



OPERATOR

May 2009 Edition

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Winner of the Iwaki Prize - Best Overall Paper at the NSW Conference, Peter Outtrim (L) and Ian Jesson
More on page 7



NSW Operator of the Year - Ross Waugh (R) with Stewart McLeod. Read more about Ross on page 8.



Waranga Basin Major Pumping Station. Read more on page 11.

President's Note



Welcome to the May edition of Operator. I was fortunate to be elected as President of WIOA at our AGM in Lakes Entrance in March and I look forward to the challenges of leading our organisation and meeting new people from the water industry throughout Australia.

Firstly, I would like to thank Peter Tolsher, or as he is fondly known as "Tolsh" for his time at the helm and reflect on some of the significant events that he presided over.

- The forming of WIOA Pty Ltd and appointment of EO and staff
- Updating the MOU with the New Zealand Water Industry Operators Group.
- The first two WIOA conferences in NSW.
- Securing new premises for the WIOA office in Shepparton.
- Appointment of our Operations Manager.
- Representing WIOA at a number of industry forums and meetings.

Tolsh always said to me, "Watch what I do because you will have to do it one day" so I hope I was attentive and took notice. Tolsh has now been involved for 10 years with WIOA as a committee member and it is always great to work with him at conferences and events and have a bit of a play afterwards. I don't think I will be quite up to some of the late nights but I can only try. 'Thanks Tolsh, not only for the time and effort you have put in to the job as President but as a committee member as well.

The weekend seminar and AGM was a great weekend at a beautiful part of the country in Lakes Entrance. I would like to welcome our new committee members in Stan Stevenson from Queensland and Peter Kitney from Victoria.



Peter Kitney

Stan Stevenson

Welcome to our new Committee members.

You can read more about the seminar a bit later in this magazine. There is no question that any truly national organisation must have input and representation from all States and it is encouraging that more and more people are interested in helping achieve that goal.

The 3rd NSW Conference was held in Tamworth in April at the TREC Centre and it would have to be one of the best venues we have used so far. The size and layout made setting up and moving about really easy and it looked great. Thanks to all of our exhibitors and delegates for taking the time and coming along to support WIOA. Thanks to all the volunteers that made the NSW conference a success; John Day, Pat Davis, Ian Bicknell, Stephen Laird & Damian Paul. Once again the conference papers were fantastic and it was really hard for the judges to separate the winners as the scores were all so close. You can read all about the winners on page 7.

The Media Filters Seminar was conducted on the Tuesday before the conference and 65 operators from NSW and Queensland in attendance and they learned the finer points and operational aspects of their plants filters. Thanks to Peter Mosse and Bruce Murray these people now have an intricate understanding of how these things work!

After more than 10 years service, John Harris has decided to step down as a committee member. During this time he served a term as Vice President then as President and helped on various sub committees. He has also been involved ALGT and later GSA from his ASU background. John was also well known for wearing stupid hats when acting as event MC at a number of conferences. John decided to stand as a councillor for the City of Warrnambool and was duly elected increasing an already large workload. John will remain as a board member of WIOA Ltd and we thank him for his valued input during his time with us.

I encourage all members to become active and maybe try submitting an article for any of our publications. We are always looking for news from within the industry.

Anthony Evans
WIOA President

Membership Draw



Stu Craib from Balclutha in New Zealand for being the lucky winner of the **Royce Water Technologies** coffee machine. Stu was one of almost 600 eligible members who had their name

in the barrel. The draw was undertaken at the NSW Conference Awards Dinner.



Profile of an Operator

Name

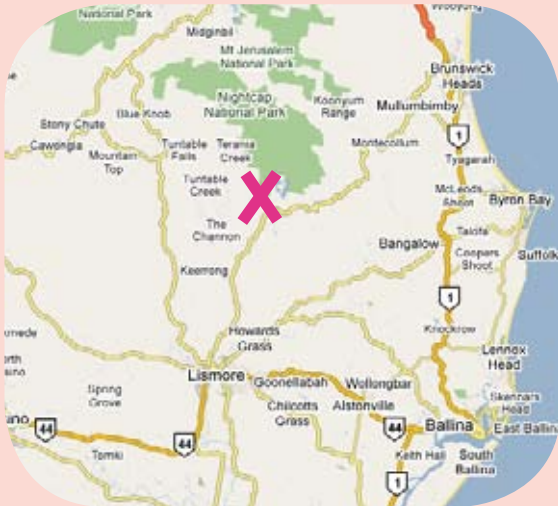
Gene Hawthorne

Position

Senior Treatment Plant Operator

Employer & Location

RousWater – Northcoast of NSW



How long have you worked in the water industry and where?

