

OPERATOR

May 2010 Edition



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What better way to spend a weekend! The 2010 Weekend Seminar crew. More on page 5

The clock is ticking for David Barry our new IDIOTS member. Find out why on page 9.



Distribution Systems Seminar at South West Rocks. Read more about it on page 4.

Newsletter of the WATER INDUSTRY OPERATORS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

From the EO's Desk

Looking at the big year planner on the wall in our office, I was intrigued by the number and scope of events we have staged, attended and/or contributed to in the three months since the last Operator was published in February.

WIOA was given the opportunity to address the Water Industry Skills Taskforce (WIST) meeting in late February and we were able to provide an overview of operational, skills and training based issues from our perspective. The presentation was well received and we look forward to contributing further to future Taskforce initiatives. It is important that we continue to provide information to groups/initiatives such as this to assist in providing a balanced and broad range of views on operational issues.

A new one day seminar – “Optimising Chemical Dosing, Coagulation, Flocculation and Clarification” was introduced to the industry with just over 100 people attending the event in Melbourne. A second staging is being held in Brisbane in the first week of June and we plan to run additional events as the year progresses.

We attended the Ozwater conference in Brisbane in early March and contributed to the training based workshops run as part of the conference. There is no question that skills and training issues across all roles and sectors of the water industry are moving to the forefront of discussion agendas.

The Weekend Seminar and AGM at the Lady Bay Resort in Warrnambool in March was heaps of fun as usual, and there were some really excellent presentations this year. After some constructive discussion, the proposed changes to the WIOA Constitution were all approved and the document has been sent off to Corporate Affairs for ratification. Interested Members can obtain a copy from the WIOA website. There is a report on the seminar later in this edition of Operator.

The GSA Water Industry Advisory Committee meeting was held in Hobart. The main outcome from the meeting was that the proposed amendments to the Water Training Package (NWP07 Ver 2) were held over to be incorporated into the full package review which is required to be completed by December 2010. Importantly, the Technical units developed in 2008 at Certificate IV level have been quarantined and have been guaranteed to be included in the revised Package.

The NSW conference at Bathurst in April was a resounding success with lots of positive feedback from both delegates and exhibitors alike. Our thanks are extended to the hosts – Bathurst Regional Council and all the sponsors and other participants. More details on the conference including all the award winners appears a bit later in this edition.

The relevance and importance of the trade expos at the conferences is best exemplified by the fact that for the first time in our history, all three trade shows have “sold-out”. The support for the Victorian event blew us away with all 180 Trade Sites sold in less than 5 working days. It is up to us to return the favour to the industry suppliers by bringing as many people as possible along to both the Qld and Vic events as either delegates or visitors.

Whilst mentioning our conferences, we are looking forward to the

Qld event to be held in Rockhampton in late June and delegate and visitor registrations are still being accepted. The Call for Papers for the Victorian event in September is still open and as usual, we need lots more abstracts from operators. The message that we are constantly delivering is that the platform and poster papers don't have to be highly technical. We want to know about issues that you've had and how you've resolved them, no matter how trivial you feel they are. Remember, someone else may be in exactly the same boat as you and by sharing information, the whole industry can benefit.

After around three years of discussion and what is now draft No. 6 (and we hope the final version), the “Victorian Framework for Water Treatment Operator Competencies - Best Practice Guidelines” was recently released by the Victorian Department of Health. WIOA has been involved in this process from the word go and once implemented, for the first time in the Australian water industry, minimum standards for training and experience for water treatment operators will be specified and required. In addition to the Victorian Guidelines, we are pleased to advise that COAG has picked up on the importance of this issue and has signed off on a national requirement that all “potable water operators be Certified”. The National Water Commission has announced funding for a project to determine what form the “Certification” will take. Obviously, WIOA is keen to be involved in this project as we have a lot of knowledge and expertise to offer. We'll keep Members informed as this project develops.

I consider myself extremely fortunate to have been able to participate in the Operators Tour to New Zealand in May. The WIOG crew headed up by Dave, Damian, Nick and the rest of the NZ Committee provided us with a once-in-a-lifetime experience that I know none of us will forget in a hurry. There was a mixture of learning, socialising and cultural experiences all rolled into the nine day program. It made it even more special to share these experiences with a great group of people. We'll make sure that we provide a report and some photos in the next edition of Operator.

It was off the plane from NZ and onto the boat a couple of days later for a trip around Tasmania to meet all the Operational Managers of the three relatively new water authorities. Our thanks are extended to Jim Martin for arranging the meetings and for putting in a good word for WIOA. The support for us in Tasmania had already been encouraging but as a result of these meetings, each authority has indicated a desire to work more proactively with us. We look forward to delivering a range of services, events and opportunities to operational staff in the coming months and years.

