



OPERATOR

August 2006 Edition

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*Congratulations to James Castle from Caboolture Water for winning the inaugural **AWA Qld, Leon Henry Memorial, Operator of the Year Award**. He is being presented the award by AWA Qld President - Helen Stratton.*



What is the story behind this car and where is it going?? Read more on Page 7

President's Prattle

*Find the common thread.....
the answer is on page 6*



If you solved the puzzle then you will know what I am referring to in the following paragraph.

I can confidently report that WIOA recently staged a very successful conference in Queensland and this will be the first of many! After such events there are always the multitude of people whose efforts need to be acknowledged, but may I say that the thanks given here are most deserved. George Wall has done it again and coordinated the organisation of an amazing event attended by 185 delegates, over 80 day visitors and a trade exhibition comprising 85 booths. Including the people looking after the trade stands, there were more than 450 attendees present.

It is certainly not an easy task doing everything over such a vast distance by phone, fax and email – but you've pulled it off and we say well done George! We also had many helpers from both Victoria and Queensland who gave freely of their time – some even taking annual leave to help out!. Our thanks are extended to the many helpers and also to their employers including the Qld gang – Brian Davis, Paul McGraw, Mary-Jane Crosbie, Ian Pitt, Peter Griffiths, Kathy Bourbon, Peter Reberger and all the Fitzroy River Water team and the Vic contingent of Ron Bergmeier, Ash Bergmeier, Marilyn Wall, Russell Mack, Barry Waddell and his partner Deb and Tony Hourigan. I certainly look forward to attending more conferences in Queensland and to further expanding our network around the country.

Congratulations to all the award winners from Queensland including Shane Bandiera, Peter McTaggart and James Castle for winning both the best poster and the AWA Operator of the Year award. Many thanks to Dave Karrol and Barry Waddell who generously returned their awards to the WIOA and a local charity respectively. The dollars will be put to good use.

I would like to welcome a new addition to the WIOA Committee. John Day of Power and Water in the NT has put his hat in the ring to join us and add his flair to the group. We look forward to working with John.

It appears the word is spreading fast that WIOA is a 'happening' organisation and we will go anywhere to assist and improve the level of operational skills in the industry. We are excited by the opportunity to stage a one day technical seminar in Far North Qld and in Western Australia in the near future. Keep your eye out for information on these events. We are also close to releasing the first of a series of technical booklets

currently being put together by Peter Mosse and a few committed helpers. The first book on Operations and Maintenance of Media Filtration Systems is due for release very soon.

The 69th Victorian Engineers and Operators Conference is also just round the corner and we know many WIOA Members look forward to this event annually to catch up with colleagues from all around the country. To the exhibitors attending this year I urge you to consider something novel and interesting to attract the delegates to your booth.

WIOA will be running the conference competition again so if you are offered a spot, please join in and make the event fun and entertaining for all. It is certainly true that you only get out what you put in!

I must extend a warm welcome to all the new Members who have recently joined WIOA. For some time we have been sending a travel mug as part of the new member welcome pack. We have now changed to a funky WIOA key-ring/bottle opener – something which would have been very handy in Qld recently.

Finally, the Charity Golf day this year will be held on Sunday October 29 again at the Kilmore GC. We enjoyed the course and hospitality of the Kilmore people so much last year that we have decided to return. We hope to see you there.

Cynthia Lim
WIOA President

Coming Events

5 to 7 Sept 2006	– Victorian Engineer & Operator conference
6 Sept 2006	– VSORG meeting in Bendigo
28 Sept 2006	– Fitters Maintenance workshop Cairns
29 Oct 2006	– Charity Golf day Kimore

State of Origin Report

ITT Flygt had a raffle at the Qld Workshop for a Queensland State of Origin rugby top. Needless to say, there was plenty of interest in winning it, especially to be able to wear it on the Wednesday night whilst watching the game on the big screen. The lucky person to win it was none other than Peter Reberger who works for EGL at their Redcliffe wastewater treatment plant. It turned into a treasured possession very quickly



State of Origin Report (cont)

It was interesting to see Kathy Bourbon give the (very quiet) predominately Qld audience a wave and the big thumbs up when the Blues got about 10 points in front part way through the second half of the game. Poor Kathy was not quite so vocal at full time when the result went in the favour of the Queenslanders and about 150 very excited Qld supporters all lined up to rub her nose in it!!!



