

# OPERATOR

May 2012 Edition



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Presenter of the Best Operator Paper at the NSW Conference Michael Summerell (R) with Alex Maderasi from Ecolab. NSW Conference report page 4.

The assembled members at the WIOA weekend seminar with Rod Norman (PASS) doing his presentation. More on page 12.



Some of the participants at the Bundamba (Qld) Plant Tour. More on page 14.

Newsletter of the WATER INDUSTRY OPERATORS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

## CRAIG'S COMMENT

As I reflect on my first 10 months working with WIOA, I find it very different and interesting at the same time to work in an industry that actively promotes to its customers not to use its product.

The drought across Eastern Australia ensured most consumers gave due consideration to their own water use and many now continue to use good water practices as an essential part of their lives. This has led to a reduction in domestic water use which continues today. But competition for water will increase as society manufactures more and we are required to produce more energy to meet our lifestyles.

According to the World Health Organisation, one in three people are affected by a lack of water to meet their daily needs. What's worse, almost 6,000 people die every day due to a lack of safe drinking water - that is approximately 2 million people every year. These people suffer simply because they do not have one of the things that we in the developed world take for granted - clean water.

So I salute our members who go about their day to day business with little fuss and definitely no fanfare in providing safe drinking water every time I turn on the tap. And equally, I salute those who ensure that when I flush, this is the last I will ever see of it again!

I was fortunate to represent the Association at the recent OzWater conference in Sydney and a number of themes that I had also been hearing from our members were discussed. Climate change, the cost of water to the consumer, lessening demand but increasing costs, construction of insurance projects such as recycling and desalination plants were topics that WIOA members are involved with on a daily basis. It is not until you get time to reflect and "smell the roses" that the real value and importance of the work undertaken is recognised.

Along my short journey I have been fortunate to meet a large number of great people who work in the industry through attendance at WIOA events and all of them have made me (a stranger to the industry) feel very welcome. One thing that really stands out is the passion that those who work in the water industry demonstrate. Young, old and at every level of employment, the passion is always evident.

I am always keen to hear from members how the Association can better serve you, our members and I will be developing a survey in the next couple of months to get an insight into what our members believe are important issues.

Everything WIOA does is for the benefit of our members in one way or another, but we need your feedback and ideas to provide the best services possible. Our networks in Queensland and Tasmania have been very active and a number of successful events have been conducted over the last couple of months. These events all originated from member ideas and a number of these events are reported on in this issue.

We have recently added a new member to the WIOA staff team in Ann Austin. Ann is working in administration and lists Goulburn Valley Water in Victoria as a previous employer. As such, she may be known to a number of you already. We welcome Ann to the team and look forward to catching up with many of you at a WIOA event in the future.

**Craig Mathisen**, WIOA Chief Operations Officer

## NEW COMMITTEE ELECTED

The 2012 WIOA Committee was elected at the AGM held in conjunction with the Weekend Seminar on March 3 and includes new members in Jason Krzciuk from SEQ Water (Queensland Advisory Committee Chairperson), Damian Lavelle from Ben Lomond Water (Tasmanian Advisory Committee Chairperson) and Adrian Rijnbeek from EGL Management Services. Contact details and a listing of the new committee can be found on the back page.

It would be remiss of us not to acknowledge the contribution made by outgoing members Barry Waddell & Peter Tolsher (IDIOTS in their own right). These guys had been on the Committee for 20 and 10 years respectively. Both were presented a small token of our appreciation for their considerable input. We also had Bret Mendham from Qld decide not to nominate this year and his contribution was noted as well.



*Barry Waddell stepping down at the AGM*

## BOTTLED WATER

Ever wonder about people who pay \$3 for a bottle of Evian water?

Just spell "Evian" backwards!



## PROFILE OF A MEMBER

### Name:

John Paulger

### Position:

Coordinator Wastewater  
Operations Toowoomba

### Employer & Location:

Toowoomba Regional Council,  
Toowoomba



### How long have you worked in the water industry and what attracted you to it?

I have been in the Water industry since January 1971 when I started with the old Brisbane City Council as a cadet Technical Officer, involved in the sewerage of Brisbane. After the bulk of the reticulation systems were completed I transferred across to the treatment side.

### What do you enjoy most about your job?

The continuous change in treatment processes and the characters involved in the industry.

### What are the major challenges in your current role?

Maintaining License compliance with the changing nature of the influent being delivered to the treatment facility.

### How long have you been a WIOA member?

About 8 years

### How do you relax?

Travel (motorbike at the moment)

### Where do you live and what's the best thing about it?

Toowoomba, it is a great base to travel from.

