



# OPERATOR

August 2005 Edition

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*Peter Mosse speaking at the distribution seminar  
See story Page 3*



*See you at the 68th Water Industry Engineers and Operators Conference in Bendigo 7 & 8 Sep 2005*

## Editorial



The attention that water has been receiving in the media lately has been phenomenal.

There has been the long awaited agreement between Federal, State Governments and local water authorities for the Wimmera pipeline project. Although still in its early stages this project appears to be a great step forward in managing our most valuable resource.

There has also been the “announcement” of a desalination plant by the N.S.W Government, which is proposed for Kurnell and aimed at assisting Sydney’s water supply problems. Although this project is pending and has gained some strong criticism it has at least expanded the debate about the “value” of water and how it is utilized within Australia.

With the above in mind it highlights the possible contribution our organization can have within the industry but it is dependant on you as a member to have a go. A possible beginning may be an article for our new E-newsletter or even this magazine.

### WIOA Committee

## Training News

Great news for the Water Industry with the newly formed Industry Skills Council (ISC) agreeing in principle to allocate a full voting Board Position to a water representative. This position will be confirmed at the next ISC board meeting to be held in Canberra on 18 August 2005 and I will be taking up this role on behalf of the water industry.

This is a significant outcome for our industry as originally, water was only allocated an advisory (non-voting) role on the new board.

In relation to the review of the Water Training Package, there is a new requirement from DEST for all training packages to have an employee suitability skills section added. This is likely to be the first job undertaken once the makeup of the ISC is finalised and will be followed soon after by the second stage of the training package review project.

A meeting of the Package Review Steering Committee is planned for the near future with the intention of reviewing the Stage 1 report completed in 2003, and to make sure we have all the issues covered.

We’ll keep you informed of developments as they unfold.

*John Harris*

## President's Prattle

The most exciting month in my working life is just around the corner – yep, by the time this edition of the ‘Operator’ hits the streets the 68th Victorian Engineers and Operators conference will be upon us. Every year we report an even bigger and better conference and this year is no exception. At the time of writing (late July) we have confirmed that exhibitors will fill over 120 trade booths. This means you will have the chance to view some of the latest technology available to the water industry and to listen to technical papers targeted to the operator. If you have never attended a conference but have always been curious, come along anyway and join in, Bendigo is central to all in the State and the entry to the trade exhibition is free.

The great Kiwi invasion is also on either side of the conference. We will have around 15 New Zealanders undertaking a study tour of state-of-the-art plants around Victoria and then joining us for the conference in Bendigo. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the sponsors for supporting both WIOA and the New Zealanders during their visit.

During the conference we will be holding the ‘Operator Challenge’, open to teams of 4. Various trade exhibitors design tasks/quizzes/challenges to test your skills and provide some fun to occupy every minute of the conference. Of course if your team scores well, you may not only learn something but you will go home with some great prizes.

During the ‘Meet the trade’ dinner this year we will announce the winner of the Inaugural Kwatye Prize. The quality of applications received for consideration for the prize was excellent and the winner will receive up to \$6,000 to assist in their water industry project. It’s not too early to start thinking about next years Kwatye Prize and to get in early with your ideas. For more details on this prize go to our website [www.wioa.org.au](http://www.wioa.org.au).

We held our second distribution seminar in July and had 100 delegates attend the day in Noble Park. Thank you to our hosts in South East Water and to all the presenters. There was an interesting selection of speakers from around Victoria, and one each from Sydney and New Zealand. They covered a number of issues relating to management of our distribution train from treatment plant to customer. The most important thing most speakers wanted the audience to take away with them was the importance of the operator. The biggest asset in every water system is you – the operator! If you missed out on the seminar this time we will definitely hold more technical seminars in the future so make sure you attend.

I heard a good quote recently which I thought worth repeating. ‘What we know about water could fill a book; what we don’t know could fill a library!’ Stay open to new ideas.

*See you at the conference.*

**Cynthia Lim**  
WIOA President

# Water Quality and Distribution Systems Management Seminar



On Thursday 21st July 2005, the WIOA staged its second Distribution Seminar aimed specifically at distribution system operators and issues relating to operation and maintenance of the water reticulation network. This seminar was convened in response to demand from WIOA members, as well as to meet needs identified in discussion with various water system managers and regulatory bodies.

This year's event was held in Melbourne at the Sandown Park Hotel, Motel in Noble Park and was attended by 100 operators who traveled from as far away as Cairns, Sydney, Wagga Wagga, Temora and New Zealand. It was pleasing that almost every Victorian water authority was represented.

