



Dear hydrogeologists

Reflecting on 2019, it appears the drought has moved away from the Cape Town area, resulting in less local panic within the water sector. Yet, other parts of the country are being ravaged by drought, notably the Eastern and Northern Cape. On 1 December 2019, temperatures reached 54° at Vioolsdrif (a small settlement in the Northern Cape). On the flip side, very heavy rainfalls have been experienced in Gauteng. So, the weather is never a boring topic and has big implications for those in the hydrogeology sector. With the situation having normalized (for now) in the Western Cape, the City of Cape Town and other municipalities are to be complimented for pushing on and still developing groundwater schemes. I am also aware of a number of municipalities that are making sure their groundwater schemes are authorised by the relevant authorities and operated sustainably. Many lessons have been learnt on implementing groundwater supply schemes during times of severe drought and these lessons really need to be captured and documented, and then applied in other parts of the country. There is no doubt the Western Cape, and other areas, will face more droughts in the future.

The **Managed Aquifer Recharge Workshop** organized by IAH-SA and held in April 2019, in Stellenbosch, was by all accounts most successful. The course was fully subscribed, the presenters and presentations were excellent and the venue and field visits most appropriate.

We have started the planning for another 3-day groundwater workshop from 30 September to 2 October 2020 on **Borehole Drilling, Yield Testing and Monitoring**, also in Stellenbosch. **Day one** will focus on borehole drilling techniques and design (in primary, secondary and karst aquifers, including when artesian conditions occur); **day two** will be on the value of borehole camera logging and yield testing design, and data analysis, and **day three** will cover borehole and aquifer monitoring tools, techniques and telemetry. We will be sourcing national (and possibly international) experts in these fields to give the presentations. A field trip to some of the deep-drill sites is being planned. We are also planning a number of smaller events throughout 2020 as well.

On the IAH scene, a very good 46th Congress was held in Malaga, Spain. A total of 700 presenters and delegates from 80 countries attended. The Congress was well-attended by a South African contingent of hydrogeologists. All feedback received was very positive. Congratulations to Jared van Rooyen (Stellenbosch University) on being elected Director of the Early Career Hydrogeologists' Network (ECHN). The 47th IAH Congress (2020) will be held in Sao Paolo, Brazil. The 48th IAH Congress (2021) will be held in Brussels, Belgium. South Africa is pitching to host the IAH 2023 Congress. Please keep checking in on www.iah.org.za for the latest information. There is also always interesting reading material at www.iah.org/news.

In closing, we wish you all a safe and restful Christmas and New Year period. May 2020 be a successful year for you. Please remember to renew your IAH membership for 2020.

Yours sincerely,

Julian Conrad (President)

Dr Kornelius Riemann (Secretary)