24 years (nearly long enough). Spent 9 years at Rous Water and 15 years with Tamworth City Council.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

The variety of tasks, the challenges and my work colleagues.

How did you get into your current role?

Started as an Apprentice fitter, spent a few years as a tradie, then moved into a fitter/operator position where I gained qualifications in the water industry. Three years later I become Team Leader at Tamworth City Council's WTP. Stayed there for four years then got itchy feet and moved to the North coast to work for Rous Water.

How long have you been a WIOA member?

I think about five years

What does your current job involve?

Supervising the operations and maintenance of an 80 MI/d DAFF, Ozone/BAC WTP, a 7.5 ML/d Membrane Ozone/BAC WTP and three small extended waste water package plants.

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

We have just finished spending \$40M on Pump stations, pipework and a plant upgrade to pump 30ML/d from a local river on top of our Dam source. Taking over the operation and maintenance of some privately owned waste water package plants.

Ok, a few quick questions to finish

Age:42

Nickname: Geno

Family Status: Happily married with 2 boys

Pets: Sam the dog

Favourite food: Mexican

Least favourite food: offal

Favourite TV show:At the moment-Underbelly

Worst TV show:Any Yankee reality-TV show

Favourite Movie: ..Shawshank Redemption (bloody good movie!)

Current CD in stereo: Meatloaf

Favourite book: . No time to read books (sometimes read those informative magazines on the lunch room table)

Ambition in life:Hole in one (I'm talking about golf!!)

Hobbies:Camping, fishing, golf and enjoying life while I'm breathing

Best Trait: ... I don't like to show off – there's way too many

Worst Trait: Getting cranky at the kids

Four people to invite to a BBQ: Four mates (bugger the rich and the famous)

When temperatures soared

February in Victoria was really, really hot reaching 48 degrees and instruments at the wastewater treatment plant in Wodonga suffered. To try and alleviate some of the direct sun on our sensors we had to be inventive. The photos are hazy from the smoke in the area. The top pictured umbrella is covering a pressure sensor on our inlet works and the bottom pictured umbrella is covering an actuator at the effluent discharge. We also put a sprinkler that was using reuse water on them to further cool the electronics. This simple measure did seem to help and we didn't lose functionality of any of our equipment.



Contributed by Adrian Rijnbeek from EGL Wodonga.

Weekend Seminar Report



Ever wondered what goes on at a weekend seminar behind the scenes? The WIOA committee (1) take the opportunity to get together on the Friday night and hold a committee meeting. There is always so much to discuss that meetings usually continue till well after most people's bed times.



We also try to squeeze in some recreation on our weekend; while some were off to the local golf course on Saturday morning, other early birds joined Barry on a boat trip around the Gippsland Lakes area. Inside (2) the crew provided information on the area and its history. Our thanks are extended to Barry Waddell for organising the trip and ATMR and Grundfos Alldos for picking up the tab.



The Lakes Entrance Fishermans club was a great venue to hold our AGM and the Seminar. Surrounded by water and fisherman's trophy catches most of us did feel as though we were on holiday (3). The AGM was exciting as for the first time in WIOA committee history we had 10 nominations for the 8 general committee spots available. A vote was conducted and the new committee announced. Congratulations to Anthony Evans and John Day who were elected as President and Vice President and we welcome Stan Stevenson and Peter Kitney to the committee. Thanks to Tony Davies and Rob Kelso for nominating but unfortunately a couple of people have to miss out. See the back page for details on the new committee.

The seminar was then officially opened and Peter Tolsher and John Clemens shared some pictures and stories of overseas travel; Tolsh to Brazil and John to India and PNG. The world is truly a wonderful place!

Our first corporate member presentation was conducted by C-tech Services, Derek (4) and Dean brought in some new equipment to share with the group.

The MONIpLUG was a neat portable water quality online monitoring package and MIXltech is a safe method for mixing chemicals within a water storage tank.