Following the success of last year's event, and to cater to those not able to attend last year, a number of presentations were repeated. The presenters were chosen carefully to ensure that we had skilled and knowledgeable people to share their experiences with us. The requirement for these presentations was basically to be hands on and to provide some ideas about what, where and how needed to be considered when carrying out various tasks. The seminar was opened by Mark McCormack, Manager Design & Construction of the newly formed "us" - Utility Services, SEWL who urged all in attendance to gain a better understanding of systems operations by networking and sharing their own experiences.

The speakers included:

- ♦ Peter Mosse – (Gippsland Water / Hydrological) talked about drinking water quality management, ADWG, HACCP along with a system of mapping towns for chlorine residuals, taste and odors and customer expectations.
- ♦ Jill Busch – (Gippsland Water) spoke about the importance of disinfection for effective pathogen control and provided some real life examples of how things can go wrong within a system.
- ♦ Neal Healey – (Goulburn Valley Water) provided an insight into how his area managed teams that were likely to alternate duties between water and wastewater.
- ♦ John Hearn – (South East Water) spoke about the role of operators in keeping a distribution system running well and showed us the cheapest color meter on the market – the white bucket.
- ♦ Bob Muns – (3M and RMS) spoke about road traffic control signs, how they should look along with an explanation of Australian Standards and the legal requirements for these signs.
- ♦ Bernd Vetter – ("us" – Utility Services) provided a short explanation of pipe repair and then escorted everyone to the car park for a practical demonstration with the complete setup on his truck.
- ♦ Dammika Vitanage – (Sydney Water) discussed the advantages and disadvantages of flushing, air scouring and swabbing a reticulation system and provided some case studies to support these findings.
- ♦ Last but not least Nick Hewer-Hewitt – (NZ Environmental Training Centre) explained how things work in New

Zealand and discussed some of the major differences in system operations. Nick also provided some lovely photos of what can be found in pipe systems. Nick kindly stepped in to replace Anthony Ohlsen who was suffering a severe bout of laryngitis and was unable to attend.

Once again the day proved to be a resounding success and we have been provided with some great ideas for next year thanks to everyone that filled out the evaluation form. It was amazing to see people from interstate and overseas in only our second year and we will now work hard to be bigger and better next year. There is scope to run this type of event in other states as well, so if anyone is interested contact George Wall at [seminar@wioa.org.au](mailto:seminar@wioa.org.au) and he will try and arrange something for you.



*NZ delegate Nick Hewer-Hewitt speaking at the seminar*

Thank to all our presenters for your time and effort and the passion for your work was evident in the quality of the presentations. Thanks also to everyone that traveled to be in attendance, and while on the subject of traveling a little story to finish may be appropriate. Anyone that attended the weekend seminar a few years back at Rawson Village will remember a carload of intrepid travelers, no names mentioned, that became ever so slightly lost, being presented with the "Neerim Award". Well it has been reported that a certain person from NSW, well known for the very colorful array of shirts in his wardrobe, was telling his co workers all about the trip, what to expect, how to get around the city etc, etc. and they were pleased to see the road sign saying only 20 km remained on the journey to Melbourne. Imagine their surprise and bewilderment as the next sign flashed past advising, Melbourne - 65 km. Pat was sure they were going the right way.

## **Anthony Evans, Seminar Chairperson.**



*Some of the Speakers – (L to R) Jill Bisch, Nick Hewer-Hewitt, John Hearn, Neil Healey and Bernd Vetter*

## From the EO's Desk

Now that we have started our monthly e-news to WIOA Members, a lot of the info that would normally fill my report has already been sent out to Members. If you are not receiving the e-news, have changed your email address or are yet to add your name to the list, please send an email with the subject heading "e-news" to [george@wioa.org.au](mailto:george@wioa.org.au). Instead of doubling up here, I thought I'd use this space to touch on some different issues relating to operators and the Association.

For my first go I thought I'd fill you in on some of that important information about the history of our Association that every good Member needs to know. Is it useless? – you be the judge.