### Quick questions

**Age:** 59

**Family Status:** Married

**Pets:** Nil

**Favourite food:** Asian

**Least favourite food:** Tripe

**Favourite TV show:** Any sport

**Worst TV show:** Any reality show

**Favourite Movie:** Woodstock

**Favourite Musical artist/s:** Bob Dylan, Sugarland, The Waifs

**Favourite book:** Bankbook

**Ambition in life:** Live long enough to be a nuisance to my kids

**Hobbies:** Growing Orchids

**Best Trait:** Casual, easy going

**Worst Trait:** Too casual

**Four people to invite to dinner:** Bob Dylan, Francis Crick, Richard Branson, Charles Darwin.

## TECH TALK

### Remember to Dial



"Remember that time we were fixing that main and we took out the main fibre optic cable between Melbourne and Sydney" – that's not a conversation any of us in this industry wants to have. We especially don't want to dial after we dig and have to explain those circumstances to our manager – ouch!

As an industry that deals daily with underground infrastructure, whether it's pipes in the ground or many of the different services found beneath the surface, Dial Before You Dig is an invaluable service to provide necessary information. Additionally, they notify relevant parties of the work being carried out.

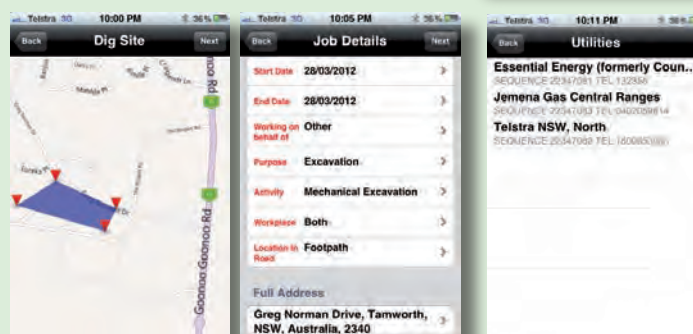
Generally Dial Before You Dig requests are initiated via phone (1100) or their website (www.1100.com.au). However, visitors to the recent WIOA conference in Tamworth were able to try a sneak preview of the Dial Before You Dig iPhone application.

Dominic Puii, from Dial Before You Dig, says "Hitting the Dial Before You Dig icon logs you in. The screen brings up a map of the local area. You can then touch the screen to indicate where you are working. Or you can enter an address to get a map of another location. The Dial Before You Dig system then does the rest, notifying member companies who you are and where you are working. These companies will then supply information directly to you." Requests from some service providers are received on the same day while others may take up to two working days.

Dominic adds "The Dial Before You Dig iPhone application will also allow you to see straight away which member companies have been notified of your excavation. Job IDs and Sequence Numbers provide evidence that you have lodged an inquiry with Dial Before You Dig. Previous inquiries are archived for easy reference."

In the last edition of 'Operator', mobile operator interfaces were presented as a means of putting the power of technology into the hands of Operator. In that same vein, the Dial Before You Dig iPhone application is sure to be a useful tool.

Contributed by **Dominic Puii**, Dial Before You Dig and **Ryan McGowan**, Goulburn Valley Water

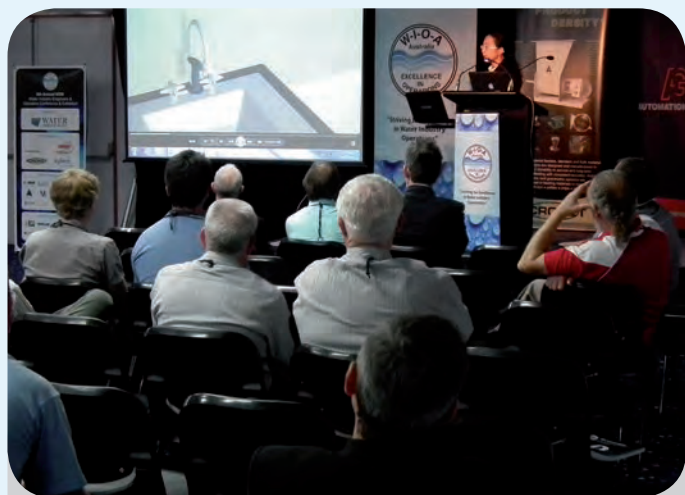




# 2012 NSW CONFERENCE REPORT

The 6th Annual WIOA NSW Water Industry Engineers and Operators Conference and Exhibition was staged at the home of Country Music, Tamworth on 28 & 29 March 2012. The Keynote Address was delivered by Jon Dee, founder of Do Something, talking about the very successful Go Tap Campaign and the wastage associated with bottled water.