The afternoon session broke out into an open forum on training issues. Prue Madsen from Government Skills Australia kicked off the discussion describing the changes to the National Water Training Package. John Park chaired the session and kept the discussion moving along. We also heard from Steve Wilson on the evolving nature of training and delivery, John Harris on initiatives Wannon Water have put in place to address skills and needs and George Wall on Operator certification.



The night time activities involved plenty of talk, laughter, great food and a drink or two (5). Some more weekend seminar virgins (6) had to earn their rite of passage and get up front to sing along to 'Like a surgeon' for a bit of a comical twist!

Two more IDIOTS were inducted into the Society of twisted taps or is that twits! It was an absolute pleasure to have Leigh Strange (7), now retired, decide to come and join us for the weekend and we took the opportunity to induct him after he regaled the audience with his fuddy duck fud fable!

Then it finally dawned on John Park why he was persuaded/pressured to Chair the training session that afternoon. Another well deserved IDIOTS member. Due to John's tip top physical shape we thought it only appropriate he suit up in his running gear and show us a few 80's jazzercise moves (8).



It didn't end there however John then had to complete a WITC style exam of which he aced. Congratulations to both 2009 IDIOT recipients Leigh and John (9) and thanks for the support given to WIOA over the years.



The following morning Grundfos Alldos held their Sunday brain teaser which got everyone awake and ready for another day. Thanks to Owen and Tony for their efforts. The 2008 Kwatye prize winners Nick Bray and Paulus des Anges kicked off discussions and provided an update on their project called the Water Harvester - water from atmospheric humidity. 'us'-Utility Services brought along some new technology and equipment which they have developed for their day to day operations, Steve Webb and Bernd Vetter were very spritely for a Sunday morning!. The very last presentation for the weekend was delivered by Russell Clark and Mark Grundy of Sperian Protection one of WIOA's new Corporate members. There's a lot to sensor technology and Russell helped clarify much in that area. There was a final wrap up of various projects occurring in East Gippsland and at Wannon Water. Thanks to Kristine Hunter and Peter Umland who had the unenviable task of delivering their presentations very last. All in all the weekend was enjoyed by all and we look forward to 2010.

It was great to have two Kiwis join us at our weekend seminar. Following is a note from John Clemens, who decided to combine his holiday in Melbourne with a trip to East Gippsland.

Contributed by Cynthia Lim.

Hi Cynthia,

I would like to thank you, George & the WIOA committee for the fine hospitality and good time myself and Denise had at Lakes Entrance. It is a well run event for the WIOA members. Great to be there as a member without the extra effort that goes in as a committee person.

It was very much appreciated, the airport pick up and ride up from Melbourne. Was great to catch up with fellow operational members from Australia, we share a lot of common issues, along with some different challenges.

I don't know how Barry finds his way home each day, living out in the bush, where he does.

Please pass my thanks to the committee members. Will catch up with some of you in May.

Thanks again

John Clemens
Timaru District Council, NZ



THE LIGHTER SIDE

The following note came across our desk at WIOA and we thought it was quite a good explanation of the Global Financial Crisis!

TO UNDERSTAND THE FINANCIAL CRISIS

Heidi is the proprietor of a bar in Berlin. In order to increase sales, she decides to allow her loyal customers – most of whom are unemployed alcoholics - to drink now but pay later. She keeps track of the drinks consumed on a ledger (thereby granting the customers loans). Word gets around and as a result increasing numbers of customer flood into Heidi's bar.

Taking advantage of her customers' freedom from immediate payment constraints, Heidi increases her prices for wine and beer, the most-consumed beverages. Her sales volume increases massively.

A young and dynamic customer service consultant at the local bank recognizes these customer debts as valuable future assets and increases Heidi's borrowing limit. He sees no reason for undue concern since he has the debts of the alcoholics as collateral. At the bank's corporate headquarters, expert bankers transform these customer assets into DRINKBONDS, ALKBONDS and PUKEBONDS. These securities are then traded on markets worldwide. No one really understands what these abbreviations mean and how the securities are guaranteed. Nevertheless, as their prices continuously climb, the securities become top-selling items.



