



12 June 2012

ABOUT WIOA

The Water Industry Operators Association of Australia (WIOA) is a national Association with a primary role of facilitating the collection, development and exchange of quality information between people undertaking operational roles in the water industry.

Key facts

- Water industry awards
- Queensland Operator of the year won by Robert Harman from Allconnex Water
- Attendance of over 600
- 112 Trade exhibitors – AIM Water wins Best Trade Site
- \$2500 donated to charity - Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation

Media Release

WIOA recently staged the 37th Annual Queensland Water Industry Operations Workshop and Exhibition at Parklands on the Gold Coast. The conference was opened by Mr Kevin Wormald from the Wujal Wujal Council who shared some of the issues of managing water and wastewater for rural and remote councils. The Keynote address was delivered by representatives from the James Cook University who provided a thought provoking demonstration of their real-time, 3D, scenario-based training platform that can be utilized for the water industry, which was well received.

The event culminated in the official awards ceremony that saw Robert Harman from Allconnex Water win the major award the **Leon Henry memorial - Queensland Operator of the Year** that is sponsored by the AWA Queensland Branch. Two of the other major awards were won by Col Kirkegaard and Alistair Cumming from the Banana Shire Council for their paper on the Theodore Floods in 2011.

Over 600 people attended the conference which included a technical program designed to benefit personnel involved in the operation and maintenance of urban, rural and industrial water related infrastructure for the management, conveyance, treatment, discharge and reuse of water and trade waste. A trade exhibition with 112 companies was held in conjunction with the Conference and is one of the largest annual water and wastewater trade exhibitions in Australia.

A highlight of the event was the Grand Final of the Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test that saw the Burdekin Shire wins the **Best Tasting Tap Water in Queensland for 2012**.

AWARD WINNERS

Award	Sponsor	Winner	Company
Best Paper by an Operator	Ecolab	Col Kirkegaard & Alistair Cumming	Banana Shire Council
Best Paper Overall	Iwaki Pumps Australia	Col Kirkegaard & Alistair Cumming	Banana Shire Council
QLD Operator of the Year	AWA	Robert Harman	Allconnex Water
– other finalists		Heath Boxer	Veolia Water Australia
		Michael McAuley	Mackay Regional Council
QLD Young Operator of the Year	qldwater	Tammy Beddow	Central Highlands Regional Council
QLD Operator of the Year (Civil)	qldwater	Ashley Reidy	Isaac Regional Council
Best Trade Site	WME Media	AIM Water	

Photos available on request or from:

http://wioa.smugmug.com/Events/WIOAQLD2012/23510915_cQPvFb#!i=1900644585&k=xmPtbtj

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