

OPERATOR

Autumn 2011 Edition



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Boys will be boys! The new look WIOA hats on sale for charity have been released. The Coffs Harbour boys were happy to model them at the recent WIOA NSW conference. Read more about the conference on pages 10-11

Find out all about “Boys and their Toys” - meet Fatjay on page 7



Congratulations to the NSW Operator of the Year announced at the NSW conference – Allen Paul (r) pictured with Stewart McLeod from the NSW Water Directorate.

**BUMPER
EDITION**

Newsletter of the WATER INDUSTRY OPERATORS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

President's Prattle

It is with great pleasure and pride that I undertake the role of President of WIOA. Having been on the WIOA committee under the presidency's of Cynthia, Tolsh and Anthony, I have seen us grow from a predominately Victorian organisation to what is now a truly national body. I hope to keep this momentum rolling forward over the next two years while I'm in the hot seat. It was very pleasing to be involved with Cynthia travelling around Taree and Coffs Harbour a month ago talking to our colleges in NSW, running operator forums. A special thanks to Garry Northam from Mid Coast Water and Ross Waugh from Coffs Harbour City Council for helping organise these meetings and the tours around their brand new state-of-the-art plants. The feedback we received is that WIOA needs to keep on raising the bar and offering the water industry community a great service through the many events, website and publications offered.

This year 'Operator' will be themed allowing us to "show-off" our members. The first 'pink' edition was a real hit and we thank our female members for their stories and contributions. This 'blue' bumper edition is of course about our 'Y' chromosome members but most importantly about what makes WIOA members tick. It covers our passions, our joys and tribulations, the ability to take on often very physically demanding work and match it with mental acrobatics, proudly categorising Operators as 'can-do' people who are flexible and can think outside the square. We are all "MacGuyver's" in one way or another!

Unfortunately I missed our first major event for 2011 – the NSW conference in Newcastle. The feedback I have received has all been positive but the cherry on top this time was not about the number of attendees (which was huge), the exhibition (which was superb) or the location (which was great) – the feedback was all about the people. Delegates and exhibitors alike have been telling me about the sense of family and community they felt at this event. This has made me feel all warm and fuzzy inside – maybe it takes a few gatherings before we all feel comfortable with one another. The 5th conference could be that lucky number where organically the one or two people that we know has grown to 30 or 40 people and we don't feel so isolated, new or unsure of what happens at a conference.

It's interesting how we all continue to go through massive changes in a relatively short period of time. Whether it be from the worst droughts to the heaviest rainfall and floods, amalgamations to contracting out works that traditionally

had been run in-house, onto running the most basic of direct filtration to the Mickey mouse, bells and whistles microfiltration and desalination systems. Change is always a constant in the water industry. This leads me onto the photo below, since we are sharing our hobbies and passions in this edition.



Every year I get together with a group of mates to swim the Pier to Perignon, a 4.2km swim from Sorrento to Portsea. The swim originated when two mates "Robbo" and "Big Ted" competed against each other for the bragging rights and a bottle of bubbly. Every year we get a photo of the two of them with our motley crew, before we head to the pub for some well earned ale. Turns out "Big Ted" who is now referred to as "Premier Baillieu" has now gone on to bigger and better things and is now technically my boss. As I say, change is always around the corner in our industry.

Keep on raising the bar

John Day, WIOA President



WIOA is pleased to announce the release of the AUSTRALIAN WATER MANAGEMENT REVIEW 2011.

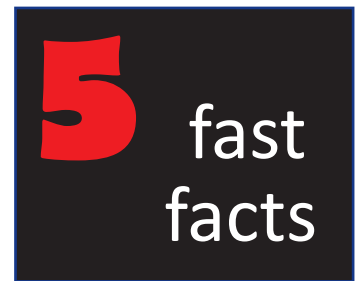
Inside is the Industry Foreward penned by our very own EO, George Wall and also an article titled: "The Australian Water Industry - The Other Crisis."

A hard copy of this magazine will be sent to all our corporate members shortly. We would encourage our individual members to view the E-book.

<http://ebook.aprs.com.au/issue/27721>

Get to know your elected Committee Members for 2011. We asked them a few hard hitting questions.

1. What is your Nick name?
2. Favourite Food?
3. If you could have one super power what would it be?
4. Who is your personal hero?
5. What do you love about WIOA?



 <p>John Day President</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jughead 2. Anything hence the nickname 3. The ability to find the remote at anytime. 4. Black Adder 5. The people and the passion 	<p>Graham Thomson Committee Member <i>Barwon Water</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Thommo .1 Seafood .2 Read Minds .3 Captain James Cook .4 The diversity yet common goal .5 
 <p>George Wall Secretary/Treasurer</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dog, hound or whatever 2. Kangaroo steaks on the bbq 3. Midas touch 4. Charlie Sheen 5. Working with passionate people intent on improving our industry 	<p>Peter Tolsher Committee Member <i>Environmental Group Limited</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Tolsh .1 Any seafood .2 Great at all sports .3 My wife (putting up with me) .4 Being part of the larger water industry family .5 
 <p>Russell Mack Vice President <i>Gippsland Water</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rusty 2. Polo Fettuccini 3. JC power (to be able to heal) 4. Hunter Jackson (Grandson) 5. The friendships I have made. 	<p>John Allen Committee Member <i>Seqwater</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> JA .1 Chinese .2 Flying .3 John Howard, he got Australia out of debt .4 Its cross industry knowledge and membership base .5 
 <p>Anthony Evans Immediate Past President <i>Wannon Water</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rabbit or Sooty – depends who you talk to. 2. Anything, as long as its dead. 3. To see the future. 4. John Day 5. The camaraderie. 	<p>Bret Mendham Committee Member <i>Seqwater</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mendo .1 Aussie BBQ .2 Able to Fly .3 Bill Gates .4 Opportunity for Operators to express their views.5 
 <p>Stephen Wilson Committee Member <i>Water Industry Training Centre</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not sure, I get called many names 2. Mushroom quiche 3. 20/20 foresight - having 20/20 hindsight doesn't impress enough people 4. Homer Simpson 5. All the opportunities offered 	<p>Ryan McGowan Committee Member <i>Goulburn Valley Water</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ryno .1 Chocolate .2 Mind reading .3 John Day! Seriously - my Mum .4 They empower their members to make a.5 difference in an industry that makes a difference 
 <p>Barry Waddell Committee Member <i>East Gippsland Water</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WIOA mates refer to me as 'The little fella'. Old school nickname was Squid 2. Thai 3. See what's around the corner 4. Jason Bourne 5. The mateship and networking 	<p>2011 is the International year of the Volunteer.</p>  <p>The WIOA committee (except for EO George) are all volunteers and WIOA has essentially grown and developed from a volunteer base. Our achievements have been great and could not have been realised without the great work and support of many dedicated members. We take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers - present and past for their time and support.</p>

Armidale's O₃/BAC Treats Taste and Odour

Due to the foresight of previous generations of public works engineers, Armidale in New South Wales is blessed with a good supply of water. Its main reservoir Malpas Dam, with a capacity of 13,000 megalitres, was constructed in the late 1960s and very seldom goes below the 90% full mark. However, due to the nature of the 200 square kilometres reservoir catchment there is extensive leaching of nutrients into the storage reservoir. The resultant highly organic and nutrient rich water is an ideal breeding ground for blue green algae with cell counts at times being in excess of a million cells per millilitre. These blooms generally occur between November and March, although large concentrations have been experienced as early as August and some have persisted until as late as July. In recent years the blooms have occurred more frequently and lasted longer.