One day, although the prices are still climbing, a risk manager (subsequently of course fired due his negativity) of the bank decides that slowly the time has come to demand payment of the debts incurred by the drinkers at Heidi's bar. However they cannot pay back the debts. Heidi cannot fulfill her loan obligations and claims bankruptcy.

DRINKBOND and ALKBOND drop in price by 95 %. PUKEBOND performs better, stabilizing in price after dropping by 80 %. The suppliers of Heidi's bar, having granted her generous payment due dates and having invested in the securities are faced with a new situation. Her wine supplier claims bankruptcy, her beer supplier is taken over by a competitor.

The bank is saved by the Government following dramatic round-the-clock consultations by leaders from the governing political parties. The funds required for this purpose are obtained by a tax levied on the non-drinkers.

Ahhh - finally an explanation someone can understand.

NSW Conference Report

Packing away the surfboards and dusting off the guitars we headed off to Tamworth for the WIOA's Water Industry Engineers and Operators Conference. Ray Collins and myself were not as yet members of WIOA but we were on a promise to Cynthia to join when we arrived in Tamworth. We work in the Byron Shire tending to the water and sewer needs of 10,000+ properties with 1 Water Treatment and 5 Sewage Treatment Plants.

The main reason we had decided to participate was not only the range of papers to be presented but also the workshop on sand filters and also because we thought Ray had a shot at the Water Directorate's NSW Water Operator of the Year. We also never miss an opportunity to talk with suppliers who we find are just as committed to the industry as the people who run the plants.

To start with, the pre conference seminar on Media Filter Assessment and Optimisation was outstanding. The passion and expertise of the presenter Peter Mosse was inspiring. Peter seems to have the rare combination of a practical "dirty boots" approach and a stunning knowledge bank of expertise. The range of topics covered by both Peter and Bruce Murray had applications for all operators that attended but the real take home message for me was "Know your System". The enthusiasm of the presenters should be bottled and taken around to recruiting centres – I'm sure we would soon overcome the skills shortage if Peter's passion was spread more widely.



Peter Mosse addressing the media filter seminar attendees at Tamworth

The next 2 days was a whirlwind of talking to people and listening to people talk. The range of papers presented and the practical experience of the people presenting was impressive. In particular I liked the presentations that exposed the problems encountered on projects or an aspect of operations and the methods used to overcome them. We are not alone in having problems! There was a high level of interest throughout the 2 days with even the "graveyard" sessions well attended.

One session that provoked a lot of discussion was the one on Training Issues. This was a follow-up session to the Keynote address by David Sheehan. There is no doubt that significant change is coming to the industry and it will be an exciting time over the next several years.

Given that the Victorian crew at the session stated clearly that the training regime in Victoria was the best in Australia (and by inference Victorian operators are the best in Australia?!) I can see fertile ground for some friendly rivalry down the track.

Unfortunately due to some guitar lessons around the guitar shaped pool at the Guitar motel in Guitar Street we missed the Meet the Trade dinner and Ronnie Burns although as someone remarked, "his daughter has had more hits!" The Conference awards dinner was an enjoyable event with some great entertainment from Rachel Berger. The judges seemed to get it right on all the awards and although it was unfortunate Ray missed out the on the Operator of the Year with the award going to Superman from Coffs Harbour - as they say in the classics ... "We'll be back".

I would like to congratulate WIOA for staging such a professional event and encouraging us out of our seclusion on the north coast. We will certainly be spreading the word on the value of the organisation – where else can you get such value and access to industry expertise for 20 bucks – and I look forward to showing the Mexicans who has the best training!

Peter Rees

Manager Operations Water
Byron Shire Council



Product demonstrations at the NSW Conference.



Sharing a meal and networking during Wednesday's "Meet The Trade Dinner"

NSW Conference Prizes

Congratulations to the following people and companies for winning prizes at the NSW conference. *The numbers below indicate the corresponding photos shown on the page.*

Actizyme Prize winners:

- (1) First – Peter Outtrim, Riverina Water County Council
- (2) Second – Lindsay Walsh, Mid Coast Water
- Third – John Day, Goulburn Valley Water

Iwaki Prize Winner – Best Overall Paper

Peter Outtrim from Riverina Water County Council

WME Media – Best Overall Trade Site

- (3) Life Rescue International

Royce Water Technologies – Conference Competition

- (4) First – Ballina Shire Team
- (5) Second – Aqualift Pacific Team
- Third – Shoalhaven Water Team