Finally, the newly created membership category of “Utility Corporate Member” has been extremely well supported with some 20 water businesses taking the opportunity to sign up all their operational staff. This, along with the usual interest in membership as a result of our various events has swelled Individual Member numbers to over 1100 at the end of April. If anyone would like more information on the benefits of being a “Utility Corporate Member”, please contact the office.

Until next time,

George Wall

WIOA Exec Officer

PROFILE OF A MEMBER

Name

Kent Harris

Position

Water & Waste
Superintendent

Employer & Location

Moree Plains Shire Council,
Moree NSW

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

14 years

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I enjoy all aspects of my job and the people I work with.

How did you get into your current role?

I was a sewer pump attendant, then sat for Certificate 2, 3 & 4 in water & waste water operations. I then became a sewer plant operator in charge and then I was promoted to water & waste superintendent which I have been in for the last four years.

How long have you been a WIOA member?

1 month

What does your current job involve?

Overseeing projects, day to day running of water & sewage plants in Moree & villages plus managing 26 staff.

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

Putting sewage on in small surrounding villages, fluoride & chlorination has been put on in Moree & villages, plus two new water towers have been built in Moree.

Ok, a few quick questions to finish

Age: 49

Nickname: Bucky

Family Status: married, 2 children

Pets: Labrador

Favourite food: Thai food

Least favourite food: Brussel sprouts

Favourite TV show: Domestic Blitz

Worst TV show: Home & Away

Favourite Movie: Forrest Gump

Current CD in stereo: Bat Out of Hell

Favourite book: Never Say Die by Dr Chris O'Brien

Ambition in life: Lots of travelling & enjoy life

Hobbies: Gardening & landscaping, fishing & camping

Best Trait: Sense of humour

Worst Trait: Collecting sprinklers (water) all sizes

Four people to invite to a BBQ: Noel Cleal, Des Hassler, Manly football team, Mark Skaife & Rick Kelly from the Holden Racing Team



Farewell Rex Humphreys

After more than 36 years in the water industry, Rex Humphreys has decided to retire from North East Water. Over the years, Rex has performed a variety of roles in the delivery of water services to the region. He began as a turncock in Rutherglen, before progressing to Superintendent of Works, where he oversaw the construction and installation of infrastructure for water and sewerage projects. From there he ventured into water treatment, first as an operator, then a supervisor. His final role has been as a Treatment Technologist, a position he has held for the past eight years. During his career Rex has encountered a number of challenges. The drought and associated water quality issues have been a constant over most of the past decade, while bushfires have presented their own set of problems, and enabled Rex to exercise his knowledge and experience to produce workable solutions. In 2008, Rex gained industry recognition when his presentation on the implementation of a portable treatment plant at Bright won Best Paper at the WIOA Victorian conference. He will depart North East Water at the end of July no doubt quite satisfied with his achievements in the water industry, and will be deeply missed at North East Water.



Rex Humphreys pictured at various WIOA events.



WIOA Member Draw



The Royce Water Technologies member draw was conducted at the NSW conference and the lucky winner was Chris Seam (pictured on the left) from Kempsey Council and he was present in the room! Pity this time we didn't actually have the prize there to give away however Arthur Kokolekos from Royce was happy to discuss delivery of the BBQ with Chris. Congratulations Chris and thank you Royce Water Technologies for the prize. We wonder what the prize will be next year?



Workshopping by the Sea

Contributed by Peter Anderson & Toni Kraaymaat



The picturesque South West Rocks Surf Club was the chosen venue for the Water Quality Awareness & Distribution System Management Seminar held in late October 2009. This seminar was initiated by Kempsey Shire Council and WIOA's George Wall to fulfil Council's wishes to raise the level of awareness of reticulation system management issues to all its operators.

The training was attended by thirty Kempsey Shire & Hastings Council operators and to save costs was conducted at South West Rocks being a close facility with lovely ocean views.

Peter Mosse delivered an interesting presentation covering public health / water consumer issues including pathogen management throughout the whole reticulation system. This included the often forgotten source water catchment management, the treatment process, storage facilities and reticulation mains to the consumer connections.

Using a workshop hands-on approach with brainstorming sessions, the seminar highlighted important issues and offered possible solutions. Having a good mix of attendees from a variety of operator backgrounds including maintenance, construction and process, led to vigorous and highly interactive discussions on issues such as chlorinating reticulation systems after water main breaks, cross contamination, new works and other challenging water security issues.