### Did you know??:

- ◆ That the Association was formed in 1973 and was originally called the Wastewater Purification Plant Superintendent and Operators Association. Try saying that in one breath after 4 or 5 sherbets.
- ◆ The hard work of people on the early Committees was instrumental in the formation and development of a lot of the training materials now available. We currently have 2 reps on the Training Package Review Steering Committee.
- ◆ That since 1973 we have changed our name on 4 separate occasions to meet the changing focus of our activities and Membership base.
- ◆ That apart from adding the GST in 2000, our individual Membership fee has only been increased once in 32 years (from \$10 to \$15).
- ◆ That in 1997 we had 118 Individual and 3 Corporate Members. In July 2005 there are now 452 Individual and 100 Corporate members.
- ◆ That in 1997 some 8% of our Members had a residential address outside Victoria. In 2005 this has increased to 21%.
- ◆ That Barry Waddell holds the record as the longest serving Committee Member in the Association's history (13 consecutive years of service) having been first elected in 1992.
- ◆ That Ray Holloway and Vic Jones jointly hold the record for service to the Association in an Executive position (12 consecutive terms).
- ◆ That in 1997 there were 126 delegates at the conference in Bairnsdale. In 2005 we anticipate we will attract around 250 paying delegates and more than 150 exhibition visitors.
- ◆ That in 1989 Ron Bergmeier took on organising the conference trade exhibition and we had 19 trade exhibitors. By 2004, Ron had single handedly grown this to 110 and we expect to fill 130+ sites in 2005.
- ◆ That in 1997 our total income was \$40,000 compared with 2004 where it has increased to \$300,000.
- ◆ That since its inception in 1980, of the 26 winners of the AWA's Operator of the Year Prize, 13 have at some point served on the WIOA Committee.
- ◆ That the first issue of our Journal WaterWorks was published as an insert in the AWA's Water magazine in December 2001. The June 2005 edition is the 8th issue.
- ◆ That WIOA held its first Charity Golf Day in 1999 at

Broadford with the sole intention of getting together for a bit of fun with people we see maybe only once or twice each year. From this humble beginning we have raised and distributed over \$10,000 to worth while charities.

- ◆ That the WIOA's website was developed and first hit cyberspace in June 1999.
- ◆ The website ([www.wioa.org.au](http://www.wioa.org.au)) receives as many as 20,000 hits per month from all around the world. How many times have you visited in the past 6 years?.

Armed with all this historically useful information, I though I'd skip forward about 8 years to 2013 and give you an update of what I'd like to think we might be able to write in the highlights pages celebrating the 40th Anniversary of WIOA's formation. Please note these are my thoughts only and are not necessarily endorsed by the Committee.

### Did you know (2013) ??:

- ◆ That as at December 2013, WIOA has 5,012 Individual and 502 Corporate Members. It is estimated that this is still only around 20% of staff employed in operational activities in the water industry Australia wide.
- ◆ That in 2005 some 21% of our Members had a residential address outside Victoria. In 2013 this has increased to 61% and includes 8% from the Asia/Pacific region.
- ◆ That the number of female Members has increased from 6% in 2005 to 15%.
- ◆ That our individual Membership fee has only been increased twice in 40 years (from the original \$10 to \$15 to \$25).
- ◆ The number of Registered operators Australia wide who have completed their Certificate III and the compulsory update training now exceeds 10,000.
- ◆ The WIOA conferences in Victoria, NSW, Qld, South Australia and NZ and the smaller regional seminars in WA, Tas and the NT have attracted a combined total of 2,000 delegates and more than 350 individual companies as exhibitors in 2013
- ◆ That Barry Waddell is still the longest serving WIOA Committee person having just notched up 21 consecutive years – we can't understand how he still gets elected each year. Barry swears he won't retire until George Wall gives it away as well.
- ◆ That the donations to charity from the WIOA Charity Golf Day now total more than \$25,000 since it started in 1999.
- ◆ That in 2013, some 25% of WIOA individual Members made a contribution to the Association either through articles for the various newsletters and journals or through suggestions in the WIOA web based chat room.
- ◆ That the winners of the 7 AWA State based "Operator of the Year" awards have been judged against one another and the winner of the National Operator of the Year was sent to the WEFTEC conference in the United States.
- ◆ That the sheer numbers of articles received for publication in WaterWorks has forced WIOA to increase from 2 editions to 5 per year.

Is my vision of future developments far fetched? Compared to our real history I'd say no, but clearly to get all this to happen requires input from more than just the current few. It also requires people with vision to communicate their ideas and assist the Committee to deliver what they see as important for the development of operators and the Association.

To kick off this process, I'd like to issue a challenge to all Members to be more proactive and to try and make some contact with the Association at least once per year. This could be by sending an e-mail with an idea or comment or two, attending an event and constructively filling in an evaluation form, providing a snippet of information or story for the e-news or Operator, by putting an article in WaterWorks, or for the more adventurous perhaps a poster or platform paper at a conference.