Since the 1980s the Armidale Water Treatment Plant (WTP) had been dealing with water contaminated with the compounds produced by the blue green algae. Although the processes used over this period, which included the application of approved algaecides, destratification and dosing with powdered activated carbon, were generally successful, they were time consuming and costly. In general the powdered activated carbon dosing plant has handled taste and odour problems reasonably well since its inception. There have been only a very few complaints from consumers. That being said, ensuring that it is used effectively is an expensive process that requires constant vigilance. Armidale Dumaresq Council (ADC) needed to find a better long term solution that would deal with any eventuality, including a toxic algal event, lessen the workload on the plant operators, reduce the potential for human error and minimise the chance of organic contaminants affecting the quality of the treated water.



Ozone equipment

Ozone and BAC filtration were identified by councils consultants as being the most appropriate treatment for Armidale. Ozone BAC is a two stage process that consists of injecting ozone into water and allowing it to stay in contact for a predetermined time, followed by filtration through a bed of biological activated carbon. The ozone breaks down complex organic matter into simpler molecules that are readily biodegradable and are consumed by the biomass growing in the granulated activated carbon.

To test the effectiveness of these processes under actual conditions, Hunter Water Australia installed a pilot plant at the Armidale WTP that operated between December 1998 and April 2000. The pilot plant was set up to treat either filtered or settled water from the WTP. Ozone was added to these streams and the ozonated water was then passed through pilot scale biological activated filters. The pilot plant program investigated the removal efficiency of the process for compounds causing taste and odour, algal toxins and *Cryptosporidium*. The water quality parameters resulting from the different processes tested were analysed and compared to determine effectiveness.

Following these tests and engineering, economic and risk evaluations it was decided that the construction of a secondary ozonation (dosing ozone between the settlement tanks and the filters) and BAC plant was the best option. This was the first time this process configuration had been proposed for Australian conditions.

In 2006 ADC in-house personnel, under the direction of HWA, commenced the refurbishment of the existing filters at the WTP in order to convert them to BAC filters. The filter nozzles were removed and a new nozzle system with much tighter level tolerances was installed. A bed of Garnett topped by granulated activated carbon was then put into place. The ozonation equipment, supplied by ITT Wedeco was installed in November 2008 and the plant was in full operation in April 2009. During this time ADC had made other improvements to the existing water treatment plant, including a new programmable logic controller (PLC), that have enhanced the ease with which operators can control both the existing plant and the new ozonation process.

The final result is a more effective plant that at the same time requires much less effort to run. The plant is much easier to control and the ability to access the PLC remotely provides greater flexibility. We used to have to man the plant 16 hours a day and at weekends and the shift work involved was very disruptive. Now we all work a normal working day during the week and one of us attends to the plant on site for just two hours on Saturday and Sunday. A much more operator friendly regime.

The quality of the plant and its innovative approach were recognised in September 2010 when against strong competition it won both an excellence award and the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority sponsored award for Infrastructure Excellence in Regional Communities at Engineers Australia's Newcastle Division Excellence Awards. However, the true measure of its success is in the change in the attitude of the operators. To quote Phil Sercombe, a long time employee at the plant "The treated water is a lot clearer, but more importantly we have a much greater peace of mind when an algal bloom occurs, as we are no longer stressed by worrying that taste and odour problems can break through in the final water despite our best efforts." A better quality water and happier operators is an outcome that everybody can applaud.



Phil Sercombe testing a water sample

Contributed by Mike Brooks, Armidale Dumaresq Council

YOG at the Weekend Seminar

In the last edition of 'Operator', an invitation was sent out inviting all 'Younger' WIOA members to come along to the WES and start a small networking group for Younger people within the industry. It was a great turn out. A special mention must be made to the interstate travelers Kristy Bourke and Ben Attwater in their efforts to make the weekend.

The decision of selecting an appropriate name for the group was first on our agenda. Keeping the KISS principle in mind – the group eventually came up with **'THE YOUNG OPERATOR'S GROUP' or YOG**. Kristy came up with a great slogan idea too "Taking excellence to the future" which is a bit of a play on the "excellence in operations," a catchy motto for the group.

The main outcome from the meeting was that we all agreed on the initial need in creating a networking group focused on attracting and encouraging the participation of younger people to the association from within the industry. The term 'younger people' refers to members under the age of 35, which is a loosely imposed criterion for members of the group.

As well as this the group identified a need to push the process of transferring the extensive knowledge, skills and expertise of people within the association and industry to younger generations. The group will plan to meet twice per year at the WES and Victoria conference. Other WIOA events such as the NSW and QLD conferences will be used as opportunities for the group to conduct informal get-togethers amongst younger attendees.

For now we are extremely keen on promoting the group's main objectives and focus on encouraging and further engaging with younger individuals in the work place to bring forward their ideas, concerns and issues they experience. The group has the potential to be an excellent networking tool, but at this early stage its development and progression is solely dependent on our commitment!!!

If you or someone you know would like to contribute in any way to the Young Operator's Group please feel free to make contact with the WIOA office for our contact details.

Contributed by Adrian Rijnbeek, EGL

Myth: The quantity of water is what matters not the quality!



Busted! While the water is now in the storages – the quantity is there – it is the quality of that water that is providing many difficult treatment challenges and reticulation issues. Quantity is very important the water firstly must be available for supply, however, we must not forget the importance of quality. Meaning it doesn't matter how much water is available it has to be treatable to the standards required otherwise public health issues may arise. Currently we are experience water quality that is nothing like what we have treated in the past due to the catchment run off and filling of storages last year and earlier this year.

Contributed by Sallyanne Bartlett, Senior Process Scientist
Veolia Water Australia

Inaugural PASS Award Winner



WIOA was approached in 2010 by Aqualift Pacific with an idea for a new award. They proposed the **"Problem Accepted, Solution Supplied"** or in short "PASS" award which is designed to encourage water industry operational staff to share their "in the field innovations" and/or "fixes to problems" so that others in the water industry can benefit.

To enter the award, water industry operational staff are required to complete a simple application form template and submit it for judging.

Aqualift Pacific, as the PASS Award sponsor, will provide sponsorship to a maximum of \$2000, to allow the award winner to join the WIOA team on their annual operational tour of New Zealand, including attendance at the Water Industry Operations Group of NZ annual conference. This year the conference is in Queenstown.

At the application closing date, WIOA received six completed forms, a great effort in the first year. Wayne Shaw from Gippsland Water was announced the inaugural winner of the prize at the "Meet the Trade" dinner at the NSW Conference. Wayne's application was titled: Measuring pH problems overcome.

Applications for the next Award are now open. Visit the WIOA website for more details.



Wayne Shaw (L) with David Barry from Aqualift Pacific.

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Public Speaking Anyone?

WHY DID I?



Ever wondered how people can get up and speak in front of an audience without feeling scared or intimidated?

I did, and I had a very strong message I wanted to communicate to everyone who works in the water industry, but how could I get up and speak to an audience? I've never done that before!

Ten years ago, I had a friend who worked in the Workplace Health & Safety (WH&S) industry, who wanted me to tell my story. "No way!" was my reaction. Standing up there, everyone looking at me. NOT ME. Not in my life time, but then we met up again. This time he put a different slant on things.

"People can relate with you. Workers will listen to you. Industry can learn from you."

With my partner's help I started to look at the positives and actually what I could communicate to people. How could I get myself to have the nerve to get up and speak in front of an audience?

Through my work in the water industry as a Wastewater Network Operator, I was requested to speak about my work to our industry partners. Only small two to five minutes talks. Nervous? - sure was; but I looked at it as a challenge.

With a lot of encouragement (push really) from the project leaders, they asked that I present at a WIOA conference in Caloundra. Whoaa boy! Not sure I can do that. I don't know anyone in the audience there but I submitted a paper (with plenty of format correction from George) and I'll be damned they accepted it! Had to do it now.