Although Peter covered a large topic, the positive participation from the operators within the brainstorming sections of the workshop showed we are all willing to improve our processes to ensure the correct steps are taken to safeguard the potable water supply.

Several months on from the seminar delivery, operators are still keenly interested in how they can improve their processes to further secure our water quality. Independent brainstorming sessions within the different areas of the water utility have now been carried out and procedures are currently being developed to put these improvements into standard practices to further protect from cross contamination and ensure the security of the reticulation system is protected.

We cannot thank George & Peter enough for travelling to Kempsey to conduct this very successful seminar. It is great to see WIOA flexible in its approach to helping small water authorities in the management of water systems and training of our operators.

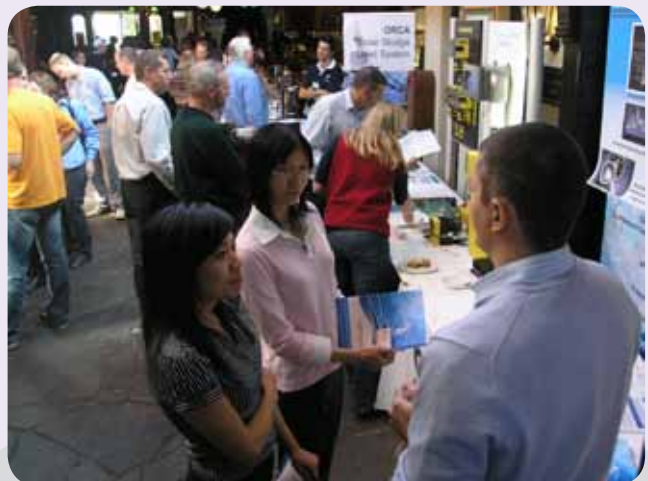
It is hoped future workshops can be held at the same venue with WIOA's and Peter Mosse's support. Excellent job again Peter & George, it shows your strong dedication to the water industry and its members.

One day seminar on Optimising Chemical Dosing, Coagulation, Flocculation and Clarification

WIOA conducted our first seminar on the topic Optimising Chemical Dosing, Coagulation, Flocculation and Clarification in the outer suburbs of Melbourne in early March. There were close to 100 attendees. The presenters; Peter Mosse, Peter Gebbie, Kirsten Hulse, Ian Soutar and Astrid Modrow delivered a very informative program covering the topic comprehensively. There was also opportunity for a mini-trade show which allowed WIOA to gather together suppliers for some of the key equipment used in coag/flocc. WIOA will be repeating this seminar in Brisbane on the 1 June.



An attentive audience at the seminar.



Time to stretch the legs and ask questions of the mini-trade show suppliers.

Weekend Seminar Report

Contributed by Kristine Hunter

This year's weekend seminar saw a fantastic turnout with close to a full house, at the Lady Bay Resort located on the Great Ocean Road, in Warrnambool about three hours drive from Melbourne.

The WIOA AGM was a bit longer than normal due to discussions on the proposed changes to the Constitution. With this sorted, the rest of the meeting was over in a flash. The weekend seminar kicked off with a welcome from Andrew Jeffers (General Manager Wannon Water) who praised the value of the new Utility Corporate Membership scheme and pledged continued support to WIOA, Wannon Water staff and the various WIOA events.

The first corporate presentation was by Cliff Pancutt of i.Power Solutions. Cliff gave a brief presentation on the history of SCADA and RTU systems and how they are utilised today – including an attempt to de-mystify all of the acronyms that we are confronted with in today's modern industry!

A very informative and lively Interactive Forum was held on the topic of Asset Maintenance. Information regarding the various aspects of asset maintenance – why, how, who and when – was presented by John Day ('The Goulburn Valley Water Experience'), Bruce Smith (from Kyabram Rewinds), Gordon Templeton ('Condition Monitoring' – 'us' Utility Services/Siemens) and Gary McLay (Wannon Water asset management system). Of particular interest was the economic cost of not maintaining your assets and the discussions regarding the various systems and management practises in place around the traps – about the only thing we had in common was that we all did things differently! The messages taken away from the forum were that a good asset management system can save time and money and result in significant improvements in asset reliability; that there are simple and inexpensive tools available that render valuable assistance to all asset managers; condition assessment is of importance in determining the correct maintenance regime to implement (not to mention correct installation and commissioning!) and, last but by no means least, education and training of staff leads to better understanding of the overall cost of asset creation / acquisition, operation and maintenance, replacement and disposal.

In a change from tradition, instead of gathering all of the newcomers (fondly referred to as 'virgins') together for a karaoke-style sing-along, each was given a 'challenge' to perform.