WIOA thanks the 2009 NSW Conference Sponsors:

- Tamworth Regional Council
- NSW Water Directorate
- Rad-tel Systems
- ITT Water and Wastewater
- Acromet Australia
- ABS Wastewater Technology
- WME Media
- Bürkert Fluid Control Systems
- Peerless Industrial Systems
- DMI Australia
- Odour Control Systems Australia
- Transpacific Industries Group
- Environmental Group Limited
- Merck
- Southern Cross Laboratories (Actizyme)
- Royce Water Technologies
- Ciba Specialty Chemicals
- Iwaki Pumps
- Environmental & Process Technologies (a Div. of Biolab Aust.)



A warm hearted thanks is also extended to all the participating companies of the conference comp who put in a great effort in coming up with entertaining and educational challenges for the delegates.

Participating companies were: Royce Water Technologies, Aquatec-Maxcon, Transpacific Industries Group, Control Microsystems, KRE Engineering, ITS Trenchless, i.Power Solutions, WAM Australia, Life & Rescue International & ABB Australia.

Reminder to all Members 2009 fees are now overdue.

A reminder invoice has been sent to all unfinancial Members. Please pay your fees promptly.

NSW Operator of the Year Award 2009

The Water Directorate was pleased to sponsor and support WIOA's conference in 2009 with the presentation of NSW Operators Award. Three worthy nominations were received this year from Ray Collins at Byron Shire Council, Ross Waugh at Coffs Harbour City Council and Daniel Green from Walcha Shire Council. In a close, split decision by the three judges Ross Waugh, Superintendent of Coffs Harbour Water Reclamation Plant was named as the winner. The award recognises initiative, excellent performance and all round attention to detail. Congratulations to Ross who received his trophy from Chair Stewart McLeod at the awards dinner.



NSW Operator of the Year - Stuart McLeod (left) presenting Ross Waugh (right) with his award.

Ross has 30 years of employment with Coffs Harbour City Council and has been involved in a large number of activities with the Council including: Alliance Partnerships for Coffs Harbour Infrastructure (\$150M), Woolgoolga Water Reclamation Plant (\$11M) and the Deep Sea Release project (\$17M). Ross is a motor mechanic by trade and has obtained a number of qualifications since his apprenticeship including Cert 11, 111 and 1V in Water and Wastewater Industry, DECC qualifications, a certificate in BNR from Griffith University and all requisite WorkCover certificates. He has also completed air search and rescue training as part of Council's Water Reclamation Plant being located next to Coffs Harbour Airport. He was involved in extensive community consultation for the Infrastructure Alliance and Deep Sea Release Alliance with fishing clubs and beach user groups.

Congratulations to all three nominees on their outstanding achievements in the water industry. We also want to thank WIOA for their generous donation of \$500 to Tamworth City Council which hosted the event, to a charity of their choice. Tamworth City Council has donated the money to the newly constructed Ronald McDonald House in Tamworth.

WIOA spoke to Ross about his plant upgrade and asked for some information on the plant. Ross sent the following email soon after: "Just a couple of pics of the new Water Reclamation Plant at Coffs Harbour. Its design capacity is 72000 EP, it replaces the existing plant of 42000EP it's based on the five stage Bardenfo configuration.

The project was delivered under an Alliance between Coffs Harbour Council, Abigroup and John Holland Water and sub Alliance partners GH&D CNF&A and Aquatec Maxcon. I am still wading through 36 gigs of pics. I'll send you more when get them sorted."



Aerial view of the Coffs Harbour Water Reclamation Plant.



Construction works at the Coffs Harbour Water Reclamation Plant



KWATYE (WATER) PRIZE

Only two months to go before Kwatye Prize applications close. There's still time to get your application in. Can \$6000 help develop your water project or idea? For more information go to www.wioa.org.au and click on the Awards page.

CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

Level, Positioning and Flow News

Reliable level technology monitoring floc blanket height and water clarity

Application Problem:

The customer had used another brand of sonar technology, but the changing density of the floc blanket, required constant calibrating changes. The sonar would measure lower than the top of the floc blanket. The floc blanket was also very dynamic, due to hydraulic imbalance. Another problem was when the clarifier “slimed” and the floc blanket broke up and floated in suspension. It caused a build-up on the sonar transducer and required cleaning manually. The client wanted minimal operator intervention.