First time at a conference to give a paper. Yes, me giving a paper that I wrote. Who'd ever thought!

Day One: nervous as hell. Relaxed by catching up with some old workmates and making some new mates. Every one of them, offering their condolences - I mean encouragement!

Day Two: still nervous. Going over what I had to run through. A few kind words from Peter Tolsher - choose the first day next time.... and the next minute I'm up on stage talking about what I have achieved and enjoy about my work. I may have uhm'd and ahh'd a few times, I may have forgotten a few things that I rehearsed. But hell, I had just gotten up and communicated to people I didn't know, for 20 minutes!!! People were now shaking my hand for getting up there and giving it a go.

WIOA's conferences are a terrific platform for operators to present to their peers. Everyone is there to offer support, encouragement, to listen and learn from each other. I know I did.



After that experience I was now confident that I could tell MY story warts and all. Talking about my work is easy, but talking about ones' self and personal experiences was very difficult. However I knew that I had a very powerful message to get out and across to all.

To stand there and put pictures of yourself (very graphic images) up on a big screen in front of strangers was terrifying to say the least. To talk about your life in very private detail, your workmates and what they went through. How you are forced to change not just your life but that of your family.

You see I was burnt to 80% of my body in an explosion in a confined space. One of a kind type of incident, that helped re-write the protocols for entering a confined space (WH&S ACT March 1992).

I still work in the water industry; I still work in entering confined spaces. Some say I'm mad, but hey no "monkey" anymore. I now present and speak to all industries enlightening them about my experiences after the incident.

There are some people out there; yes, I have spoken to them, that think my story is just another push on safety. They think themselves or their employee's won't take anything from my presentations, or the fact that incidents don't happen. Head in the sand approach - not my responsibility.

The fact is, the water industry can be a dangerous place to work and every individual is responsible for one's own safety and that of their workmates. No matter whom they are!

If I can help prevent one person from experiencing what I went through or from being injured or even worse death, it's worth every bit of self humiliation that I can take.

THAT'S WHY I DID IT! To find out more check out Ian's site: www.paradoxignited.com

Contributed by: Ian Johnson, Paradox Ignited

Boys and their Toys

One thing we all have in common is that we are WIOA members - another commonality are the many interests outside of work that keep us ticking and keep us interested in life! Read about some of our Members and their toys.

Meet FATJAY

This is my 1955 FJ Holden. I have owned it for about 8 years, and recently completed a full rebuild which took 4 years.



The 'go' fast bits are made up of 350 (5.7 litre) Chevrolet engine which makes about 355 horsepower (265 kilowatts), 3 speed Turbo 400 automatic transmission and a 3.25 LSD 9" Ford differential. This is not huge power, but the car only weighs 1300kg so it makes for a fun ride. The car has been engineered and is legally registered with these modifications.



It runs 4 wheel disc brakes and a UC Torana front end. Interior consists of 2004 VY SS Commodore front seats, modified Commodore rear seat; all re-trimmed in dark grey cloth with navy blue highlights. Wheels are "Boyd Coddington" custom built 17".

Catch up with me at one of the WIOA conferences if you want to know more!

Contributed by Tim Sells, Acromet

My Brougham



I started working for Portland Coast Water in 1996 in Port Fairy as a Works Officer, at this stage we were responsible for Water and Sewer pump station Ops and Maintenance and Retic maintenance. In 2003 I gained the position of Superintendant, this involved supervision of all works involved with the general running of sewer pump stations, water pump stations, retic and the Port Fairy's Domestic and Industrial Water Reclamation Plant. In 2005 the local districts joined forces to become Wannon Water. At this time my role changed to a Senior Operator and I now operate water and WWTP's. I currently work in a team of nine and rotate between Plants. I enjoy working in the water industry as there are always different challenges that pop up to keep the brain ticking over.

One of my hobbies is restoring cars and generally tinkering in the shed. I came across this car about four years ago without an engine, transmission, diff or wheels in the local paper and thought it sounded like a good deal. After having a look at it I bought it - as it was fairly priced and didn't need much work to get it to where it is now.



Since then I have fitted a 308ci Holden V8 which I already had built for my other car and a Trimatic transmission, I also fitted a Ford 9" diff and Weld Racing Wheels which I also had already purchased for my other car. The body was in good condition, already painted in Pearl White which only needed a good Cut and Buff to bring it back to life. Other than that the whole car just needed a good tidy up. I have entered it in a couple of car shows in the past but have now begun to do some minor repairs on the body which will probably end up either being a major overhaul or I may even put it on the market to fund my other project which is a 1974 HQ Statesman Deville.

Contributed by Heath Cameron, Wannon Water

Weekend Seminar Report – I Finally Did It!

I finally did it! - I joined the WIOA after several years of contemplating it. A sales representative at work, talked me into joining and attending the WIOA conference in Mooroolbark “...there are lots of people like you attending from all over the place. The event entails presentations, food, accommodation and drinks” he said. Mmmmm I thought. I phoned around madly to see if there were any of my friends planning to attend and found some relief in knowing that there would be. Curiosity made me look forward to the weekend.

It turned out to be a beautiful warm and sunny day. We met at the Melbourne Water, Winneke Water Treatment plant. It is set in a picturesque setting beside the reservoir framed by the rolling hills and surrounding gum trees. I was happy to catch up with friends and speak to people I had previously met and also to meet new people. We began with a tour of the plant and goggled with delight at their impressive flow diagram lighting up with bells and whistles. The plant was impressive and well kept. I always find it interesting seeing different treatment sites and looking at the different equipment used.

After this we headed down Yering Gorge to see the pumps next to the Yarra river which top up the reservoir. I felt the ground vibrating outside the pump station as we entered into the building. At last I saw massive large pumps in a dry well there was a long flight of stairs to climb down to the bottom but there was also an elevator in the pump station!



The impressive high tech flow diagrams all attendees remarked – ‘I want one!’

After the tour we all joined up at the conference centre and lodgings, so far, so good I thought.... We had some lunch. After this we had an introduction about what is WIOA and the role it plays as a support network for Operators. Following this, the annual general committee meeting was held.

Not long after this, shock horror!! Being a “virgin” (a new comer to the WIOA weekender) I was given a task to carry out before the end of the day.... So I spent a lot of time thinking mmm should I do it or should I give it a miss.... I did it, it was not that bad. It was to run in front of the camera just as the group photo was being taken..... It made me wonder during the rest of the day if other peoples’ activities such as wearing a wig were also linked to the virgins’ rite of passage. All in all I don’t think any “virgins” were traumatised by their assigned task and it made for great stories afterwards.



Now that’s a pump impeller – ‘Look ma - I can fit my head in this!’



There’s me in the front – they made me run out at least twice in front of the group without telling anyone why!

The rest of the day was spent with presentations, one of them included an imaginative role play by Jonoco in the open amphitheatre which made us laugh. The staff even topped up our glasses with margaritas from their chlorine dosing injection unit. This was definitely the best presentation I had attended for a while as it was difficult to concentrate within the seminar room while it was such a beautiful day outside.....

I would recommend this seminar to any new-comers. It is a great way to network and to meet people of similar professional interests on a social level. It is also a definite advantage to know that those people may be able to provide you with helpful contacts or support if you ever get stuck at work in the future.

Cheers !!!.... I look forward to the next one.

Contributed by Lale Rogeon, South East Recycled Water Alliance

EMERGENCY DOSING MAN, MAKES HIS DEBUT

EMERGENCY DOSING MAN (EDM) who has quickly developed a reputation as a ‘do-gooder’ was reportedly seen at WIOA AGM last month. EDM (as know to his friends) was understood to have saved the lives of two water supply operators attempting to carry out a confine space entry.