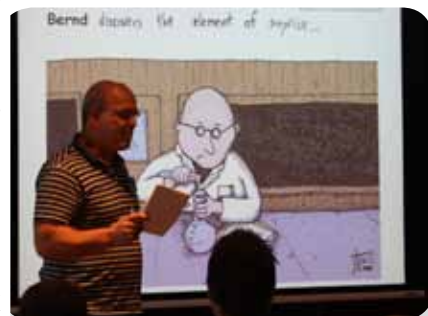
John Day kicking of the Forum on Asset Maintenance



Some people really know how to dress for dinner - Gordon Templeton (L) and Pat Davis

They were all successful in their allotted task and are to be congratulated for their ingenuity and for being such good sports!

The 2009 Kwatye Prize winner, Bernd Vetter, gave an excellent presentation on the progress to date on his objective to communicate effectively the contribution made by all people who are involved in our industry, their passion, responsibility, and most importantly the opportunity for young people to come on board and counteract our skills shortage. If his 60 second teaser video 'Water – Make it your future' is a sample of the direction and standard of his project then the final product should be one to look out for and be proud of.



Bernd Vetter's mirror image

This was followed up with a talk by Graham Thomson, 2007 Kwatye Prize winner, regarding his experience as a 'Kwatye-ite' and how it helped with his personal / professional development as well as benefitting the industry by being involved in a collaborative project with WSAA and CSIRO investigating sewer blockage management.

There were two more corporate presentations – Steve Kimmins (Electronic Keying Australia) and James Laverty (DCM Process Control). There was a lot of murmurings and head-nodding as Steve explained how we could do away with the myriad of keys we seem to accumulate and solve the dilemma of handing out keys (especially – gasp – master keys) to vast numbers of contractors. James then followed up with a presentation of on-line analysers that can continually monitor the process and the effluent quality of your wastewater treatment plant (amongst other applications). A sobering example of on-line monitoring versus grab samples demonstrated the value of gathering quality data in order to develop quality processes for existing or new plants.

Many thanks to Wannon Water, the Lady Bay Resort for their excellent service, Bernd Vetter and 'us' - Utility Services - for the dinner door prizes and to the following companies for supporting the event: Grundfos, DCM Process Control, Electronic Keying Australia, Water Infrastructure Group, i.Power, Kyabram Rewindings and Sperian Protection.



Steve Kimmins performing his challenge of undertaking hotel duties.



AGM - All in favour.....raise your hand.

Report on WIOA NSW Conference

Congratulations to WIOA for staging yet another successful NSW Conference (at St Stanislaus' College) in Bathurst, New South Wales.

As a member of WIOA for a number of years and as an attendee of several NSW Conferences over the last lot of years it was great to see delegates from so many different areas. I was able to talk to a number of delegates that had never attended a conference before and listen to their positive comments over the two days.

The conference gave me the opportunity to catch up with many people I have met over the years including past work colleagues and people from the industry that always want to stop, chat and catch up. The conference provides such a good opportunity to meet people, network and make lasting contact either as friendships acquaintances or for business.

The conference provides the opportunity to mix, mingle and talk to people doing the same job, using the same equipment, solving the same problems; also to listen to and talk to people who are leaders in their work and industry. For me, attending such conferences are inspiring and motivational and necessary to maintain interest and keep people up-to-date with new equipment, technologies, systems and processes in their own work.

I think rewarding people for their work by sending them to conferences is a wonderful idea and I hope the practice is adopted by many more workplaces.

Contributed by **Mark Chappell**

Conference Award Winners:

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

Actizyme Prize – sponsored by Ecolab

Winners for Best Paper by an Operator

1. First: Steve Glennan – Shoalhaven Water. Paper titled "Shoalhaven River Crossing (Nowra NSW) Sewer Main Repair."
2. Second: Bob Banning – Bathurst Regional Council
3. Third: Pat Davis – Riverina Water

Best Paper Overall – sponsored by Iwaki Pumps Aust.

4. Fiona Conlon – Port Macquarie-Hastings Council. Paper titled "Weathering The Perfect Financial Storm."

Best Trade Site Overall – sponsored by WME Media

5. VoR Environmental

VALE - MARK CHAPPELL

Mark Chappell was tragically killed in a car accident near Blayney NSW, less than a week after the Bathurst WIOA conference, just a day after drafting the attached report. Mark was known as a hard working and enthusiastic individual who had a great passion for the Water and Wastewater industry. He will be sadly missed by all that were associated with him. In the last ten years Mark had filled the roles of Water Treatment Plant Operator at Hunter Water and Port Macquarie Hastings Council and Water/Wastewater Senior Operator at Griffith City Council. He had just embarked on his latest adventure with Bathurst Regional Council in March this year. In his short time here he had made a great impression and was liked by all. Our thoughts and well wishes go out to Mark's loved ones and may their loss be softened by the knowledge that he will be sorely missed by his many friends in the Water Industry.



