



WIOA President's Message 2006

Welcome to the 69th Annual Victorian Water Industry Engineers and Operators Conference.

We have returned to Bendigo! - the first time WIOA has ever held a conference two consecutive years in the same town. The size of this event is making it more difficult to locate suitable and available venues in regional Victoria. Bendigo also has a lot to offer, central location, plenty of accommodation and generally an agreeable climate in September.

Every year we like to repeat some useful and important points to ensure you make the most of the conference. There is more on offer again this year and we hope you network with your fellow water industry colleagues, listen to the papers, inspect the posters, peruse and participate with the trade displays and exhibitors, and make sure you increase your overall level of knowledge. Endeavor to take something useful back to your work place and demonstrate to your employers and colleagues that this event is worth attending. These are our main aims in putting on the conference, and we hope that you will take the opportunity to achieve them.

Did you realise that this event in Bendigo is actually WIOA's second major conference this year? The other conference was held in Queensland - Rockhampton to be precise - in early July and was a huge success. Soon there could be another WIOA conference which could rival the Victorian event, which personally I believe is the water industry event of the year. The number of delegates and trade sites was just over half of that of Victoria this year but we are sure it will grow once people appreciate the true value of the event. If you feel like heading to a warmer climate in the middle of winter you may wish to pencil in a visit to Queensland to join us at the WIOA conference next year.

The change in venue to the Bendigo Exhibition Centre is fantastic and allows the exhibitors more flexibility in the type of equipment they can display, again lifting the overall professionalism of the event. We have 151 trade sites and we have added an internet café, a coffee shop and pie truck and dedicated meeting places to the usual conference competition, pre-dinner drinks, lunches and dinners. I certainly hope you have time to make use of and take part in all there is on offer.

Every year the registration fee for the conference is able to be kept low due to the support and generosity of a number of Major and Associate sponsors. Thank you to our major sponsors in Veolia Water and Australian Pollution Engineering (who have again provided the satchels), the Water Sector Services branch of DSE has contributed to the printing of this conference manuscript and the Victorian Branch of AWA has assisted with the distribution of information on our behalf.

Thanks must also be extended to all our other sponsors who had confirmed at the time of writing this message including Allight, Alldos Oceania, ATMR, Burkert, Centre for Groundwater Studies, Campaspe Asset Management Services (CAMS), Ciba, CRS Industrial Water Systems, Davey Products, Earth Tech, G-Tech Separation, IDEXX Laboratories, Institute of Water Administration (IWA), ITT Flygt, Iwaki Pumps, KSB Ajax Pumps, Lisa Rawlinson & Associates, Merck, Nordical Diving, Omega Chemicals, Peerless Industrial Products and WME Media. We encourage you to keep the products or services of these companies in mind when undertaking your respective jobs. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the companies who are exhibiting and encourage all delegates to support them by introducing yourselves and having a look at what is on display at their sites.

There will be many awards announced again on the Thursday night. Congratulations to all who have participated and continue to give reason for our sponsors to support us. We have developed long standing relationships with some companies including Southern Cross Laboratories (Actizyme) who have sponsored the prizes for Best Papers by WIOA members for the past 14 years and the Water Industry Training Centre (WITC) who have sponsored the 'Poster Paper' section for operators for the past 8 years. The AWA sponsored Water Industry Operator of the Year, Wal Whiteside Award, will also be announced again and has been presented at the conference annually since the award's inception in 1980. The 2006 Kwatye (Water) Prize sponsored by Environmental & Process Technologies (division of Biolab) will also be announced and the first awardee from 2005 will also present his findings in a technical presentation during the conference. All these awards have been generously provided as an encouragement to operators and WIOA Members for the great work they do and to provide an avenue to communicate their marvelous ideas.

So after the conference what's coming up next? We are planning some seminars in Queensland and possibly one in Western Australia before the year is out. Mark in your diary October 29 as the date for the 9th annual Victorian charity golf day. We are returning to Kilmore Golf Club due to the handy location and also quite a fabulous course.

Committee members give much of their own time to attend meetings and functions, and to carry out their duties. I would like to praise the Committee and also thank their employers and families for supporting their efforts. We certainly could not achieve what we do without their valuable support.

Finally, this is one of my last official functions as President and I cannot sign off without mentioning what a significant experience this has been in my life. I have learnt so much from the passionate people who make WIOA happen and I certainly feel a personal growth and reward for having been given such an opportunity. I would like to make special thanks to ITT Flygt and ATMR for their support and also mention the following gentleman for their guidance and patience: George Wall, Peter Tolsher, Ron Bergmeier and Nick Bray – thank you.



Cynthia Lim
WIOA President