Investigators, who arrived on site spoke to the site supervisor. The supervisor said, “I didn’t know what had occurred and why my two colleagues had been incapacitated.” He went on to say that he was very thankful that he had spent the time preparing his

safety documentation which led to him calling EDM.

EDM responded at lightning speed, the supervisor said if it wasn’t for the his efforts and the application of his PORTABLE DOSING UNIT, which was used to administer his emergency elixir of life his two colleagues may not have made it.

EDM left the scene at the same speed that he had arrived. Investigators were not able to question him and the mystery that surrounds EDM continues to this day, WHO IS THAT MAN?

Emergency Dosing Man to the rescue – WHO IS THAT MAN?



Thommo Joins The IDIOTS Ranks

The information below was read at the 2011 weekend seminar to honour Graham Thomson as he was Inducted as a **Delegate of the Inobsticably Obstructed Tap Society (I.D.I.O.T.S.)**.

WIOA's Membership records only go back to the mid-1990's but we know Graham Thomson joined some time before 1994. This means he's been a member at least 18 years. He was elected to the Committee for the first time in 2001 and has been voted back on ever since.

In 2002 the Vic conference was held in Geelong and keeping in mind that we didn't have full time staff back then, Thommo did a power of work getting things organised from his end.

In May 2003, Thommo took over as editor of the "Operator newsletter" and he sorted out a sponsorship arrangement with Barwon Water for its printing and production. Thommo helped produce 14 editions of Operator and stayed on as editor until November 2006 when responsibility was transferred to the WIOA staff once they were employed full time.

Thommo also helped arrange a sponsorship deal with the Barwon Water print department that allowed the conference books to be printed and bound for a number of years at a greatly reduced rate to WIOA.

In 2007 Thommo applied for, and was awarded, the Kwatye Prize and did a project investigating the possibilities of improving the reliability of service to customers and system operators within a sewer reticulation system. As a result of this Kwatye Prize and the many people he met, Thommo was able to help organise a special WSAA seminar on sewer networks which was held in conjunction with our NSW conference in 2008.

The attendees at the weekend seminar then learnt that Thommo is a keen sailor – a fact that was utilised for his IDIOTS induction challenge. After watching a 1 minute kids video to give him guidance, Thommo had to construct a bosuns hat out of newspaper – a task he failed miserably. He was then required to construct his own sailboat from parts supplied and then with his hands behind his back, generate enough wind to manouvre his boat around an obstacle course. He did little bit better at this task with the not so well balanced boat crashing on many occasions. All in all, he proved himself a very deserving IDIOTS member.

Thommo's strong point is not newspaper hat making



Wind in the sails



Sailing – Take Me Away.....

Contributed by Graham Thomson, Barwon Water

As you now all know – I am a big fan of sailing. I started sailing in a two person dingy as the skipper with my sister as crew in 1966 at the Royal Geelong Yacht Club. Over the years I gradually moved onto larger and larger boats. Currently I am sailing as one of the 10 regular crew members on a keel, i.e. big, boat called Jimmy Blacksmith. The racing/sailing season is undertaken between October and April - generally Saturday afternoons on Corio Bay, Geelong. An interesting point about this current crew is that I am the second youngest, there are two yachties on board who are in their 80's and a few in their late 70's thus at the Royal Geelong Yacht club the crew on board are called the Old Salts of the Sea! Despite the age of both boat & crew Jimmy is competitive in its division and apart from the general yelling, the crew enjoy the camaraderie of a successful day on the bay.

In addition to conventional sailing I also have done a bit of sailing on the old square riggers and as a keen fan of Captain James Cook and a member of the Captain Cook Society; I had the opportunity to enjoy a 12 day trip as "voyage" crew (i.e. had to pay & still work) in 1996 on the Endeavour Replica from Adelaide to Albany. This trip involved being part of the crew that manned the Endeavour during this voyage and included climbing the masts to help set the sails – yes I did climb to the top of all masts! I was one of the few not to get sea sick during the rough weather that was encountered and being in "good shape" I was also required to go aloft in rough weather to assist in getting the sails furled up. (Sorry about all the nautical terms but they do not make much sense if common "land lubber" terms are used!)



Jimmy Blacksmith on Corio Bay.

The Endeavour has now been purchased by the Australian Government and is usually part of the Maritime Museum at Sydney but recently the Endeavour has set off on a circumnavigation of Australia. Anyone interested to learn

more about Endeavour go to: www.endeavourvoyages.com.au/



Thommo on board Endeavour in 1996.

NSW Conference – Attendees Thoughts

The 5th Annual NSW WIOA conference at Newcastle did not disappoint. The WIOA committee should be heartily congratulated on a first class affair. I would advise all water industry operators in NSW to join WIOA. I know that we certainly took plenty away from the technical paper sessions and that the problems we experience in our daily operations are certainly not unique.

I am sure that many Councils who sent delegates would have benefited from their attendance with problems being solved through the networking with other delegates. I am sure their investment in the delegates attendance will reap rewards in the future. The many trade exhibitors had a great variety of products to make the operators life easier. Congratulations to all the award winners and of course hearty congratulations to the winner of the limited Don Bradman print, Me!

Lindsay Walsh, Process Operator,
MidCoast Water

Editors note: Lindsay was a very excited and proud winner of the limited edition Don Bradman print which was generously sponsored by Challenger Valves and Actuators for the WIOA charity raffle at the conference.



The proud winner –
Lindsay Walsh (R) with
Mark Jackson from
Challenger Valves.

I thoroughly enjoyed all aspects of the WIOA conference held at Newcastle. The event was my first experience of WIOA and I was lucky enough to be offered the opportunity to present a paper. It was extremely encouraging to see how supportive WIOA and the conference delegates are of the younger generation of people working within the water industry. I would like to thank everyone at WIOA for all the hard work that is put in to make these events such well organised, informative and enjoyable occasions.

Brenden Bates, Engineering Assistant,
Riverina Water County Council

Editors note: Brenden was a great contributor to the NSW conference – he got up on stage to present a paper and came second. He was also brave enough to be part of the entertainment by being hypnotised. What goes between three and five?



Second place Actizyme
Winner Brenden Bates
(R) with Alex Madarasi
from Ecolab.

Just a quick note thanking the hard working committee of WIOA for putting on a great conference. It was great to see some old faces I haven't seen for years. Credit must go to those young operators who had the balls to get up in front of their peers,

engineers & designers and talk about the issues we all face in commissioning & operating upgrades to our plants (maybe more designers should get involved!). The highlight had to be the entertainment - first class acts - a hypnotist, comedian & Lindsay Walsh what a show - how much did he cost! Cant wait for next year. I have two young operators eagerly awaiting to present their paper & become part of WIOA. Many thanks on a job well done.

Garry Northam, Manager - Treatment and Storage, MidCoast Water

Award Winners

Congratulations To All The Award Winners

**Iwaki Pumps
Australia Prize
for Best Platform
Paper Overall**

Katie Jones,
Hunter Water
Australia



Katie Jones (R) with Ian
Jesson from Iwaki Pumps

**Ecolab (Actizyme) Prizes for Best Papers by
Operators**

1st

Graeme Berriman,
Gosford City Council

2nd

Brenden Bates,
Riverina Water CC

3rd

Robert Palmer & Ken Barker
Port-Macquarie-Hastings
Council



Graeme delivering his winning
paper at Newcastle.