Kathy and bodyguards at Queensland trade dinner

Gippsland Water Fluoride Up-Date

Gippsland Water (GW) is currently installing 5 Fluoride dosing facilities at the following existing water treatment plants, Morwell, Warragul, Sale, Moe, and Traralgon.

After an extensive selection process GW decided to go with the Fluorodose system supplied by Hydramet and Orica. Transfeild Services whom supply our electrical and mechanical maintenance have done the civil works and connections to our existing services.

It was felt that this system would most suit GW requirements taking into consideration a number of factors but in particular operator safety.

The Fluorodose System works on the principal of dosing a fully saturated (4%) solution of Sodium Fluoride. The powdered Sodium Fluoride is supplied in 5kg PVA bags which are designed to dissolve in water releasing the Sodium fluoride into the 500L saturation tank. Many bags can be added to the saturation tank with concentration of the fluoride remaining at full saturation. The process of dropping the bags directly into the water significantly reduces the OH&S issues generally encountered with using Sodium Fluoride.

The saturated solution is then transferred to the 90kl dosing tank, from there chemical dosing pumps which are either flow paced or residual trimmed controlled, dose into the filtered water.

There are four interlocks within the control system to ensure that over dosing is not happening, 2 Fluoride analysers and two calculated dose rates using weight and flow of the dosed fluoride.

Currently GW have four plants up and running, Morwell and Warragul, Sale and Moe with Traralgon not far away. There have been some small hiccups along the way but we working through those issues and are confident that we have made the right choice.



Morwell Water Treatment Plant Fluoride Room



Saturation and Dosing Tanks



Loading 5kg bags of Sodium Fluoride into the saturation tank

Qld Workshop Report

The 2006 WIOA Water Industry Operations Workshop was held in Rockhampton on 5th & 6th July with over 185 registered delegates and 70 trade visitors in attendance. The trade exhibition was the largest ever for a Qld Workshop with 75 companies displaying their products and services from the 86 booths. We would like to thank all companies involved for the time and effort put in to making the exhibition so impressive.

The technical paper sessions were well attended and we definitely enjoyed the luxury of the massive lecture theatre at the Uni Complex .



The papers room at Qld – if only we could take it all around the country

The papers presented were of an excellent standard and many speakers issued challenges to us all to consider the implementation of a new or improved system to improve our operational efficiency.

Congratulations to all the people awarded prizes at the Workshop including:

1st - Actizyme Prize for best Operator Paper – Shane Bandiera from Johnstone Shire Council who spoke about the impacts and aftermath of Cyclone Larry. Shane will be presenting this paper again at the Victorian conference in September.



Winner of the Actizyme Prize Shane Bandiera (r) presented his plaque by Bob Smith from Southern Cross Laboratories

2nd - Actizyme Prize – David Karrol from Western Bay of Plenty District Council in New Zealand.

3rd - Actizyme Prize – Graham Edwards from Wide Bay Water.

We were surprised and delighted that David Karrol opted to kindly donate his Actizyme prize winnings (\$450) to WIOA for us to invest into operator based activities in Qld. Thank you very much for your generosity and commitment to help the water industry David.

1st – Environmental Group Limited (EGL) Prize for best Operator Poster Paper – James Castle from Caboolture Water who spoke about the solar drying of biosolids.



2nd & 3rd in the EGL Prize – Barry Waddell from East Gippsland Water in Victoria.

Given that there were only 3 posters entered this year, all of them won prizes from EGL. It was commendable that Barry Waddell also very generously donated his 3rd place cash prize to charity.