Solution:

Hawk installed a high frequency sonar transducer, optimized to cover the very light density floc blanket ranges, specified by the client. An automatic sludge cleaning system was also installed, to periodically clean the sonar transducer.

The sludge cleaner has a factory guarantee. The second analog output for the ORCA transmitter was used for measuring the clarity of the water, between the floc blanket and the face of the sonar transducer. This provided feedback to control room operators, of a process problem.

Hawk manufactures the largest range of sonar transducers, to provide optimized performance for all bed level density applications.



Contributed by Hawk Instruments

Goldrush

This is a summary of an article that was found on the web.



In the last six months the rolled-gold sewage has netted more than \$250,000. A town in Japan has come up with a novel way of beating the country's crippling recession: by extracting gold from its sewage. The appropriately named town of Suwa in the Nagano Prefecture is collecting the precious metal from the waste it processes, earning the sewerage plant hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Sewerage plant official Yoshihide Nakayama is in charge of reclaiming the gold.

“When we found the gold in the sewage we immediately put it under lock and key,” he said.

Mr Nakayama's line of work is not for those with a weak stomach or a delicate constitution.

His plant treats 140,000 tonnes of sewage a day.

Sludge is extracted from the effluent, and the residue is compressed and dried, producing fly ash. It was in this ash that plant workers began discovering gold.

“I was very surprised,” Mr Nakayama said. “but I am also very grateful.”.....

There are several theories as to how the gold is making its way into the sewerage. One theory is that it is coming from the city's numerous gold-plating factories, but the gold-plating industrial union's Yasuho Shimojima is quick to dismiss that idea.

“Gold-plating factories would be out of business if they let all this gold go down the drain,” he said. “Gold contained in the drains is collected.” Mr Shimojima has another, just as plausible theory. “I think the gold is coming from the hot springs in the city,” he said. Many believe that gold from an underground vein has leached into Suwa's famous hot springs, which has ended up in the sewerage system. There certainly is gold around the city; records show that a large goldmine was opened up in the 16th century by a feudal warlord. Whatever the solution to this mystery, plant official Yoshihide Nakayama has come up smelling like roses. “It may be a mystery. Who knows if it's from the factories or the hot springs? All I know is I'm grateful to be making money from this sewage,” he said. In fact, in the last six months this rolled-gold sewage has earned Mr Nakayama's business more than \$250,000.

By North Asia correspondent Mark Willacy for AM, ABC News
Posted Wed Mar 18, 2009 11:37am AEDT. Source
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/03/18/2519365.htm>

NSW Conference; Perspectives

Get to meet some of the people that attended the recent NSW Engineers & Operators conference and find out why they were there.....

WIOA voluntary helper:

Stephen Laird; Epsom Environmental

"I'm interested in the water industry and enjoy helping WIOA. It's a great way to network and find out what's going on in the industry. I also like the food!"

WIOA thanks Epsom Environmental for donating the survey prize for the Media Filters seminar



Exhibitor: Roger Summerill; MSA The Safety Company

"Having lots of fun! We have an opportunity to exhibit safety products & target the utility market which we believe is a growing market for us. It's been a terrific response so far."

Host: Bruce Logan; Tamworth Regional Council

"Great to see the NSW WIOA conference in Tamworth. Tamworth Regional Council was delighted to host the event with the Entertainment Centre again proving a wonderful venue. Talking to many of the 90 odd exhibitors they said they had some great contacts for future work. Also great papers delivered by very committed operators. A real success -congratulations WIOA and we look forward to the next conference."



Paper Presenter: Lindsay Walsh; Midcoast Water

"I wanted to present a paper as I think someone would get some benefit from it and learn from our experience. I'm talking about denitrification after an upgrade at the Old Bar STP. Every operator should join WIOA, it will only benefit them in their jobs & help raise the profile of Operators. Thanks to WIOA for having us."

Prime Sponsor: Shannon Wall; ITT Water and Wastewater

"ITT enjoy sponsoring and attending these events as it allows us to give back to the industry which supports us. It's great exposure for our new products such as UV, ozone & RO. We highly value this series of exhibitions & are proud to be a supporter of WIOA."