The contribution of Members has gotten us this far, the sky is the limit for where we can go from here provided we all keep working at it.

**George Wall**  
Executive Officer - WIOA

### Coming Events

Vic operators conference	<b>Bendigo</b>	7-8 Sep 2005
NSW operators conf	<b>Tamworth</b>	21-22 Sep 2005
NZWWA conference	<b>Auckland</b>	28-30 Sep 2005
Golf Day	<b>Kilmore GC</b>	2 Oct 2005

## South Australian Operators Conference 2005

The inaugural South Australian AWA Operators Conference was held on April 6th 2005. The President of the South Australian AWA branch, Graham Dooley officially opened the conference. Graham encouraged all the assembled personnel ranging from managers, supervisors to workers at the coal face in the water industry, to make use of the conference and contribute in the future. The key note speaker, Roger Perry General Manager from SA Water, spoke of the water industry in the past, present and future. Roger also encouraged the audience from his experiences to consider participating in future Operators Conferences. George Wall gave a short informative explanation of the role of the WIOA.

The conference presentations covered the whole range of the water cycle - from catchment and bulk water management to water treatment and distribution. Then to sewerage management and wastewater treatment and finally water reuse.

Looking at the topics covered on the day, and the enormous interest generated by an enthusiastic audience, there is definitely a need for an annual forum of this calibre in South Australia.

The wide experience of both presenters and the audience is indicative that the systems presented don't run themselves. A lot of good ideas are created at the coal face. This knowledge and experience needs to have a vehicle to generate and perpetuate further ideas within the water industry. Moreover the interest and ideas have the potential to bring other industries in South Australia that can benefit from symbiotic relationships with the water industry.

The future is up to the Industries and Corporations in South Australia. An Operators Conference can tap into the Managers, Supervisors, Leading Hands, Technical Officers, Fitters,

Electricians and their experiences, be they mistakes or beneficial. The future is not only attending but also presenting.

Right now there is a small group of Operators from various areas within the water industry meeting regularly to start work on the next AWA South Australian Operators Conference to be held in April 2006.

**Neil Crossing and Janina Morrison**  
(Convenors AWA South Australian Operators Conference 2005)



*Phil de Groot – a long term WIOA Member – doing his presentation*



*Sue Lefebvre – former Secretary and Committee Member of AWWOA – delivering the paper judged as “Best” at the SA conference*

## THE LIGHTER SIDE- (or is it?)

### The Seven Best Things about Global Warming:

7. Why pay for tattoos when melanomas are free?
6. No more pesky weeds. In fact, no more pesky plants.
5. Helsinki: the new Riviera.
4. Middle East oil producers feel right at home— everywhere.
3. Golfers only need a putter and a sand wedge.
2. Steaks, medium rare, on the hoof.
1. Three thongs and you're dressed!

## Around the Traps

### North West Region

#### GRAMPIANS PYRENEES REGION CELEBRATES WORLD-CLASS DRINKING WATER



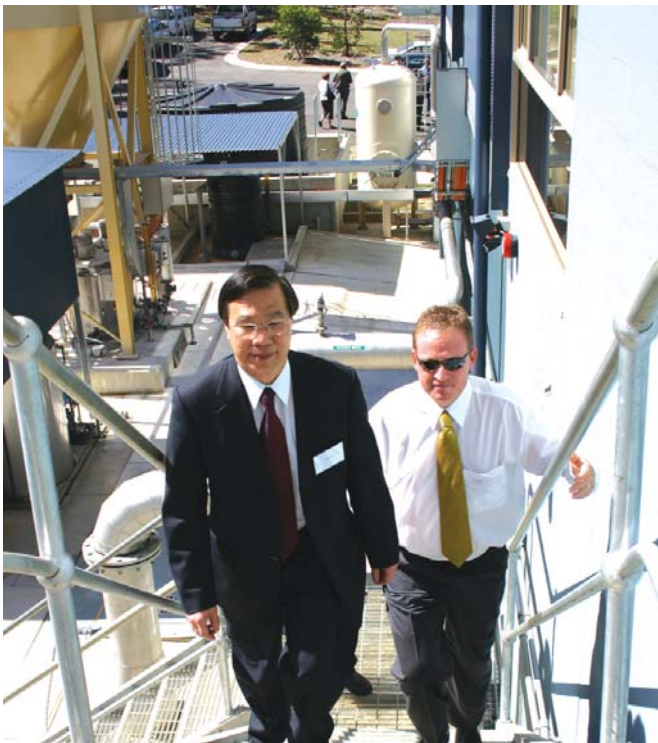
The provision of safe, clean water to major centres across the Grampians-Pyrenees region was celebrated on February 24 2005, at a formal ceremony at AquaTower's Ararat water treatment plant.