The inaugural **AWA, Leon Henry Memorial, Qld Operator of the Year Award** was presented to James Castle from Caboolture Water. For his efforts, James wins a one year membership of AWA, an all expenses paid trip to the Ozwater convention in Sydney in March next year and a free registration to the 2007 Qld Workshop.

The **WIOA Prize for the Best Trade Display** was won by Rotork.

Congratulations to all the winners of the Trade Competition, thanks to Mary-Jane Crosbie for organising it and thanks to all the companies who donated products to go into the hampers .



The entertainment at the two dinners was great. We enjoyed one another's company on the Wednesday night watching Qld on the big screen get up to beat the Blues in the last few minutes of Origin 3, much to the disgust of Kathy Bourbon.



Rotary Study Exchange to USA

I recently returned from a Rotary group study exchange trip to New York State in the USA. I was selected as team leader for this 5 week tour, based on investigating Water Management. It was a great experience for myself and the rest of the team as we visited an area that is surrounded by 20 percent of the World's fresh drinking water. It was astounding to see the amount of fresh water that was flowing over Niagara Falls into Lake Ontario and the water that was available in the Finger Lakes region. For those interested, Lake Ontario is 393 cubic miles and 246 feet deep.

Marty Fields had us in fits of laughter on the Thursday night and his 45 minutes on stage was over in a flash. A big thank you from WIOA to all the sponsors of the event including our Host and Major Sponsor in Fitzroy River Water, Australian Pollution Engineering, EPA Qld, AWA, Transpacific Industries Group Ltd, KSB Ajax Pumps, WME Media, VoR Environmental, Merck, Aegis Safety, Ciba Specialty Chemicals, Alldos Oceania, Centre for Groundwater Studies, DMI Australia, EGL, Actizyme, WITA and Environmental and Process Technologies.

Overall the Workshop was a huge success and we look forward to 2007 being even bigger and better.

Western Water Recognises Training Achievement

Western Water held a graduation ceremony recently for a number of employees who had completed nationally accredited training. In all, 18 staff Members were presented their Certificate 3 in Water Operations, 21 completed the Customer First program which promotes the professional development of people working in the water industry, two graduated with a Certificate 3 in Business and another employee was awarded a Diploma of Business - Quality Auditing.

They join 30 other Western Water staff members who completed the program last year.

Guest speaker at the graduation ceremony at Western Water's Gisborne offices was Jim Stynes, co-founder of the Reach Foundation, which assists young people in developing life skills. Stynes, an AFL Brownlow medallist and former Victorian of the Year, assisted Western Water Chairman Terry Larkins in presenting the certificates.



Some of the Western Water employees following the recent graduation ceremony

Part of the tour took us to the Lake Hemlock dam that supplies some water to the city of Rochester in Upper New York State, this dam is 9 miles long by 1 mile wide and is measured at approx 90 feet deep. Wouldn't it be fantastic if we had some storages as full as this at present. The water is treated through a treatment plant using ACH and then direct filtration and disinfecting with Sodium Hypochlorite. This plant could treat around 100 megalitres per day and the other plant on Lake Ontario treated 500 megalitres per day.



Mount Morris dam was built in 1951 by the US Army and is still under their control today. We were fortunate to get down below the dam wall as this has been closed to the public since September 11. The dam wall is nearly 1 mile wide and the depth of the wall is 268 feet. This wall was built not to store water, but to control the water to prevent flooding down through the Genesee Valley and causing major floods in towns like Avon and Rochester.

In 1972 Hurricane Agnes dumped 30 inches of rain on the area in 24 hours and, as the catchment area for this dam is around 100 square miles, this dam went within 4 feet of overflowing the top wall. The Engineers on site said if the dam wall had not been built this water would have coved 66,000 hectares with a foot of water.

Contributed by John Harris



Profile of a Member

Name: John McLeod.

Position/JobTitle: Team Leader, Central Treatment Operations.

Employer and Location:Wannon Water, Warrnambool.

How long have you been employed in the water industry?