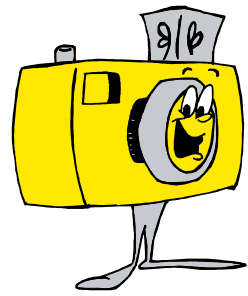
Thank You to Bathurst Regional Council

WIOA would like to extend our thanks to the staff of Bathurst Regional Council who went beyond the call of duty to help make the WIOA conference a success. Special thanks to Russell Deans, Alison Reilly, Garry Hawkins, Bob Banning and Danielle Ballinger. Without your assistance, we could not have done it.

Snapshots from NSW Conference



1. Actizyme Winner - Steve Glennan Shoalhaven Water (L) & Bob Campbell from Ecolab



2. Actizyme second prize - Bob Banning (L) & Bob Campbell



3. Actizyme third prize - Pat Davis (R) & Bob Campbell



4. Fiona Conlon (R) with Ian Jesson from Iwaki Pumps



5. VoR - Winner WME prize - Best trade site overall



NSW Conference - Messages from the Exhibitors:

Well done to the WIOA volunteers and committee members for what was a great conference for visitors/delegates and tradies alike - hats off to you all. Merck is glad to be involved in WIOA events again this year and we believe we get the most out of our investment at WIOA conferences. The WIOA events attracts the right demographic for our business and we always come away from such events with high spirits (and a little hang-over) and we commend the WIOA committee for taking ownership of your own events. Well Done

Shane Jordan-Hill, Merck

We had a great time this year at WIOA. The location and venue was excellent and we had some very good enquiries to our stand. The awards dinner and trade dinner were fantastic, as were all the terrific staff at WIOA. We look forward to next year's event put us down for that!!

Ian Jesson, Iwaki Pumps Australia.



Word Search by the Water Industry Training Centre

n z p j c w q n i t r n r p a
a o l h a e e r u m o w e u i
p k i t o g n r p i t a s b r
s m e t o s b t t m a z e n e
m r u h a i p c r b r a r h t
w w t p d c e h q e e o v c c
y a j i n f i t o e p r o o a
p p t n n i c f n r o d i l b
a y q i v e o k i e u p r o o
x o s c n e n d z t i s k u n
g i y r t s u d n i r r x r a
d t r a i n i n g i a e t t y
r e t i c u l a t i o n c u c
k a g j o v m u l a i g f z n
g g t d r o h f i d w h a q b

alum
centre
certification
colour
cyanobacteria
disinfection
industry
nutrient
operator

pathogen
phosphorus
pump
reservoir
reticulation
training
turbidity
water
wioa

2010 Kwatye Prize



KWATYE (WATER) PRIZE

Only weeks to go before applications close for the 2010 Kwatye Prize. There is still time to get your application in. What can you do with \$6000 to get your water industry based project off the ground? For more information go to wioa.org.au and click on the Awards page or call the office.

The Lighter Side

The diagram demonstrates the thoughts in a female & male brain during the simple question – "Shall we go to a party?"



2010 NSW OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

As part of the NSW Conference on the Thursday evening Awards night Deputy Chair of the NSW Water Directorate Kent Boyd made the following announcement:

“The Water Directorate has a great relationship with WIOA and is pleased to have sponsored the Operator of the Year Award at all four WIOA Conferences held in NSW.

It Gives Me Great Pleasure To Announce That The Winner Of The 2010 Water Directorate’s Operator Of The Year Is: Les Potter The Superintendent Coffs Harbour Water Treatment Plant”.

In a close decision, this year’s winner Les Potter, is the operator in charge of a variety of water infrastructure from a dam through to a couple of water treatment plants. Les has played an important role in developing the concept design, detailed design, construction, safety design and implementation, commissioning, process description, operating philosophy and control systems for infrastructure under his control.

Les has been involved in the training and mentoring of water treatment and water services staff. He has recently initiated a number of strategies to optimise and reduce the power consumption and chemical usage at a WTP under his control.

Les spends many hours of his own time, monitoring and optimising WTP performance and always responds to any after hours issues with the plant within 30 minutes, either dialling in remotely or attending site, at all hours of the day and night. Les maintains the infrastructure to such a high standard that the dam and WTP are a show piece for Council and the water industry, and are often included on public and technical tours as well as being used as training facilities.

Les is proactive on safety, practising what he preaches, identifying hazards before they become incidences, reporting “near hits”, and constantly improving procedure.