WIOA Prizes for Best Poster Presentations

1st

Glenn Clifford,
Dubbo City Council

2nd

Ross Waugh,
Coffs Harbour City
Council

3rd

Les Potter,
Coffs Harbour City
Council



Glenn Clifford (R) with George Wall

Conference Snapshots



NSW Operator of the Year Award

Sponsored by



Allen Paul was recently announced the winner of the prestigious NSW WIOA Operator of the Year Award. Stewart McLeod, Chair of the Water Directorate presented Allen with his trophy at the recent 5th WIOA NSW Annual Conference held in Newcastle. In addition to his trophy Allen has also won a trip to New Zealand, joining other WIOA delegates on the study tour in May.

For the past nine years, Allen has worked as the Shannon Creek Dam Site Officer for Clarence Valley Council, located on the north coast of NSW. The relatively remote Shannon Creek site covers 37 square kilometres of environmentally sensitive catchment area and is considered culturally significant by the local Aboriginal community. Allen is only operator working at the dam which is open to the public four days a week.



Allen Paul being interviewed at the Shannon Creek Dam

The dam site includes \$100 million of infrastructure: a dam, a pump station, recreational facilities and a viewing area of the artificial lake. In addition to his responsibilities as an operator, Allen has also taken on responsibilities similar to that of an environmental reserve officer. Through his own initiative, Allen conducts information and education sessions to visiting tour groups, on both the technical aspects of the water system and the natural environment of the area which includes a diversity of flora and fauna, some of which is rare and endangered.

Allen Paul's dedication as an operator as well as his enthusiasm as an educator about the facility and the local environment makes him a very worthy winner of this year's Award. Congratulations Allen Paul.

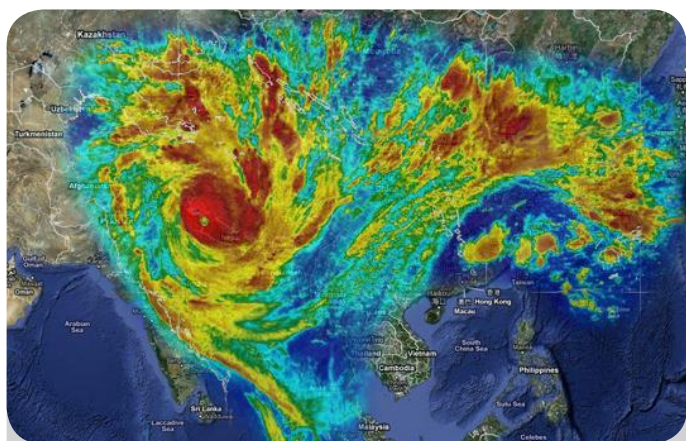


Allen Paul with his awards.

Yasi Kicks Cassowary

The Cassowary Coast region consists of Innisfail, Tully and Cardwell with Cairns to its north and Townsville to its south. In 2006, Innisfail was the centre of media attention when Category 4 “Larry” went through the township. On February 3, 2011, this idyllic region once again bore the brunt of nature’s forces with the onslaught of Cyclone Yasi.

Cyclone Yasi covered a wider area than Larry, indeed, it was a Category 5 cyclone with an estimated eye of 35 km. To give an idea of its magnitude, if it were to pass the Northern Hemisphere, Yasi would be so large, it would almost cover the USA.



What if Cyclone Yasi had passed over the USA ?

Figures released by the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) estimated the highest wind gust to be 290 km/h, while BOM observers estimated the wind speeds in Tully and Innisfail of 220 km/h.

One can imagine that from an operational and disaster recovery viewpoint, Yasi would be a nightmare for the Water and Sewerage (W&S) Section – and it would have been, had we not put into place our pre-cyclone documentation procedures. It was this preparation, as well as a strong sense of duty and willingness to work together that enabled us to work through it.

Safety First, Then Water

After ensuring that all members of staff and their families were safe, the team immediately started work. The first priority was to assess the water and sewerage infrastructure in the entire region. As Misison Beach, Cardwell and Tully were worst hit, the Water Manager relocated his base of operations to Tully. The other team members were spread across the various geographic areas to provide technical support and communications with the Disaster Coordination Center (DCC). All W&S staff were provided a copy of the most up-to-date Disaster Standard Operating Procedures which listed contact numbers, valve, reservoir and pumpstation locations, as well isolation procedures. The power outage

meant generators had to be sourced immediately to power our chlorinators for disinfecting water, and sewer pump stations to prevent overflows. The request for generators was put through to the DCC immediately.

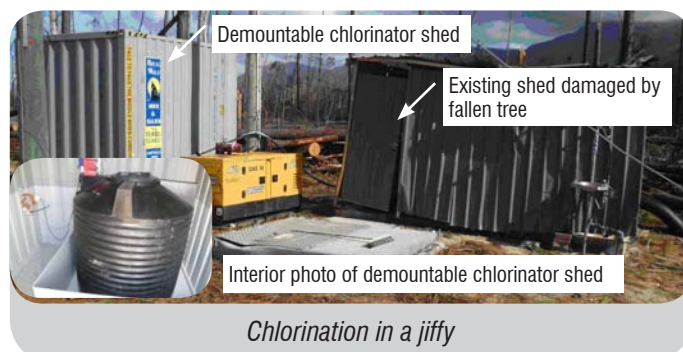
Water for the township of Tully was top priority. A broken town water main proved difficult to find from all the debris, chaos and flooding; however long hours and assistance from our plumbers in Innisfail proved that nothing is impossible with teamwork. With the chlorinators still out of commission, Queensland Health (QH) ensured a boil-water notice was placed almost immediately. Hence, *E.Coli* was next on our agenda.

If At First You Don't Succeed, Test, Test, and Test Again

The criteria for the removal of the boil-water notice, required that we conduct two separate rounds of testing with no detection of *E.Coli*. We were the required to notify QH so that their personnel could carry a third round of testing before the drinking supply was deemed safe for consumption. The prompt request for generators ensured our chlorinators were up and running within days. However, testing requirements meant that it would be several more days before the boil-water notice could be lifted.

Love Thy Neighbour (and Army)

The assessment of infrastructure, damage reporting and all the critical repairs undertaken were beginning to take its toll on our team. We were provided all kinds of support from the personnel of Cairns Regional Council (CRC) and the Army. Donations of gumboots, gloves, shovels, small generators and bottled water came in thick and fast – one could say Cyclone Yasi was fought with a cyclone of kindness. A demountable chlorination shed was brought in by CRC for Cardwell, because our existing chlorinator was destroyed.



Technicians from CRC brought spare batteries and parts for our sewer pumpstation switchboards in Mission Beach which were damaged by salt water. Acknowledging the help we received, we did not forget our neighbours in Jumbun – a small community 40km south-west of Tully. They were also hit hard, and we did our best to assist them.

The Long Road to Recovery

With homes destroyed from the storm surge in Tully and Hull Heads, Mission Beach, and Cardwell, temporary housing is now in the process of being erected. The W&S team is also formally documenting damages for reinstatement. The Disaster Standard Operating Procedures will be updated with new ideas, and even more details. To quote the Premier, “*We are Queenslanders. We’re the people that they breed tough, north of the border. We’re the ones that they knock down, and we get up again.*”



Cassowaries begin to scavenge for food further away from their habitats



Local humour



This once green region is now stripped of foliage

Contributed by Kevin Loh, Cassowary Coast Regional Council



QLD water providers shine in wake of Qld Flood and Cyclone Yasi

qldwater and the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) commend the achievements of Queensland water service providers who have excelled in their post flood and Yasi efforts.

qldwater executive committee chairman David Wiskar said water service providers in Queensland's flood and cyclone-affected areas have shown effective pre-disaster plans, local knowledge and community commitment helped to limit water infrastructure damage and expedited recovery efforts – with many communities resuming water services within days of the devastating events. “As an example, the areas of the Cassowary Coast and Cairns in Far North Queensland sustained various levels of damage to drinking water and sewerage infrastructure and/or experienced significant loss of power and communication services in the wake of Cyclone Yasi,” he said.

