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WIOA WORDS

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AROUND THE TRAPS

The Board of WIOA is pleased to announce that **Dr Kathy Northcott** has been appointed to the newly created position of Technical Operations Officer. Kathy will commence with WIOA on 2 October 2017 and having worked for Melbourne Water and Veolia, we are excited about the skills, knowledge and expertise Kathy will bring. We will provide her new contact details closer to her start date.



WIST UPDATE – At the June 2017 WIST meeting, a number of items were discussed and finalised. A WIST communique is available from the *qldwater* website - <https://tinyurl.com/wist2017> which includes the full details of the following key decisions:

- The national **Certification Framework for Operators within Wastewater and Recycled Water Treatment Systems** was finalised and endorsed. This Certification Framework provides a set of nationally consistent criteria that define and recognise the minimum level of competency and capability required by those Operators who treat wastewater or recycled water to ensure that the final product does not have an adverse impact on the environment or public health, and that its quality is fit for purpose and safe to use.
- Following the finalisation of the Certification Framework for Operators within Wastewater and Recycled Water Treatment Systems, the **WIST appointed WIOA as the National Certifying Body**.
- The WIST approved a number of minor **amendments to the Certification Framework for Operators within Drinking Water Treatment Systems 2016**. These include:
 - Minor amendments and clarifications to roles of Framework Owner and Certifying Body.
 - Appeals policy added to Framework.
 - Appendix A – Approved Professional Development replaced with WIOA Continuing Professional Development scheme.
 - Minor fixes to unit code references.

The updated Water Certification Framework will be referred to as the **Certification Framework for Operators within Drinking Water Treatment Systems 2017**.



Congratulations to Michael Oakey, Stanley McKercher and Amanda Murchison from Queensland Urban Utilities, Joel Warnes and Brendan Butler from City of Gold Coast and Matthew Ball from Unitywater who became Australia's first ever Certified Wastewater Treatment Operators. The six operators from south-east Queensland were **Certified** against the **Queensland Sewage Treatment Plant Operators Certification Framework** at WIOA's Queensland Water Industry Operations Conference on 7 June. The six Certified operators took part in a *qldwater*-coordinated pilot to implement and test the Framework in South East Queensland. A further nine operators who participated in the pilot are currently completing gap training and will receive their Certification at another ceremony to be held later in the year.

The **National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)** has released the draft **Public Statement 2017: Water fluoridation and human health in Australia** for public consultation. In this statement NHMRC strongly recommends community water fluoridation as a safe, effective and ethical way to help reduce tooth decay across the population. NHMRC supports Australian states and territories fluoridating their drinking water supplies within the range of 0.6 to 1.1 milligrams per liter (mg/L). The Australian community is invited to provide comments on the draft Public Statement. It is intended for use by policy makers, water providers and members of the public.

The aims of public consultation on the draft Public Statement are to obtain feedback on:

- whether the information is presented in a format and manner that is useful and easy to understand
- whether the boxed 'NHMRC statement' (page one) is clearly justified
- options for disseminating the Public Statement once finalised.

Further information including details on how to make a submission are available at:

https://consultations.nhmrc.gov.au/public_consultations/water-fluoridation-health



The May 2017 edition of Words highlighted the release of the Stage 1 report from the Government **Inquiry into the Havelock North (NZ)** water quality incident. Water New Zealand has now called for an industry led, and ultimately mandated **Operator Certification Scheme**. The Water NZ consultation white paper is available at www.waternz.org.nz/Attachment?Action=Download&Attachment_id=2380.



Congratulations to the team at the **Morgan Water Treatment Plant** operated by SA Water for becoming the first back to back winner of the **Ixom South Australian Water Taste Test**. The Taste Test was held as part of an Operations Interest Day held at the TAFE SA Tonsley campus on 13 July 2017. They will represent South Australia in the National competition to be held during National Water Week in Tasmania on 18 October.

WIOA AWARDS 2017

LAST CHANCE TO APPLY: Applications for the **2017 Kwatye Award** close on 20 July. The winning individual or team will receive up to \$6,600 to undertake a professional development activity, generously sponsored by Thermo Fisher Scientific. This year the award is looking to invest in the personal development of operational employees, rather than on projects. The winner will be announced at the Meet the Exhibitors Dinner at the WIOA Victorian Conference in Bendigo on Wednesday 6 September. Get those entries in ASAP!



The Victorian Branch of AWA is calling for nominations for the **Wal Whiteside Memorial, Victorian Operator of the Year Award**. More information and an application form can be downloaded from the WIOA Victorian conference website at: www.wioaconferences.org.au/vic.htm



The Institute of Water Administration (Victoria) is also calling for nominations for the **Young Victorian Operator of the Year Award**. Forms can be obtained from IWA or from the WIOA website www.wioaconferences.org.au/vic.htm. We encourage organisations to nominate their operational staff for consideration of these most prestigious awards. Nominations for both awards close on 5 August 2017.



WIOA is also calling for nominations for the **2017 South Australian Operator of the Year Award**, sponsored by SA TAFE. Applications close on 1 September 2017. More information and an application form can be downloaded from the WIOA website at: www.wioa.org.au/awards/sa_ooty.htm

EVENTS

All Victorian Water Corporations are invited to enter the **Ixom 2017 Victorian Water Taste Test** to be held as part of the Victorian conference in Bendigo in September. We know many organisations will be keen to knock off the reigning title holder, North East Water and boast as having the best tasting water in Victoria. Check out the WIOA website for more information.



