behalf of other wastewater

treatment practitioners when I say that we do not want the brine in our wastewater. The brine would have an adverse impact on the operation of the treatment works, could result in the effluent failing to meet the standard for Electrical Conductivity and most importantly, degrade the effluent thus limiting its re-use and irrigation potential.

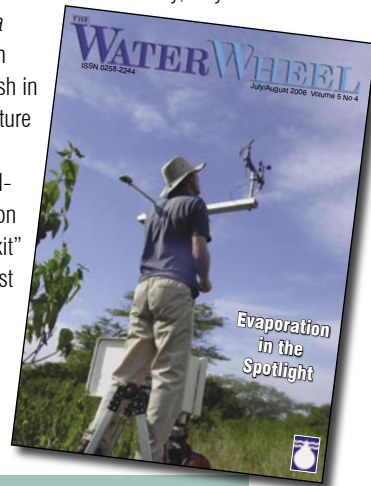
Planners, designers and others wishing to consider desalination must remove the discharge to sewer as one of the potential disposal routes, from their list of options. Please don't make your "solution" our problem.

**Peter King, SFWISA, Cape Town**

### Aliens in KZN

As a concerned 'layman' I would be interested to hear from a relevant authority, why the *Chromolaena odorata* has been allowed to flourish in the Hluhluwe Nature Reserve (refer to the article "Building an Evaporation Monitoring Toolkit" in the July/August 2006 edition of your magazine).

**Mrs CM McKenzie, Hyper-by-the-sea**



## Water on the Web

[www.gefweb.org](http://www.gefweb.org)

This is the official website of the Global Environment Facility, an international organisation which helps developing countries fund projects and programmes that help protect the global environment. Projects related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, the ozone layer and persistent organic pollutants are supported.

[www.imwa.info](http://www.imwa.info)

This is the official homepage of the

International Mine Water Association. Keep updated with the latest efforts to treat acid mine drainage through this website and the association's scientific journal.

[www.research4development.info](http://www.research4development.info)

This portal to DFID funded research includes a searchable database containing records of about 6 000 projects from around the mid-1990s onwards. It also provides access to latest news and activities; success stories and case studies; as well

as projects and programme information across all sectors.

[www.waterforschools.net](http://www.waterforschools.net)

Water for Schools is an international campaign that provides financial resources; technical assistance and back-up maintenance to schools for the materials needed to get safe drinking water and toilets. The campaign, spearheaded by the World Conservation Union (IUCN), has already constructed facilities for several schools around the world.