Mr Wiskar praised the resilience and dedication of the local government, disaster management and essential services staff that have been on the ground coordinating the emergency efforts since the events occurred. “The staff have worked tirelessly, immediately initiating their disaster management plans and establishing emergency communication networks to ensure the safety of their communities. In some areas they had to immobilise bottled water and generators and work with external providers to re-establish power and water services. The outcome was certainly a remarkable achievement and a credit to the men and women who work together to provide us our most valuable resource, our water.”

Cairns Water Manager, Bruce Gardiner said 65% of Cairns and the surrounding area had their power cut for up to 60 hours after the event. “To maintain our water services to the community, our staff had to use portable generators and undertake ‘milk runs’ to keep our 50 water reservoirs topped up and empty 230 sewer pump station wells. The staff worked an incredible 1,500 hours in the five days from Wednesday to Sunday.”

Mr Gardiner said Cairns' neighbours on the Cassowary Coast, particularly those communities around Cardwell and Tully where they received the full brunt of the storm, had a far greater challenge. “They suffered substantial infrastructure damage including damage to chlorinators, pumps and pipes. They have done an incredible job with such small teams to manually maintain their services while undertaking full assessments of damage to plant and equipment. Thankfully by the following Monday after the storm hit, we were able to send half a dozen staff to help support them to get back on their feet.”

Vale David Heritage

Sadly WIOA member Dave Heritage passed away in March 2011. Following are some stories we would like to share.



Colleagues of Dave Remember

*In his 27 years of service Dave conducted his duties to the highest of standards, his service to Goulburn Valley Water customers was exceptional. His assistance to fellow GV Water employees was always highly efficient and most effective. **Neville Whittaker***

*Dave was a practical and pragmatic worker, always rock solid support to his District Manager, a leader and mentor to operations staff, and most importantly an indelible part of the social fabric of our workplace and great friend to many. **Peter Quinn***

Many years ago David, a small work team and myself were working cutting in a new sewer connection into the sewer main. David was at the top of the trench and he sneezed and his top false teeth flew out of his mouth, hit the timber trench supports and fell down the 3.5m deep trench and landed in a turd in the bottom of the trench.

David asked one of the boys in the trench to get his teeth, of course the response was "No, get your own \$!&*ng teeth." So, David climbed down, picked up his teeth, wiped them clean on his overalls and put them back in his mouth, then climbed back out of the trench. When he got to the surface, he thought - I better sterilise my teeth, so, he went to the ute and got a bottle of disinfectant out of the first aid kit and washed his mouth out and swallowed. This was followed by him spewing up his stomach for the next 30 mins. **Neville Whittaker**

The following story was written by Dave some time ago sharing some work methods of the past with his work mates. We felt was a great depiction of what was done THEN to compare it to NOW.

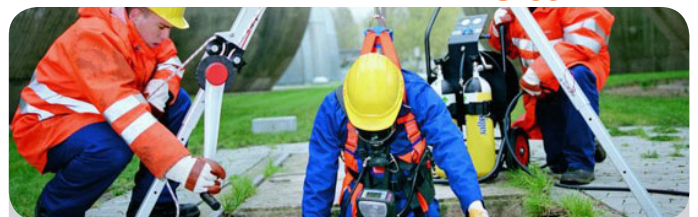


I started with the Shepparton Water Trust in 1982. In my time I have seen many people come and go and some I've been glad to see go! The water industry has changed greatly since I started, particularly with the invention of CCTV, we would have to always dig up the sewer to find the problem. Under pressure tapping tools (we used a chisel and got very wet). Air Bags for sewers, we used brass plugs and when the job was finished we would go down the manhole to loosen the plug and pull on the rope and then try to beat the sewage out of the hole. We used to get caught now and then and have wet legs.

For gas detectors, we would use a Garforth lamp and litmus paper, the lamp flame would go out if there wasn't any oxygen and the litmus paper would change colour if there was gas present. The new young guns don't believe me when I tell them how jobs were done and what we used, they just look at me silly, come to think of it they always do. I will work that one out one day.



The very Garforth lamp Dave used.



Today Confined Spaced Entries are a very different process – JSA's, two up one down, harnesses, tripods, personal gas detectors, forced air (if needed), walkie talkies, air lines, pneumatic plugs, self rescue kits, PPE and more.

Life as an Inventor

I came to the water industry later in life. After teaching maths, science and environmental science, I set up a business with a friend. Within that business I started Suregro (best known for tree guards) and ERT consulting. As part of that business I was asked by the Kuwaiti Minister for Agriculture & Fisheries to lead the revegetation of Kuwait after the first Iraq War in 1992. That ultimately didn't occur due to US pressure on the Kuwaiti government. The vegetation systems in the Middle East are generally supported by using treated sewage effluent. However there were problems associated with the use of the sewage effluent, which I recognised from my thesis work. While researching the project, I came across a new and emerging science, "microbial communication," which appeared as though it could address the sewage odour as well as the irrigation problems.



Fifteen years later, I am still working in the field I recognised that day. The technology development has taken a lot longer than expected and consumed a lot more money than I ever believed it would. However, I believe that we now have the best sewage odour and corrosion products on the market today. This has been recognised by "The New Inventors" when Biosol won "Program 4" in 2008 and was a Grand Finalist in that year. In 2009 Biosol gained further recognition, being a finalist in the Innovic awards and a finalist in the SBWWI "Water Dragons" Award in the UK.

The support of Paul Louws (Western Water) and Gary Tickner (Burdekin Shire Council) have been instrumental in the development of the products we use today. Without such industry support it would be impossible to develop products in Australia. Remember - the sale of Australian products (mainly primary industry products) supports the way of life we enjoy today.

Biosol have tried to improve the water industries understanding of the risk associated with sewage odour from an OH&S perspective. Additionally we have tried to improve the industry understanding of the immense cost of infrastructure corrosion associated with sewage odour. Based on the WIN (Water Industry Network) survey in 2000, we estimate the cost of sewage infrastructure corrosion at around \$1.5 billion / year or around \$70/person/year. The OH&S risk from sewage odour and the immense cost of sewage infrastructure corrosion can be minimised by appropriate dosing. Microbial control, potentially allows every facet of wastewater management to be improved. Currently as well as odour and corrosion control, we can minimise carbon loss in the sewage catchment, which means more carbon is available for the process. This may be of importance in BNR plants. Removing biofilm / sediment from the sewer pipes, which we do today, improves the hydraulic efficiency of the pipes and reduces pumping costs.

Microbial control is an emerging science that is set to fundamentally change the way sewage is managed in the future.

Contributed by Ross Chandler - Biosol

Fisherman say; 'Your worst day fishing is still better than your best day at work!!!'Perhaps.....

The 5th Annual EGL/North East Water (NEW) fishing day was held at Lake Hume on Friday 18th February 2011. This year three teams took part in the competition, consisting of the usual suspects from EGL, Tolsh and myself along with Jason Mullins and Kevin Freeman of NEW. Newcomers to the event (through special invitation) were George Wall and Ron Bergmeier representing WIOA and Jimmy Divas and Callen Gill representing ITT water and wastewater.

It was an early start on the water with the sun slowly but surely climbing over the ranges on the Tallangatta side of the lake. The majority of the mornings fishing took place on the east side of the lake due to a breeze which made conditions a little 'choppy' - it was either the wind or when Tolsh screamed off across the water in his boat, named 'Atom Ant'.