Delegate: Geoff Warren; Orange City Council

"This conference and exhibition has been really good. There's been interesting papers and it's great to see so many exhibitors here. This is my 3rd NSW conference and I'll keep coming back! I strongly recommend it to everyone."

When water levels fall

Pinching some words off a corny TV ad, “the rains are ere!” is a true statement for some parts of Qld and NSW following their recent floods, but Victoria is still in the midst of its worst ever drought.

Although much of Victoria has experienced some reasonable rain in April 2009, ranging from 30mm to 110mm in the mountains, this is the first decent falls since about October 2008. The dust has settled slightly, but the water storages are still at or around record low levels.

The majority of the water storages in the north of Victoria are operated by Goulburn-Murray Water (G-MW), predominately to supply irrigation water to farmers. On the Goulburn system, the main storages are Eildon Reservoir and the Waranga Basin near Rushworth.

The Waranga Basin supplies water to farmers and towns as far away as Pyramid Hill and Ouyen in the Wimmera Mallee area. Waranga has a total capacity of 411,000 ML with around 26% (105,000 ML) as dead storage not able to be released by gravity. In order to supply additional water to farmers and urban users, two major pumping stations have been established tapping into the dead volume.

WIOA had the opportunity to visit the Waranga pumping stations recently to see first hand the extreme measures needed to supply water in these dry times. Utilising the pumping stations, G-MW can access an additional 86,000ML of water not able to be released by gravity. Accessing this water allows a 7% increase in Goulburn System water right allocation in 2008/09.

The major pumping station consists of 12 Batescrew pumps (1041mm diameter suction and 762mm discharge) with each motor delivering 185kW output. The pumps have a capacity of 130ML each per day, with each pump weighing 3.5tonnes and being 10m long. The pump motors weigh 1.8tonnes each. The site does not have power so three major gensets are used with a total output of 3750kVA. This requires 69,000litres of fuel storage over 3 tanks.

The second minor pump station operates with three pumps and motors of the same specifications as the major however with slightly smaller gensets with a total output of 1,600kVA. The maximum estimated fuel consumption is 8,000L/day between both pump sites. The power produced by the gensets is equivalent to the amount which would be used by a town with a population of approx 3,500.

As the pumps are located below the Full Supply Level, after the irrigation season the pumping stations are dismantled and the pumps and motors are removed for storage. These extreme measures have been employed in 2002/03, 2006/07, 2007/08 and in 1928. The estimated cost to pump the dead volume in 2009 was \$2.0M which was funded by G-MW customers.

Source: Fact Sheet April 09 and Waranga Basin Drought Emergency Pumping 2009 Facts and Figures supplied by G-M Water.



Jim Wheelhouse - Project Manager, Goulburn-Murray Water at the Major Pumping Station pump suction inlet.



Major Pumping Station control systems.



Discharge from the pumps.

New Members

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

WIOA hit a milestone in March 2009. Our 1000th Member joined. Patrick Berry from NSW was unsuspecting when he sent in his membership form. For becoming our 1000th member Patrick is receiving an all expenses paid trip to our Victorian Conference in September. Congratulations!