The Opening Address was performed by representatives from the James Cook University in Cairns who presented a thought provoking demonstration of their real-time, 3D, scenario-based training platform which was well received.



*Dr Carrie Lui from James Cook Uni presenting*

Over 660 people attended the conference which included a technical program designed to benefit personnel involved in the operation and maintenance of urban, rural and industrial water related infrastructure for the management, conveyance, treatment, discharge and reuse of water and trade waste.

The event culminated in the official awards ceremony that saw Erwin Balsar from the Shoalhaven City Council (Nowra) win the major award - the NSW Operator of the Year, sponsored by the Water Directorate, NSW. There were 10 nominees all up this year so congratulations are extended to all the nominating councils and their representatives.



## NSW Conference 2012 Winners

### NSW Operator of the Year Finalists

**Erwin Balsar**, Shoalhaven City Council  
**Greg Hickson**, Wyong Shire Council  
**Graeme Parkin**, Coffs Harbour Water  
**Stephen Sullivan**, Tamworth Regional Council

## NSW Operator of the Year - Winner

**Erwin Balsar**, Shoalhaven City Council



*Erwin Balsar receiving his award from NSW Water Directorate Chairman, Stewart McLeod*

## IWAKI PUMPS AUSTRALIA and the HEPBURN Prize for Best Paper Overall



**IWAKI PUMPS**

**Micheal Summerell**, Junee Shire



*Winner Best Paper Overall and best Paper by an Operator - Micheal Summerell from Junee Shire (R) with Ian Jesson from Iwaki Pumps*

## Ecolab Prize for Best Paper by an Operator



1st Place Micheal Summerell, Junee Shire  
2nd Place Glenn Clifford, Dubbo City Council  
2nd Place Danny Roberts, Port Macquarie Hastings Council

## WIOA Prize for Best Poster by an Operator



1st Place Warren Nazzari, Coffs Harbour City Council  
2nd Place Danny Roberts, Macquarie Hastings Council  
2nd Place Jason Southcoat, Moree Plains Shire Council



*Winner of WIOA Best Poster by Operator Warren Nazzari from Coffs Harbour CC (R) with George Wall*

## WIOA Conference Charity

Presented To Salvation Army Flood Appeal **Grand Total \$ 2,500**

## Ugly Fish Bonus Prize

Nambucca SC



PROTECTION WITH ATTITUDE.

**WME**  
Environment Business Magazine

## WME Best Trade Show

Xylem



Winner of WME  
Prize for WIOA Best  
NSW Trade Site  
2012 – Xylem Inc

## Royce Conference Competition

1st Prize – The team from ActewAGL



The ActewAGL  
team with Tim Curtis  
from Royce Water  
Technologies (R).

## Challenger Valves Raffle

1st Prize – Roger Summerill from Ugly Fish Eyewear

2nd Prize – Jason Ip from Riverina Water



Clint Paddison entertains the crowd  
on Wednesday night

Ian and Kay Bicknell from  
DMI with Wednesday  
evening entertainer  
Clint Paddison (C)

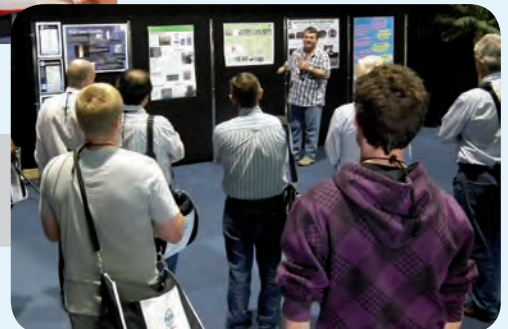


George Wall & Glenn Clifford



Westdale WWTP Tour

Warren Nazzari from  
Coffs Harbour CC  
presenting his Poster



Finished or surrendering?



Westdale WWTP Tour attendees on the Tuesday prior to the Conference





# AWARDS WRAP

## 2012 NSW Operator of the Year



Shoalhaven Water Treatment Plant Operator, Erwin Balsar was recently awarded the prestigious NSW Operator of the Year which is proudly sponsored by the NSW Water Directorate and presented at the WIOA NSW Conference.

After 35 years of service Erwin was recognised for his excellence in performance, commitment to quality and service to the community.

Erwin has played a major role in a number of significant projects during his time with Council, being heavily involved in the operation and improvements of Council's northern water headworks facilities including Danjera Dam, Bamarang and Flatrock Water Treatment Plants, and associated pumping stations and pipework.

Director of Shoalhaven Water, Carmel Krogh said Mr Balsar had demonstrated a high level of knowledge and expertise and has been a highly regarded employee since beginning with Council in 1977.

"Erwin has demonstrated an unerring work ethic along with a high level of technical ability throughout his extensive period of employment with Council," said Mrs Krogh.