AquaTower has built and now operates four water treatment plants in Ararat, Stawell, Halls Gap and Great Western, for its client Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water, which supplies water to 22,000 residents and the many visitors to the region.

The ceremony, at which an official plaque was unveiled, also marks the consolidation of AquaTower's ownership by the Cheung Kong group.

The water in Ararat, Stawell and Halls Gap is cleansed with the Dissolved Air Flootation and Filtration process. The raw water is first chemically treated to suspend its solids. After that the suspended solids are removed by the injection of air bubbles, producing excellent quality drinking water. The Great Western plant uses a microfiltration process.

AquaTower was 100% acquired by Cheung Kong Infrastructure (CKI) and Cheung Kong Life Sciences in 2004, both members of the Hong Kong-based Cheung Kong Group. The Group is one of the largest foreign investors in Australia, with about A\$10 billion of assets in infrastructure, transport, telecommunications and biotechnology.



Mr H.L Kam Cheung Knong, Life Sciences President and Allen Slocombe at the Ararat WTP opening

## Central Region

### Research and development project for Torquay



In a Victorian first, Barwon Water will undertake a research and development project aimed at reducing mains water use by up to 20 per cent at the Quay Estate in Torquay. The Quay Estate will be established as a model sustainable housing development with a tank to toilet system to be provided to every home, built after stage 1 of the estate.

Barwon Water Chairman Stephen Vaughan praised the Quay Estate developers, Australand and Intrapac Projects, and the Surf Coast Shire on their forward thinking and commitment to working with Barwon Water to achieve a sustainable urban development.

The average household in the Greater Geelong region uses 210,000 litres of water annually, and 20 per cent is used to flush toilets. The tank-to-toilet systems will reduce the amount of drinking quality water used to flush toilets by replacing it with rainwater, which will be stored in a 4,500-litre tank on each property.

Stephen Vaughan said Barwon Water was committed to reducing water use in the region and had developed a number of innovative projects including Sharland Park Estate in Geelong and the award-winning sustainable display home Sharland Oasis.

"The Quay Estate pilot project will provide Barwon Water with valuable data on whether rainwater tank-to-toilet systems will deliver significant water savings," Mr Vaughan said. "We anticipate a further environmental benefit from this project will be a greater than 60 per cent reduction in stormwater discharges to the environment from the estate," Mr Vaughan said. The Barwon Water's Water Resources Development Plan launched in 2003, has a target of reducing water consumption by 15 per cent in the next 20 years.

#### Press Release Barwon Water

### Quotable Quotes

My grandfather once told me that there are two kinds of people: those who do the work and those who take the credit. He told me to try to be in the first group; there was less competition there. - *Indira Gandhi*

Wisdom is the reward you get for a lifetime of listening when you would rather have talked. - *Mark Twain*

We do not inherit the earth from our parents. We borrow it from our children. - *Native American proverb*

No one can make you feel inferior without your consent. - *Eleanor Roosevelt*

Be careful about reading health books. You might die of a misprint. - *Mark Twain*

"The great question that has never been answered, and which I have not yet been able to answer, despite my thirty years of research into the feminine soul, is 'What does a woman want?'" - *Sigmund Freud*

## Around the Traps

### South East Region

#### EGW Works Under Cover To Improve Water Quality

A water quality improvement project undertaken by East Gippsland Water (EGW) could revolutionise the way water authorities go about protecting water in storage basins from bacterial and air borne contamination. Considered to be the first of its kind in Australia, the project results from lateral thinking by EGW technical staff.

According to CEO at East Gippsland Water, Les Mathieson, “In terms of water quality improvement, if results prove the theory, then by covering small water storages with special shade cloth to exclude light and airborne contaminants, EGW will have come up with a low-cost solution for small urban and regional water storages.”

“Already the water industry and water authorities are sitting up and taking notice of this joint project between East Gippsland Water, Gale Pacific (suppliers of the specialist shade cloth and structural support systems) and the CSIRO. Importantly, CSIRO monitoring provides scientific and industry credibility”, Mr Mathieson said.

The \$0.5 million project involves covering Omeo and Mallacoota Clearwater Storage Basins as well as Swifts Creek and Cann River Storage Basins with a new generation shade cloth specially developed by Gale Pacific. The cloth is 97% light proof and is intended to prevent or at least minimise growth of algae, weed or vegetation on basin floors, prevent airborne contamination of water and limit water lost through evaporation.

