Editorial

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Biographical notes: Julie Carmody is a PhD candidate within the Tourism programme at James Cook University Cairns. Her research interests are nature-based tourism, protected area management, host communities and the planning, development and management of attractions. After completing a B. Admin (Tourism) Hons, Julie commenced a PhD examining the specialist accommodation sector near protected areas in North Queensland. Her thesis focuses on environmental management, environmental attitudes and ecological sustainability.

Waste management and the effects of waste treatment will continue to be a serious issue across all sectors for both developed and developing societies, both locally and globally. Realisation of the environmental effects and degradation occurring from past waste management practices has spearheaded the research into diverse areas. The papers in this Special Issue represent important research relating to waste management and discuss a diverse range of disciplines from wastewater treatment processes in agricultural-based industries to treatment processes for landfill leachate.

The five papers represented in this Special Issue of the *International Journal of Environment and Waste Management* were selected from papers presented at the 10th Environmental Research Event (ERE), Sydney, 10–13 December 2006. ERE is a postgraduate student conference, allowing delegates to present their research in an encouraging environment. The theme of the 2006 ERE was *Environment – Working Together*, promoting collaborative research and a multidisciplinary approach to environmental management; recognising that we all have to work together to address the most pressing environmental issues.

A total of 42 manuscripts were presented at ERE and five were selected for this Special Issue. The reviewing process for these manuscripts took two months. Each manuscript was blind peer reviewed by two external academic and/or professional reviewers.

The first paper in this issue discusses the *Removal of Geosmin and* 2-methylisoborneol (MIB) through biologically active sand filters by McDowall et al. MIB and geosmin are the most common causes of earthy/musty odours in Australian drinking water which are not easily removed by conventional treatment processes. The authors show that the removal of taste and odour compounds in drinking water through biologically active sand filters is more effective when utilising a smaller sand grain size.

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The second paper in this Special Issue by Tie et al. looks at *Dairy shed wastewater treatment and modelling by anaerobic digestion technology*. The authors show anaerobic digestion to be an efficient, cost effective and sustainable technique for Australian dairy farmers to minimise their environmental impacts from wastewater and to maximise resource recovery. The unique characteristics of Australian dairy shed wastes, the knowledge gap and future trends of Ad technology were discussed.

The third paper in this issue by Xie et al. discusses *EDTA in the environment – with special reference to the dairy industry.* The authors review the interaction of EDTA chelates and metals upon release to the environment showing that the interaction of EDTA chelates is determined by stability constants of EDTA complexes, concentration of EDTA in the environment, species of metals occurring and natural environment conditions. Potential concern for the concentration of EDTA and the speciation of EDTA from dairy effluents is discussed.

The fourth paper in this edition by Vogel et al. considers *Membrane fouling in the nanofiltration of landfill leachate and its impact on trace contaminant removal.* As landfilling is the most common method of municipal solid waste disposal in Australia, leachate generated mainly from seepage of stormwater through the landfill body must be collected and treated appropriately. The authors discuss the process of nanofiltration as an attractive option that can produce high effluent quality and the causes of membrane fouling in the implementation of membrane filtration for leachate treatment.

The fifth paper in this Special Issue is *Removal of nutrients from secondary- treated municipal wastewater in wetland microcosms using ornamental plant species* by Zhang et al. The authors discuss the differential capacity of ten different wetland plant species (both ornamental and rush species) to take up nutrients from wastewater in the process of tertiary water purification.

We would like to thank all the authors who submitted papers for this Special Issue of the *International Journal of Environment and Waste Management* and the academic and professional reviewers for their invaluable contributions to the review process. We hope that you enjoy reading this diverse selection of waste management papers represented in this issue. Finally, we would like to thank Dr. Dorgham, Editor-in-Chief of Inderscience Publications, for the opportunity to publish this Special Issue.