I have been based in Warrnambool for 27 years. I started at the Warrnambool City Council and after the Local Government Restructure transferred to what was to become South West Water, the predecessor of Wannon Water.

How long have you been a WIOA Member?

About 10 years.

What areas have you worked in?

When I started we worked in construction laying water pipes and renewing all the cast iron fittings in Warrnambool, we did all the main replacements and new subdivisions.



How did you get into treatment?

At the time of the restructure, 12 years ago, Robert Mills, Jim Pallister and myself moved on to the Water team under John Harris. We looked after the Treatment Plant in Warrnambool and all the meter readings, tappings and main repairs to begin with. There was a sewer and water team but eventually we ended up looking after the Treatment Operations as they became more involved.

What does your current job involve?

I look after a team of six people based in Warrnambool and we are responsible for the Warrnambool WTP, Warrnambool Waste Reclamation Facility, (WWTP), Mortlake WRF and Disinfection Plants at Allansford, Purnim, Tank Hill Reservoir, Mortlake, Caramut and Koroit. We monitor these plants, sample water weekly as well as flushing and other quality issues.

What have been some of the big changes in recent years?

Water being declared a food and the introduction of the appropriate food handling techniques and compliance (HACCP) and (ADWG) have been some of the big issues in recent years.

What do you think you will be doing in 5 years time?

Getting ready to retire!!!!!!!!!!!!(wishful thinking)

Ok, a few quick questions to finish with.

- Age.** Can't remember.
- Nickname.** Pom.
- Family Status.** Married 2.5 times.
- Pets.** Maggie, the cat
- Favourite Food** Steak.
- Least Fav Food.** Vegetables.
- Favorite TV Show.** Lost.
- Worst TV Show.** Big Brother.
- Favorite Movie.** The Life of Brian.

Current C.D in stereo.

Pink Floyd, Live.

Ambition in Life.

To get old.

Hobbies.

Restoring my old home, beer, fishing, beer.

Best Trait.

Casual.

Worst Trait.

Too Casual.

Favourite Book.

Wilbur Smith, African series.

Most memorable moments.

The weekend Conference at Philip Island, I was positive the island was moving and not the ship.

Letting Evans and Shanahan buy a slab at the Pakenham pub and do the navigating (by myself as you can imagine) through Neerim, Neerim Junction and Neerim South then dodging Wombats on the way to Rawson for the Weekend Seminar.



John McLeod at work at the WWTP

Answer to Find the Common Thread



What do all these have in Common? Rockhampton

Rockhampton is the beef capital of Australia, it contains the Kershaw Garden and the Great Western Hotel in the middle of town.

Rally with a cause – Watch out for Car 77

What do you do if:

1. You're a bit of a rev-head;
2. You want to see Australia by road; and
3. You've got a social conscience?

Well, you join The Great Escape, the annual major fundraiser for Cystic Fibrosis Australia. Now in its fourth year, The Great Escape sees car buffs get together and drive off into the wild blue yonder, all the while knowing that they're doing their bit to help Cystic Fibrosis (CF) sufferers.

North East Water's CFO, Craig Heiner and his brother Darrel are preparing a bright orange Ford XD Falcon wagon for the bash. The car will have a strong water industry theme, with ITT Flygt, Environmental Group Limited (EGL) and WIOA joining forces as the gold sponsors of car number 77.

Greg Pratt, national sales manager for ITT Flygt, said the company was proud to support a great cause like Cystic Fibrosis. "It is encouraging to see the water industry taking an active role to raise funds for such worthy recipients," he said.

Similarly, Mike Williamson from EGL said: "We are happy to assist in this project, and would encourage everyone in the water industry to get behind the cause". WIOA has contributed part of the proceeds raised from the Annual Victorian water industry charity golf day, rounding out the water theme of the main sponsors of the car.

CF is the most common life-threatening recessive gene disorder affecting Australian children today. The disease seriously affects breathing and digestion, and has no cure. Sadly, many sufferers die before reaching adulthood. Cystic Fibrosis Australia receives no government funding, and all funds raised from The Great Escape go to Cystic Fibrosis Australia.