Les has also helped train his own council’s staff and other council staff, provided technical tours for Engineers Australia, other councils, community groups, schools and universities.

Congratulations Les and we trust you will enjoy the trip to New Zealand the recognition from your peers.



NSW Operator of the Year – Les Potter, Coffs Harbour Council (L) with Kent Boyd Deputy Chair of NSW Water Directorate

Worker Safety on the Agenda at the NSW Conference

The NSW Water Directorate also included three safety related papers within the NSW Conference Technical program. Following is a brief summary:

This year Ian Johnson from Paradox Ignited was invited as the Inaugural presenter for this new approach and presented the Opening Address – “Industrial Accident Survivor – Focus on the Safety of Individuals”. Ian’s presentation was very powerful and hit the audience hard. The presentation shared the pain and suffering a person goes through and how just one seemingly innocent act can change your life forever. Ian was totally engrossing, he challenged the audience, was appropriately confronting to drive home his message. Ian must be congratulated for his bravery and for putting a real face to the dangers that water industry personnel face on a daily basis.

The second paper was presented by John Werda of Sydney Water titled “Electrical Safety – Risks in Metallic Pipework”. John’s presentation like Ian’s highlighted the need for standard operating procedures on a wide range of tasks when working in the water industry, to ensure the safety of everyone. Both presentations reinforced the need to take your time, and think about the repercussions of not looking at the risks associated with even the most mundane job which can lead to serious injury, if not death. With John’s presentation it showed that others can make simple errors to electrical wiring on their houses, that can lead to endangering the lives of operators changing a water meter, in some cases many houses away from the initial work.

The last paper was delivered by Pat Davis of Riverina Water about “Lone Worker Safety System Management Trial”. Pat showed how an organisation can be proactive in looking after the wellbeing of its people working in remote locations in isolation. Although issues arose that prevented Pat’s team getting the result they were after, they identified a risk and instead of hoping it never occurs, looked for answers to ensure the safety of their staff.

John Day – NSW Conference Paper Session Manager and WIOA Vice President.

Overseas Adventure..... Lessons learnt.....

Contributed by Arthur Kokolekos, Royce Water Technologies

Late last year my colleague Glenn Fazzino and I headed off to Europe to visit new suppliers of equipment we're now representing in Australia. Our first stop-off was in London en-route to Belgium. Unfortunately there was an overzealous security guard at Heathrow that procured a handsome sum of money for the closely guarded Aussie wines we were carefully carrying, destined as gifts for our suppliers. We broke our backs carrying the bottles through airport terminals and safely onto the plane. *Lesson no. 1:* drink the wine before getting on the plane!

Our first official stop; Belgium, we went to a factory which manufactures a wide range of on-line analysers for water and wastewater applications. Quite by accident our guide had a niece who ran a pub in the city of Gent. We deny spending more time at the pub than the factory! *Lesson no. 2:* have your drinking boots on. Next travel drama; two wrong buses, one wrong plane terminal and three wrong trains including the one delivering us to the airport for our next flight to Germany. Panic! Especially after the train conductor's answer to my question; "When will the train arrive at the international airport?" was "The airport is over there, but this train isn't going over there!" There were a number of running records broken that day. *Lesson no. 3:* make sure you work-out before a trip.

We finally arrive in Germany to learn about a revolutionary ultrasonic sludge disintegration system. Being highly aware of the German precision timing and not wanting to disrupt this and turn up late for meetings, we would reconfirm appointment times each night. *Lesson no. 4:* Germans are always late!

From the north of Germany we travelled to the south. Along the way we visited a number of installations at wastewater treatment plants. The level of technology was amazing. One wastewater treatment plant uses the Ultrawaves ultrasonic reactor to increase their biogas production from their anaerobic digester and together with other efficiency improvements generates enough electricity for it's own consumption and excess which they sell back into the power grid. We also visited a farm that fed maize and manure into digester tanks. They use the ultrasonic reactor to increase the biogas production at the plant to generate electricity. The farmer then sells the electricity back through the grid. Quite topical considering the current debates here in Australia about our power generation. It was pointed out to us that there are hundreds of these plants throughout Germany providing green energy to the local power grid. This program is heavily encouraged and supported by government in Germany.

Our final plant tour was in a small town located at the foot of the Black Forest. Of course the Mayor came out to greet us at the wastewater treatment plant with the local newspaper in tow. Apparently it's quite a novelty to have visitors from overseas let alone from as far away as Australia visiting their town. *Lesson no. 5:* be prepared to be an Australian ambassador wherever you go.