Conditions were extremely calm out of the wind and away from 'Atom Ant'! It was now just a matter of finding the right tree to tie up to and start bringing in the fish. Fish were being caught, but all the wrong ones. Jason landed three carp in succession, good fun on the light gear he was using. After not hearing from the other boats for most of the morning and knowing that we had not caught a great number of fish (only one legal size Golden Perch) we knew the other boats would almost have their quotas - we were correct! On arriving back at the boat ramp Team WIOA contributed four 250mm redfin, Team Kamerik only one 510mm Golden Perch and the winners of the day Team Tolsh - well we didn't bother to count their catch. We did however enjoy watching the fish being filleted for the BBQ lunch which was held back at the West Wodonga WWTP soon after.

It was a good mornings fishing - I mean work!!! Well, work duties did follow lunch and into the afternoon. There has already been some keen interest in a similar type event open to all WIOA members next year and into the future. So watch this space.

Contributed by Adrian Rijnbeek, EGL

HAPPY BIRTHDAY - It's the Big One - 50!

It would be remiss of us to not mention that our esteemed EO reached a milestone birthday in March.

We wish George all the best in his half century year.



George showing off his big catch from the N.T. recently

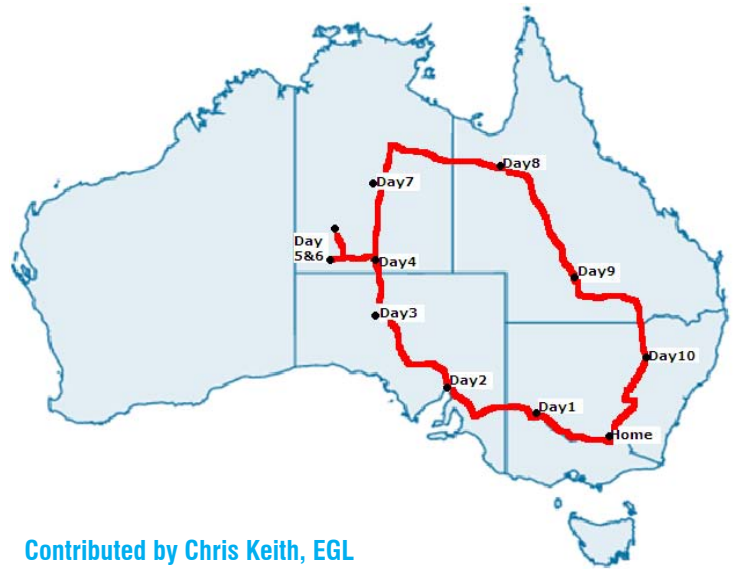
Things We Do In Our Spare Time

11 days and 5 States on a Harley

In August 2010 I set off on a bit of a solo ride on my softtail standard Harley Davidson which ended 11 days and 7,186 kms later. I travelled from Albury to Mildura, Coober Pedy to Uluru, Mt Isa and home again. The highlight was climbing Uluru and nearly reaching the top - I'm not fond of heights and it's bloody high up there! The low light was on the way back home – freezing cold temperatures and lots of rain! At the end of it – the trip was hard but I've always wanted to do it, it's kind of a bucket list thing, I guess. It was my first trip to the NT – the scenery, the distance, the people along the way – FANTASTIC!



- Day 1, Albury-Mildura 650km
- Day 2, Port Augusta 560km
- Day 3, Coober Pedy 534km
- Day 4, Erldunda 488km
- Day 5, Uluru 244km
- Day 6, Kings Canyon 300km
- Day 7, Wycliffe Well 825km
- Day 8, Mt Isa 800km
- Day 9, Blackall 820km
- Day 10, Narrabri 1062km
- Day 11, Home, Albury 903km



Contributed by Chris Keith, EGL

Meet Cody Donovan from Tassie

Hi my name is Cody Donovan, I am 22 years old. I work for Ben Lomond Water in Tasmania, as a Water treatment plant operator and I also perform water testing. In my free time I am part of the local Meander Valley SES unit based at Deloraine. For the second time the unit will be competing in the Australasian & World Road Crash Challenge in NZ this July. I have been with the SES for four years and this will be my first competition with the team which includes some of the youngest members of the SES. Our team of six are representing Tasmania.

Unfortunately the Meander Valley is one of the busiest areas for road crash rescue in Tasmania. Most people can imagine the horrific scenes when faced with being one of the first on the scene at a car accident, what can make it harder is that the area is small and often people I know are involved.



Cody Donovan

There is frequent fortnightly training which I attend to be able to handle this demanding role – we practice cutting up vehicles and rescue techniques. The training has also given me strong team building skills which helps in my day job too. It can be tough physically and psychologically but there is always support on offer. So far it has been a great experience, knowing that you are helping people out in the community.

THEN AND NOW

Meet our WIOA Chairman – Ron Bergmeier



Once we were young!
Ron received an Award as Most Inspiring Driver – 1977-1978

Today Ron still retains his interest in race cars and still races when given the chance.



The Lighter Side



As we “Silver Surfers” (older folks on the internet) know, sometimes we have trouble with our computers.

I had a problem yesterday, so I called Eric, the 11 year old next door, whose bedroom looks like Mission Control and asked him to come over.

Eric clicked a couple of buttons and solved the problem.

As he was walking away, I called after him, ‘So, what was wrong?’

He replied, ‘It was an ID ten T error.’

I didn’t want to appear stupid, but nonetheless inquired, ‘An, ID ten T error? What’s that? In case I need to fix it again.’

Eric grinned.... ‘Haven’t you ever heard of an ID ten T error before?’

‘No,’ I replied.

‘Write it down,’ he said, ‘and I think you’ll figure it out.’

So I wrote down:

ID10T

I used to like Eric, the little ba#%\$rd.

Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia

www.prostate.org.au 1800 22 00 99

PROSTATE CANCER – ARE YOU AT RISK?

Did you know that more than 3,300 Australian men lose their life to prostate cancer each year? That’s about the same as the number of women who sadly die from breast cancer each year.

Yet few people know what prostate cancer is, if it has symptoms, or even if they are at risk.

With these facts in mind, it has never been more important for all Australians to learn about this all-too-common disease, and to speak with a doctor about prostate cancer.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

In the early stages, when prostate cancer is often treatable and curable, there are few symptoms. Yet, sadly, because men don’t experience symptoms, they have no idea anything is wrong, and are not diagnosed in these vital, early stages. This is why talking to your doctor regularly about prostate cancer is so important.

WHO IS AT RISK OF DEVELOPING PROSTATE CANCER, AND WHAT YOU CAN DO?

There are currently two simple tests that can be performed by your doctor. The Digital Rectal Examination (DRE) involves the doctor inserting a gloved finger into the rectum to feel the prostate gland. This may detect hard lumps in the prostate before symptoms occur. The Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) blood test is not a cancer-specific diagnostic test, however it will alert doctors to abnormal growth in the prostate. A combination of both a DRE and PSA blood test is recommended, and should be considered as part of a general male health check every year.

Two of the main risk factors for prostate cancer are age, and family history.

Men aged 50-years and over should speak with their doctor about prostate cancer every year, and if necessary, be tested. However, if there is a family history of the disease, men should speak with their doctor annually from the age of 40 onwards, and if necessary, be tested.

For more information go to www.prostate.org.au or call 1800 22 00 99

Corporate Member News



Energy Saving Pump Technology introduced by Warren Rupp.

Air-operated double diaphragm pumps gain energy efficiency and reduce maintenance costs with innovative technology.

Air-operated double-diaphragm (AODD) pumps are known for their positive attributes of handling fluids that are heavily laden with solids, abrasive materials, without damaging the product. They are also popular because they are lightweight, portable and easy to use due to their pneumatic power.