New Individual Members include

Graham Parkin, Danny A. West, David Piening, Bernie Magher, Paul Rodwell, Michael Wright, Gary Boekbinder, Wolfgang Hofbrucker, Ian Thomas, Michael Richards, Jodie Chick, Andrew Cooper, Ian Hodgins, David Lawrence, Joel Ball, Neville Barry, David Bedggood, John Bosch, Justin Bourke, Des Brooks, Robert Brown, Leigh Cheshire, Paul Cofield, William Collie, Leigh Corbett, Peter Cousins, Garry Dann, Peter Dolny, Shane Emmins, Graham Gibbons, Michael Gigliotti, Jeramy Gillespie, Ron Harding, Matthew Harris, John Huggins, Mario Iannotta, Stephen Kjar, Jim Little, Allen McDonell, Mark Nunn, Adam Panozzo, Des Parkin, Brian Peacock, Garry Phillips, Mark Pitches, Trevor Reaper, Dennis Regulski, Michael Regulski, Andrew Roberts, Geoffrey Robinson, Jamie Rossato, Aaron Sewell, Stuart Silvester, Paul Walter, Ross Waugh, Gary Wingrave, Ross Waugh, William Collie, Darryl Johnston, Mark Nunn, Johan Du Toit, Rohan Latham, Babu Radharkishnan, Josh Flint, Kimberly Lippmeier, Robert Kelso, Christopher Wood, Peter Spencer, Naseer Ud-Din, Greg McLean, Sue Verrier, Miles Comben, Geoff Hobden, Zoe Burnett, Brian McCombie, Bill Highland, Steven Mowat, Elaine Mowat, Warren Martin, Areika Martin, Kevin Creighton, Daniel Green, Ron Partridge, Matthew Maxwell, Don Chesworth, Glen Lapham, Andrew Coote, John Fittock, Jack Izzard, Shane Smith, Bill Pope, Llyn Williams, Brian Johns, Brett Merton, Nathan Gardiner, **Patrick Berry**, Chris Perry, Tony Corby, Sally Hawkins, Todd Graham, Michael Walker, Glenn Jeffrey, Bret Mendham, David James, James Slade, Rod Batterham, Nicholas Hassan, Peter Rabbidge, Craig Bolin, Garry Boatwain, Tony Henderson, Michael Doolin, Maryanne Evans, Robert Hasemann, Earle Townsley, Mal Wright, Bruce Fischer, Neil Cummings, David Gatt, Scott Brown, Anthony Blair, Peter Rees, Ray Collins, Daniel Swann, Peter Baker, Peter Duzevich, Ben Sim, Danny Roberts, William Oldroyd, Matthew Bowman, Scott Tucker, Timothy Hood, Douglas Hill, Anthony Burrell, Garry Northam, Daniel Harris, Nathan Bakewell, Dallas Peacock, Simon Vernon Smith, Shannon Doherty, Michael Tate, Ken Lane, John Halpin, Garry Franklin.

New Corporate Members include

Mt Buller & Mt Stirling Alpine Resort Management Board, Gwydir Shire Council, Wagga Wagga City Council, Bilfinger Berger Services, Storm Plastics, Singleton Shire Council, Inode Pty Ltd, Measuring & Control Equipment, Automation IT, Eimco Water Technologies, H2ORx/Chemical System Consulting, For Earth, Aquabiotics Industrial, AAP Industries, SebaKMT Aus, Ecotech.



Postcards: It's always good to find out what members are up to. Kristy Bourke recently left Victoria to take up a role in the Northern Territory and she dropped us a line and her new address.

'The weather here is good, always the same so I miss the excitement of going to work in Warrnambool not knowing if I will freeze to death or be hot (or probably most likely both). Other than that not too much to say really, the job is fairly different and like everywhere else in the industry there are definitely challenges, but the people are friendly and helpful so I can't ask for much more.'

Coming Events - 2009

- 13 to 15 May** WIOG NZ conference, Dunedin
- 16 June** Distribution System Optimisation Seminar, Caloundra
- 16 to 18 June** 34th Qld Water Industry Operations Workshop, Caloundra
- 1 to 3 Sept** 72nd Annual Victorian Engineers and Operators Conference, Bendigo

2009 Office Bearers & Committee

President

Anthony Evans
Phone (03) 5564 7608
Mobile 0419 103 885

Vice President

John Day
Phone (03) 5832 0630
Mobile 0409 959 841

Executive Officer

George Wall
Phone (03) 5821 6744
Mobile 0407 846 001

Committee

Barry Waddell

Phone (03) 5152 4221
Mobile 0419 878 085

Peter Kitney

Phone (03) 9235 2670
Mobile 0400 852 378

Stephen Wilson

Phone (03) 5244 0800

Russell Mack

Phone (03) 5177 4659
Mobile 0427 331 586

Stan Stevenson

Phone (07) 3035 5720
Mobile 0458 040 001

Graham Thomson

Phone (03) 5226 9109
Mobile 0408 993 756

Peter Tolsher

Mobile 0419 337 151

Peta Thiel

Phone (03) 9437 2600
Mobile 0419 765 189

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All correspondence should be addressed to:

Editor
PO Box 6012,
SHEPPARTON, VIC. 3632
or email: Cynthia@wioa.org.au
Website: www.wioa.org.au

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