There is so much we can learn from such tours and the information exchange is invaluable. It was pleasing to note that anyone with an interest in the Ultrawaves ultrasonic reactors technology has an open invitation to visit these installations from our partners in Germany.

Lesson no. 6: The glamorous life of a sales rep traversing the globe to bring product and knowledge back to Australia isn't so glamorous. But in the end looking back it is satisfying to know we are contributing to the Australian water industry.



Our tour group including partners from Poland and India at Eschwege WWTP "with the Mayor".

Another joins the IDIOTS ranks

WIOA IDIOTS had the opportunity to welcome another member to the growing number who have been recognised for their services to the Association. David Barry of Aqualift Pacific was inducted very publicly in front of the entire audience at the Wednesday night Meet the Trade Dinner. David was tasked with a scenario of one of his workers drowning in a tank who needed immediate rescuing. David was given 1 min 30 secs to don his wet suit and jump in to save the drowning person.

Although David didn't get all his gear on, he improvised and admirably completed his task with 16 secs to spare. His giant tumble off the 1.5m high stage into the waiting box (entry hatch to water tank containing the drowning person) could have resulted in quite a world of hurt but luckily, he popped out unscathed! Surely deserving of IDIOT status. Congratulations David.



Corporate Member News



WIOA would like to welcome new corporate member Opeam.

OPEAM TAKES UP THE MARINE POLLUTION CHALLENGE

Opeam represents Ecoceane in Australia. Ecoceane is a French Company working exclusively in the area of R&D and construction of ships designed for the innovative and unique method of collection of solid and liquid floating waste and hydrocarbons.

Using a patented principle, and without the use of any chemicals, a turbine pulls a stream of water through a tank equipped with a mesh to filter out solid waste. The stream is then separated into two:

First stream: the turbine pumps away the clean water

Second stream: polluted surface water is channeled into a separator. The waste material is separated out and stored and clean water returns to the main stream and is rejected through the turbine.

The vessels act as "vacuum cleaners of the sea". They are efficient and easy to operate. Fitted with rollers they can maneuver easily between boats and along floating pontoons and quaysides.

The Cataglop XLD (now in Australia) has a cruising speed that allows for daily work in several areas, such as harbours, beaches, rivers and dams. Solid waste is captured in a basket and is automatically tipped into a container on deck. Surface water polluted by oil, hydrocarbons or algae can benefit from this vessel. The vessel can work within a minimum space of 15 metres as long as the water depth is a minimum of 1.5 metres.

For a brochure, please contact Opeam Pty Ltd on (03) 9314 7373 or visit our website at opeam.com.au



The Cataglop XLD operating in Williamstown, Melbourne



MJK Automation invite WIOA members interested in finding out more about the new "Chatter" - battery powered data logger with flexible data transmission possibilities to contact their office and arrange for a brochure to be posted. MJK can be contacted on: (03) 9758 8533 or email: NS@mjk.com



WIOA Bathurst Delegate wins Trip to Perth for Two

Colin Sheedy (pictured centre) of Wingecarribee Shire Council was the winner of the first "Mystery Prize" competition being run by Peerless Industrial Systems to celebrate EPIGEN's 40th birthday. To win the prize which was a trip for two to Perth with two nights accommodation, Colin had to answer a range of questions including: "Which EPIGEN product is most suitable in an acid mixing area? (bund or floor)?"



EPIGEN Epoxy Products include coatings for potable water and WWT facilities, grouts and backing compounds, linings for acid and aggressive chemical resistance, process tank linings, non-skid flooring, pump repair and rebuilding materials, turbine and motor chocking grouts, joint sealants, adhesives, metal repair components and fast set repairs.

To win the next mystery prize, or for more information, visit us at the next WIOA event at Rockhampton or Bendigo, or give us a call. P: 08 9477 3788 E: service@peerlessindustrialsystems.com



Some people have all the fun! Pictured is Steve Godfrey from Anue Water Technologies on his Harley about to visit a customer. Steve and Trudy rode all the way from Qld to Warrnambool to join us at the weekend seminar and made some stops along the way.