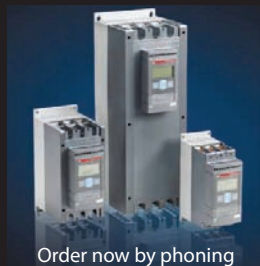
With the increasing awareness of energy costs and government and corporate goals to conserve energy, the pumping efficiency of AODD pumps has become a topic of discussion and a challenge for AODD pump end users. Warren Rupp the manufacturer of Sandpiper and Versamatic have recently developed technology that increases the pumping efficiency of AODD pumps and reduces energy costs by up to 50 percent, which can equate to millions of dollars in annual savings.

The new energy reduction technology manipulates the air the air flow in a way that allows for full air supply flow at the beginning of the pump stroke and then reduces the air supply flow at different points during the stroke that is dependent on the application. For further information please visit www.airvantagepump.com or email mharris2@idexcorp.com

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MACQUARIE VALLEY
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Introducing Automation Group

Tebsin Group listened to WIOA members and in the short time we've known of them, they have already made significant changes...

Tebsin Group first presented itself as prime sponsors at the 2011 WIOA Newcastle conference, together with Rad-tel Systems, Latitude Products and RN Baker Switchboards.

The feedback from this conference was that most visitors were confused by the name Tebsin Group, and was too difficult to pronounce. Tebsin is Nisbet spelled backwards. Nisbet is the family name of brothers Adrian and Graham who have built their family company Rad-tel Systems, which most WIOA attendees would be familiar with. Rad-tel Systems have been in the water industry for over twenty years and have proudly supported WIOA conferences for the past four years as prime sponsors.

Tebsin Group took on the feedback about their name seriously, and swiftly changed it to Automation Group, which will be present at the upcoming WIOA Qld Workshop. They believe Automation Group is a more straight-forward, user-friendly name.

Automation Group wish to thank everyone for their feedback and support. The Nisbet brothers know well that there is no time like the present to make changes and move forward, and Automation Group is a reflection of this.

A growing organisation to keep an eye out for, everyone should expect to see more of Rad-tel Systems, RN Baker and Latitude Products over the coming years. Their collective capabilities include SCADA, PLC and telemetry engineering along with manufacturing of switchboards and various electrical and automation products. Automation Group maintains strategic relationships with authorised electrical contractors and together they deliver these products and services across the mining, power and utilities sectors in VIC, NSW and QLD.



Rad-tel stand at WIOA Newcastle 2011

 **AUTOMATION GROUP**

automationgroup.com.au
Ph: 02 9238 4244

Corporate Member News



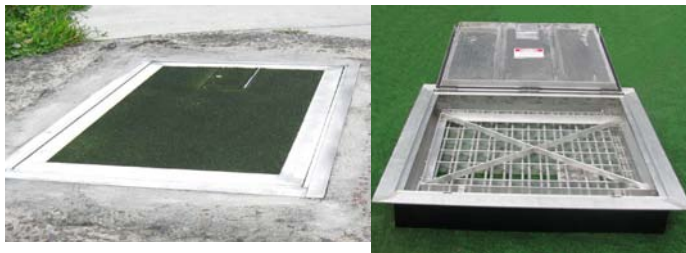
“BUILT-IN” 4-WAY VOID PROTECTION SAFETY LID**

This month McBerns is launching its latest development in void protection hatch covers.

McBerns believes it will set new industry benchmarks, improving WH&S. The innovative design now has a 4-way void protection barrier included in the lid assembly.

This now means that all sides can be fall protected simply and quickly, while still allowing easy access into the void if necessary. No more need for the assembly of extra cumbersome barriers on site.

It is constructed from strong lightweight aluminium. The flush mounted design with an extremely low profile is ideal for footpath or bikeway sites.



The features which are standard inclusions in all McBerns safety lid designs have been incorporated into this new design; including gas and water tight sealing, non-slip & low trip hazard surface, gas sampling port and others.

Particular attention is paid to detail and consistent quality. This innovation is an example of McBerns always looking for ways to improve on the design features and all aspects of manufacture.



McBerns has applied for a Provisional Patent** and registered our Design for the custom made Built-in 4-Way Void Protection Safety Lid as they believe it significantly improves hatch cover design.

For information about all the McBerns products visit www.mcberns.com or call (07) 5446 7167 or email: mail@mcberns.com

**Patent Appl. No: 2011901146; Design Registration No: 336107



TIP #2: Epoxy Coatings

Solventless epoxy's like Epigen will stick to wet or damp surfaces.

Exposure to water before the cure is complete will not compromise the integrity or performance of the epoxy unlike polyurea or polyurethane types and many of the other systems often considered.

To find out more visit
www.epigen.com.au

The Adventures of Rad the WIOA satchel continued



WIOA at Yankee Stadium, on the night of the commemoration (celebration of George Steinbrenner - long time owner who recently passed away) the game was against the Tampa Bay Rays. 23 Sept 2010. Photo courtesy of Nick Subotsch from Peerless Epigen.

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:

Shane Butler, Steven Rigney, Benjamin Tickner, Chad Harvey, Wayne Hillier, Stephen Forster, Robert Cook, Phil Kellond, David Toohey, James Whyte, Cameron Willmott, Murray Thompson, Stewart Reeve, Mitchell Brook, Glen Williams, Kerry Hayes, Trevor Waterhouse, George Frougas, Mick Niven, Chris Browning, Warren Nazzari, Doug Evans, Luke Sandri, Patrick Greene, A.S.M Mohiuddin, Gary Perrin, Matt Gordon, Chris Smith, Keith Wilkinson, Rick Andrews, David Gatt, Luke Martin, Ian Vickers, Keith Roach, Doug Moorby, Shaun Brennan, Melanie Werner, Toni Kraaymaat, Jason Ashman, John Boyle, John Nelson, Trent Betts, David Cash, Brent O'Brien, Ken Robinson, Mick Piggott, Max Furphy, Neil Manson, Annalisa Contos, Brenden Bates, Joshua Woodhead, Jaryd Neethling, Craig Parker & Greg James.

New **Corporate Members** include:

Kessler Couplings & Engineering Supplies, Control Components, Austco Environmental, Aqua Environmental, Barossa Council, Trio Datacom, Lachlan Shire Council, Grimwood Heating, Mitchell Water Australia, Burkert Fluid Control Systems, John Hollan, Made In Data, Wastewater Aeration & Pump Systems Australia, PPD Air Pumps, Vogelsang, Envirodata Weather Stations, Orica Australia, Biosol, RMIT University & Australian Prestressing Structures.

New **Utility Corporate Members** include:

Singleton Shire Council.



Seminar Attendees in Darwin

Coming Dates 2011

1 & 2 June	36th Annual Queensland Water Industry Operations Workshop, Toowoomba
20 July	Applications for 2011 Kwatye Prize close.
27 July	Distribution Seminar Traralgon (TBC)
7 & 8 September	74th Annual Victorian Water Industry Engineers & Operators Conference, Bendigo

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Next Edition

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WIOA Seminars

WIOA has conducted four one day seminars over the past few months. One on Optimising Chemical Dosing, Coagulation, Flocculation and Clarification in Wagga Wagga NSW and three on Distribution Systems and Water Quality, one in Shepparton and two in the Northern Territory. We encourage Operators to attend but we also believe it is important to share the following comment from a recent attendee:

"I think the seminars provide an opportunity for overseers and managers to better understand some of the issues that confront the water operators from different water utilities and councils while doing their jobs, listen to their discussions and ideas, understand their needs and improve communication and share their experience. This will be a step forward to protect and build critical working relationships and transform confronting interactions into collaborative problem-solving conversations."

Muneeb Sunna, Berrigan Shire Council, Environmental Engineer



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