



11 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 Chris Hughes from Unitywater
- Attendance over 800
- 100 Trade exhibitors – Endress + Hauser wins Ron Bergmeier Award for Best Trade Site
- \$2000 donated to charity – \$500 to the Salvation Army and \$1500 to the Queensland Flood Appeal

Media Release

WIOA recently staged the 38th Annual Queensland Water Industry Operations Workshop and Exhibition at Parklands on the Gold Coast. The conference was hosted by the major South East Queensland water businesses in Gold Cost City Council, Queensland Urban Utilities, Seqwater and Unitywater. The event was opened by the General Manager Operations of Seqwater, Ms Alex Fisher, and Mr Abel Immaraj from DEWS Queensland provided the opening address. Mr Ian Johnson, an Industrial accident survivor provided the keynote address focusing on the safety of individuals.

The event culminated in the official awards ceremony that saw Chris Hughes from Unitywater win the major award the **Leon Henry Memorial - Queensland Operator of the Year** that is sponsored by the AWA Queensland Branch. A special tribute saw the Best Paper Overall named in the memory of former President of the Queensland Water Industry Training Association, Mr Brian Davis. This award, and the Best Paper by an Operator was won by James Coonan from the Toowoomba Regional Council for his paper on the first 5 years of the Wetalla solar sludge drying facility.

Over 800 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 100 companies was held in conjunction with the Conference and is one of the largest annual water and wastewater trade exhibitions in Australia.

Another highlight of the event was the conduct of a State of Origin Water Taste Test on Wednesday evening that pitted the 2012 Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste winner (Ayr, Burdekin Shire) and this year’s NSW Water Taste Test winner (Taree, Mid Coast Water). The result was close, with NSW winning by 7 votes.

AWARD WINNERS

Award	Sponsor	Winner	Company
QLD Operator of the Year – Leon Henry Award	AWA	Chris Hughes	Unitywater
QLD Young Operator of the Year	qldwater	Tyren Cavanagh	Cairns City Council
QLD Operator of the Year (Civil/All Rounder)	qldwater	Jason Vade	Gold Coast City Council
Best Paper by an Operator	Ecolab	James Coonan	Toowoomba Regional Council
Best Paper Overall – Brian Davis Award	Iwaki Pumps Australia	James Coonan	Toowoomba Regional Council
Best Trade Site – Ron Bergmeier Award	WME Media	Endress + Hauser Australia	

Photos available from:

http://wioa.smugmug.com/Other/38th-WIOA-Queensland-2013/29900969_Db8pMm#li=2565529100&k=m9fPXM4

- END -

For more information contact:

Craig Mathisen

WIOA Chief Operations Manager

M: 0457 846 008 | P: 03 5821 6744 | E: craig@wioa.org.au