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

Scott Adam, Kimberley Akers, David Anderson, Jock Anderson, Luke Anderson, Dean Andrews, Warren Andrusyk, David Armstrong, Neil Austin, Matthew Bailey, Glen Baldwin, John Barry, Peter Bentick, Gary Bentley, Raymond Bilney, Leanne Bodle, Greg Bourke, Sarah Bruce, Walter Burgstaller, Hannah Busch, Jeffrey Campbell, Bobby Carney, Michael Cave, Mick Clarke, Robran Cock, Darren Colbran, Jason Connor, Neil Cooper, Andy Costantinou, Darren Cox, Samuel Cox, Greg Creek, Mick Curtis-Harding, Darren Davies, Ashley Dedini, Anthony Deith, Gareth Dobinson, Ashley Dohnt, Frank Dryssen, Robert Edwards, David Etheridge, Stuart Evans, Anthony Everett, Wesley Featherston-Wilkie, Athula Fernando, Lance Fillmore, Lila Fisher, William Fitzgerald, Michael Flower, Chris Foley, Carl Foster, Gary Fox, Luke Fraszczak, Ian Freere, Niall French, Romano Gaspardis, Stephen Gaunt, Warren Gaylard, Craig George, Sam Gerditz, David Glavis, Zane Goodwin, Neil Griffiths, Andrew Gustus, Jason Guthrie, Matthew Hall, Reg Hall, Wayne Hamilton, Kent Harris, Brian Harrison, Corey Henry, Ivan Henson, Emilio Hernandez, John Hewerdine, Dave Higgins, Ian Hill, Ken Hill, Frank Hobson, Ben Hodgkinson, Graeme Hosie, Catherine Huf, Peter Huggins, Alan Inglis, Jenith Jesuthasan, Kate Johnson, James Johnstone, Richard Jones, Martin Keane, Noel Kenny, Paul Keogh, Rodney Kerris, Matthew King, Gareth Knight, Bruce Lamont, James Laverty, Mark Law, Rachel Lawlor, Brett Leighton, Dave Lindsay, Tanya Luo, Keith Mackay, James Madgwick, Gem Magpantay, Damian Maguire, Tim Mayo, Brendan McEldrew, Glenn McLaverty, Peter McNair, Michael Meeny, James Miskiewicz, Werner Mobius, Astrid Modrow, Tony Montero, Peter Moore, David Morrison, David Morton, Les Moskwa, Scott Murnane, Doug Musgrove, Alan Neethling, Steven Newham, Shawn Nolan, Kathy Northcott, Andrzej Ochamanski, Tara Okan, Stephen O'Keeffe, Lew Oldfield, Narelle Orr, Luke Palmer, Cliff Pancutt, Geoffrey Parish, Darren Parkes, Jayantha Perera, Troy Peterken, Leigh Pettie, Brian Pollard, Andrew Potter, Glenn Potter, Les Potter, Phillip Powell, Scott Rathjen, Brian Reese, Daniel Reid, Wayne Reither, Matthew Rendina, Michael Reynolds, Noel Richards, John Ridings, Frank Rinaldo, Angella Rinehold, Nigel Roberts, Simon Robertson, Colin Ross, Brian Roylance, Leesa Rundell, Gino Russo, Sarah Salmons, Brett Sharp, Colin Sheedy, Noel Shields, Bill Smith, Jason Southcoat, Bruno Spiller, Ian Stanbury, Aiden Stanley, James Stephen, Richard Stiffel, Luke Stitt, Adam Sullivan, Jerzy Szalinski, Tim Tanner, George Taylor, Peter Taylor, Ron Titio, Leslie Tonkin, Wesley Trotter, Andrew Van Bussel, Brendan Vanderdonk, Luke Vienet, Heath Vine, Adrian Voogt, Kevin Wake, Jamie Walker, Rachael Walker, Troy Walker, Brendan Wall, John Wallace, Paul Warren, William Watson, Ken Welsh, Scott Whitehead, Tony Wilson, Wayne Winnell and Glen Zipf.

New Corporate Members include

A.I.M Water, Aquagenics, AVK Australia, Anue Environmental, CalcClear Water Conditioners, iPower Solutions, Kenlec Scientific, Life & Rescue International, Monadelphous Engineering, Novasys Group, Opeam, Process Control Services, Pryde Measurement, Rubicon Systems, Tablelands Regional Council and Vendart.

New Utility Corporate Members include

ActewAGL, Bathurst Regional Council, Berrigan Shire Council, Central Highlands Water, Dubbo City Council, EGL Operations, Gippsland Water, Goulburn Valley Water, Moree Plains Shire Council, Narramine Shire Council, North East Water, Palmerston North CC, Skills Tech Australia, South Gippsland Water, United Water, Wannon Water, Western Water and Westernport Water.

Coming events - 2010

26 & 27 May	VSORG Meeting, Airey's Inlet.
1 June	One Day seminar on Chemical Dosing, Coagulation, Flocculation and Clarification, Brisbane
23 & 24 June	35th Annual Qld Water Industry Operations Workshop, Central Qld Uni, Rockhampton
20 July	Closing date for Kwatye Prize applications
1 & 2 Sep	73rd Annual Vic Water Industry Engineers & Operators Conference, Bendigo

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Next Edition

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