This year The Great Escape will travel from Leeton to Mildura via a roundabout route that takes participants through Birdsville (in time for the famous races). It leaves Leeton August 28th and returns on September 7th. Between now and the departure date, Craig and his brother are working hard to convert the car from a road vehicle to a lean, mean rally machine.

Stay tuned for future instalments of this heart-warming story. Also, if you have any ideas or can offer your support, contact Craig on (02) 6022 0594.



WIOA, Flygt and EGL sponsored car in the Cystic Fibrosis rally

Report by 2005 Kwatye Prize Winner

The winner of the 2005 Kwatye Prize, Eddy Ostarcevic recently put on a special presentation of his findings from his project. Quite a few staff from the prize sponsors – Environmental & Process Technologies (Division of Biolab) along with the prize judges and some WIOA Committee members attended the evening presentation at the Biolab offices in Melbourne.

Rohan Latham introduced the concept for the Prize and briefly went over the history of the logo and the prize itself. He then handed over to Eddy to let rip.



Rohan Latham from Biolab introducing Eddy and his project.

Note the Kwatye logo in the background

Eddy talked at length about his project – "Colour Removal without Chemical Addition" and filled us in on the history and chemistry behind the project, described the issues he wanted to investigate and then showed a heap of photos from the various sites he visited. He also passed on some travel stories which were quite amusing. Eddy will be doing a paper presentation at the Victorian conference in September and a summary report outlining the project findings will appear in the December edition of WaterWorks.

Judging is about to get under way for the 2006 winner and this will be announced at the "Meet the Trade Dinner" on Wednesday 6 September.

Good luck to those involved this year.



Eddy in full flight

Pilot Filter Rig

The Water Industry Training Centre has recently completed construction of a pilot filter rig to support filtration training undertaken by operators completing the unit of competency NWP354A Monitor, operate and control granular media filtration processes.

The rig is fully transportable and is shown set up at Wannon Water's Warrnambool water treatment plant where the filtration unit was recently conducted.

The rig consists of two pilot filters, one sand and the other dual media it can be 'challenged' with a range of raw water qualities during training exercises.

Trainees ran the rig under simulated full scale conditions and recorded the progress of various performance parameters such as flow, headloss and turbidity. The rig provides an excellent practical demonstration of how granular media filters behave and its development reflects the Training Centre's continued commitment to the provision of quality training to water industry personnel.



The W.I.T.C Pilot filter rig in action

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 Stewart Foreman, Mervyn Churchill, Rachael Nuttall, Chris Spokes, Chris Pearson, Darren Sharman, Roly Hayes, John Hanrahan, Anthony Heintze, Urpo Launonen, Mark Townsend, Kevin Healey, Jim Wheelhouse, Duncan Ferguson, Bruce Peck, Mike Monaghan, Colin Owen, Peter Best, Warwick Farmer, Wayne Brownie, Tony Ochsner, Simon Mahoney, Bruce Nesbitt, David Bassett, Peter Reberger, Allan Law, Tim Harty, Murray Ball, Michael Yesberg, John Shaw, Jeffrey Rohdman, Paul Welsh, Marcus Boyd, Neil Kajewski, Sandi Hudson, David Douglas, David Karrol, Wayne Fallen, Jamie Scott, Craig Tysoe, Bill Grote, John Kay, David Roberts, Bill Winley, Mark Hobbs, Alex McPhee, David Hollindale, Jason Johnson, Emrys Powell, Chiz Ruxton, Kev Hodges, Richard Pryde, Dale Young, Mark Robbie, Andrew White, Ray Burgess, Lindsay Walsh, Alistair Cumming, Peter Saward.

New Corporate Supporters include Air Liquide, Environmental Group Limited (EGL), Watgates SP, MPI Pipe & Cable Installation, Dickinson's Environmental Services.

NEXT EDITION

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WANTED

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