“The shade cloth cover project followed from an earlier study by East Gippsland Water at Bemm River where the town’s raw water storage was covered. Results at Bemm River were very encouraging and demonstrated benefits through less algae and other plant growth, reduced light levels beneath the cover hampering photosynthesis and therefore reducing bacterial proliferation, with contamination by bird droppings and wind borne materials almost eliminated”, Mr Mathieson said.



*Shade cloth at Swifts Creek storage basin.*

The expanded project is being conducted over two years at six sites, the first year (now passed) with basins uncovered and the second year with four of the six basins now covered.

Two basins (Sarsfield Storage Basin and Orbost Clearwater Storage Basin) were left uncovered act as control sites. Monitoring at those sites will provide comparative data and assist in determining whether effects observed at covered sites were due to shade cloth installation or other factors.

Monitoring of all six sites commenced prior to March 2004. The methodology of all aspects include evaluation of algae and bacteria concentrations, water properties (e.g. pH, turbidity, conductance), evaporation, plant and animal life abundance, system life expectancy including maintenance costs, cover installation methods and a cost benefit analysis for comparison to alternative approaches when seeking cost effective water quality improvement.

The CSIRO is undertaking the monitoring, data interpretation and associated research.

“EGW welcomes involvement by high ranking players such as the CSIRO. We are confident this project will lead to cost-effective and improved water quality for many customers, and at the same time it will serve as a notable pilot study for the Australian Water industry,” Mr Mathieson concluded.

## North East

### Echuca Project

Coliban Water and Earth Tech signed a landmark 25-year public private partnership to deliver the Campaspe Water Reclamation Scheme in November 2002.

The \$40 million first stage of the project was successfully delivered in October 2004, achieving outstanding environmental, community and business outcomes for the Echuca-Rochester region.

The new Echuca water reclamation plant provides additional wastewater treatment capacity for the region, overcomes environmental problems with the previous treatment plant and, importantly, provides 100% water recycling with no discharge to the Murray River.

Key benefits are the availability of 5 million litres per day of high quality Class B recycled water for local farmers and cost-effective treatment of trade waste from customers in the food processing industry, with capacity to cater for future growth.

Stage 2 of the scheme will see a pipeline built to bring trade waste and sewage from Rochester for treatment in the Echuca plant. The existing treatment plant at Rochester will then be phased out leading to further environmental, community and economic benefits for the region.

Earth Tech will operate the Campaspe Water Reclamation Scheme for 25 years in partnership with recycled water and trade waste customers, Coliban Water and the local community.

**Leif Ericson**  
**Earth Tech**

## NEXT EDITION

**Article Contribution Deadline  
For the November 2005 Edition  
7th October, 2005**



**North East** - North East Water,  
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Mt. Buller Resort Management Board  
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Articles can be forwarded to area contacts or directly to  
The Editor email: [graham.thomson@barwonwater.vic.gov.au](mailto:graham.thomson@barwonwater.vic.gov.au)

### New Members

Welcome to the following people and companies who have recently joined our Association as a Member or Corporate Supporter.

**New individual Members** include Gary Cowcher, Zamir Yusuf, Kel Taylor, Gregg Potter, Steven Knight, Bernie Vetter, Paul Harrison, Jean Rook, Annmarie Tracey, Chris Ormond, Matthew Sellens, Colin Bowker, Craig Freeman, Paul Taylor, Garry Patten, Sue Lefebvre, Neil Crossing, Robert Cook, Gordon Catt, Glen Joy, Mark Putman, Justin Bourke, Damien McCann, Mark Sinnott, Terry Wisener, Belinda Maxwell, Emma Carden, Alan Smith, Ash Turner, James Haworth, Alistair McLeod, Gregory Sheers, Jennifer Squires, Carl Ludeman, Anthony Green, David Rowan, Marc O'Bryan.

**New Corporate Supporters** include - Utility Services, Aeramix, Accurate Detection, MJK Automation, Chemical Fluid Systems, BOC Limited, Axis Direct.



The WIOA gratefully acknowledges the support provided by  
Barwon Water in producing 'Operator'



The 'us' - Utility Services pipe relining system in action at the distribution seminar

### WIOA 2005 OFFICE BEARERS & COMMITTEE

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### WANTED

Any articles, news snippets,  
information on improved work practices, etc as contributions to your  
magazine

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