An **Operations Interest Day** that will include the **Ixom 2017 Tasmanian Water Taste Test** will be conducted in Launceston on Wednesday 2 August for Tasmanian members and guests. The program includes the keynote address by Dean Barnett on the Intelligent Water Network programs, a report from the Tasmanian Operator of the Year outlining their recent trip to New Zealand, along with a number of other interesting presentations. For catering purposes, registrations close on 31 July 2017 and should be emailed to the WIOA Tasmanian Advisory Committee chairperson Darren Lord - Darren.Lord@taswater.com.au.



The program and delegate registration form for the **80th Victorian Water Industry Operations Conference and Exhibition** is available from the WIOA website - www.wioaconferences.org.au/vic.htm The conference Keynote presentations will be provided by Mr Adam Lovell, Executive Director of WSAA along with Mr Chris Webb, Executive Director Practice & Assurance and Mr Damian Wells, Executive Director Regional Services from the EPA in Victoria. There is a high quality technical program which includes 9 Operator papers eligible for the Nalco Awards and 10 poster papers. The papers program also includes a session specifically related to backflow issues as well as the annual workshop arranged in conjunction with the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services.



Victorian Water Corporations are invited to enter teams of 2 competitors into the inaugural **Victorian Mains Tapping Competition** (supported by Reece Civil) that will be conducted as part of the Victorian conference in Bendigo. This is a great way for distribution teams to demonstrate their skills in a competitive environment; the fastest team will have \$1,000 donated to a charity of their choice as well as having their names engraved into the perpetual trophy. Check out the WIOA website for more information.

www.wioaconferences.org.au/vic_mainstapping.htm

TRAINING COURSES

WIOA will be staging three of our very popular **Water Quality and Distribution System Management Seminars** during August and September. Two courses will be held at the Wauchope, Water Treatment Plant, NSW on Tuesday 22 August and Wednesday 23 August 2017. Attendance is limited to the first 40 who register and there are currently a few places left on both days. Register quickly to secure your place. More information is available on the WIOA website at www.wioa.org.au/seminars/DistributionWauchope2017.htm

The third **Water Quality and Distribution System Management Seminar** will be held in Cowra, NSW in conjunction with the team from CENTROC. Again, attendance is limited to the first 40 who register. More information is available on the WIOA website at www.wioa.org.au/seminars/DistributionCowra2017.htm



Semester 2 Applications for **\$4,000 scholarships** are available for mid-level leaders in the Energy and Utilities Sector. The Scholarships for the Executive Ready Program are now open to participants working in the Energy and Utilities Sector. Following the tremendous response to the semester 1 intake, the Australian School of Applied Management (ASAM) advises interested parties to lodge expressions of interest at their earliest convenience to avoid disappointment. To view the course Prospectus, visit www.asam.edu.au/programs/ER/ASAM-Executive-Ready-EDM.pdf

AMS Training Solutions is providing a **UF/MF Membrane Short Course**, to be presented by Dr Graeme Pearce of Membrane Consultancy Associates, UK on 11-15 September, in Melbourne. The seminar has two modules, each taking place over two days, offering training at an Intermediate and Advanced level. Each module of the course has a standard syllabus with detailed content annually updated to ensure it reflects the latest developments and remains current. Attend the Showcase to hear industry representatives from Australia's leading companies. Learn about services and products they offer, case studies and new directions they see for the industry. Visit our website for more information and to register – www.amsts.com.au – email enquiries to training@amsts.com.au.



The **International Water Centre (IWC)** has two online training courses coming up: Water Reforms and Governance (commencing 23 August) and WASH and Behaviour Change (commencing 4 September). Further information is available on their website: www.watercentre.org or contact the IWC on 07 3028 7600.

PEOPLE & CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

Got anything interesting to report, know of members who have moved job or started some sort of new project. Let us know, so that we keep the rest of the industry up to date!



After 17 Rounds of the season, the top 3 in the **WIOA AFL Footy Tipping Competition** are: Heidi Josipovic 94, George Wall 91, and a 3 way tie for third on 90 between Michael Murphy, Lee Marshall and Jamie Rossato.



After 19 Rounds of the **WIOA NRL Tipping Competition** Kirk Buckley 93 has a clear lead from Dion Sleep 89, Linda Cox and Greg Watts are both on 87 are coming equal third and are way ahead of the rest.

POSITIONS VACANT - For information on these positions visit www.wioa.org.au/positions/index.htm

Current positions vacant include: Sewerage & Water Treatment Plant Operator, Manager Project Delivery, Supervisor Electrical Maintenance and Construction, Civil Drainage Manager and Water & Sewer Manage. To utilise this FREE job placement service, email your job ad to sherryn@wioa.org.au

COMING EVENTS

- 2 August - **Water Interest Day & Ixom 2017 Tasmanian Water Taste Test**, Launceston
- 22 August - **Water Quality Awareness & Distribution System Management Seminar**, Wauchope (NSW)
- 23 August - **Water Quality Awareness & Distribution System Management Seminar**, Wauchope (NSW)
- 6-7 September - **80th WIOA Victorian Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Bendigo
- 6 September - **Ixom 2017 Victorian Water Taste Test**, Bendigo
- 14 September - **Water Quality Awareness & Distribution System Management Seminar**, Cowra (NSW)
- 18 October - **Ixom 2017 Australia's Best Tasting Tap Water**, Launceston
- 22 October - **Victorian - Dial Before You Dig - Charity Golf Day**, Hill Top Golf & Country Club, Tatura



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KEEP YOUR CONTACT DETAILS UP TO DATE. If your phone number, mailing address or email address has changed, please email Ann your new details (ann@wioa.org.au) or call the office on 03 5821 6744.