"He has been given carriage of some extremely important jobs in his time with Council, all of which have resulted in excellent outcomes for Shoalhaven Water".

"Further to this Erwin is an extremely popular and well respected employee throughout the entire organisation and he is one of those 'quiet achievers' that has never sought recognition for the extra work that he does".

"The entire Shoalhaven Water team is extremely proud of Erwin's achievement and it goes without saying that he is a very deserving recipient of the NSW Operator of the Year Award."



*Erwin Balsar helping install a flow meter at Danjera Dam*

## Royce Members Prize

The annual WIOA Member draw for the Royce Water Technologies sponsored prize was undertaken at the 2012 NSW Conference in Tamworth. The lucky winner drawn from the barrel was Craig Griggs from Southern Water in Tasmania.

The prize this year was a digital SLR camera, presented to Craig at the WIOA Distribution Seminar held in Hobart in May. On hand to present the camera was Cameron Stevenson from Temtrol Technologies – Royce Water Technologies Tasmanian distributor. Craig was ecstatic with his win and is grateful to both Royce & WIOA for putting up such a great prize for Members. "The camera is a massive upgrade from our current 1990's version and it will get tons of use by my family on our travels".

Arthur Kokolekos from Royce Water Technologies confirmed their support for the award and was pleased that the camera had gone to someone that really needed an upgrade. "Royce Water Technologies is proud to support the operational people in the



## PASS Award for Innovation



When Water Treatment Technician Mark Walker began designing a sand trap for the Rawson Water Treatment Plant, little did he know that it would lead to a national award for innovation in the water industry.

Mark has recently been honoured with receiving the 2012 PASS award which stands for 'problem accepted, solution supplied'. The award was launched in 2010 to encourage water field staff to share their knowledge with others.

It is also the culmination of some positive thinking on Mark's behalf after the Rawson Water Treatment Plant was nearly engulfed by the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires. After the Black Saturday bushfires left the (then) existing sand trap in a damaged state, Mark began thinking about better ways to rebuild some of the fire damaged infrastructure. In particular how to better catch and remove sand from the water sourced from Trigger Creek.

For the past few years the Rawson Water Basin has been regularly excavated to remove sand from the bottom of the basin; a costly and time consuming exercise. But thanks to a bit of ingenuity, the cost and time to remove sand from the water is now greatly reduced, meaning significant benefits for the whole community.

Having worked for Gippsland Water for 25 years, Mark says he was delighted to receive the award, and was surprised when told that he had won. "I am very happy to win" he said "although when I was told that I had won I was really quite surprised."

This is the second year running that a Gippsland Water employee has received the PASS award for innovation in the water industry, prompting congratulations from many of Mark's workmates, including Managing Director David Mawer, who was equally delighted that Mark's good work had been publically recognised. "To win a national award is a great honour" said Mr Mawer "It just goes to show that a bit of lateral thinking can bring about some great changes in the way we do things"

The PASS award sponsor, Aqualift Pacific provided sponsorship for Mark to join the WIOA team on their annual operational tour of New Zealand in May 2012 which included attendance at the Water Industry Operations Group of New Zealand's annual conference.



*Mark Walker with his sand trap innovation at the Rawson Water Basin.*

water industry and we look forward to providing another great prize in 2013. We're pleased that over the last four years lucky members from all corners of Australia and across the ditch (NZ) have been recipients of the WIOA Members prize. This support reaffirms our commitment in the development and improvement of the local water and wastewater industry through national industry bodies like WIOA".



*Craig Griggs (l) with Cameron Stevenson representing Royce.*

## 2012 IDIOTS RECIPIENT

### Anthony Evans

Being I.D.I.O.T.S (Inducted Delegate of the Inextricably Obstructed Tap Society) in WIOA circles is actually an honour. It is a service award given to individuals in recognition of their commitment to the vision and philosophies and the active promotion of WIOA.

It is a tradition of the IDIOTS that the last inductee introduces the newest inductee into the society and following this tradition Graham Thomson had the honour of inducting Anthony Evans at the Weekend Seminar.



*Thommo  
presenting  
Anthony with his  
IDIOTS award*

Anthony joined WIOA in September 1998. He has been a member for nearly 14 years. At the 2002 Victorian conference held in Geelong, a rather nervous Anthony presented a paper on biosolids management using the Deskin Quick Dry Filter Bed. Although the paper was presented in Anthony's calm and confident style, he wasn't that convinced he'd done a good job. The fact that he was awarded the Hepburn Prize for the Best Paper Overall as well as the Actizyme Prize for the Best Operator Paper is a good indication of how well he did.

In 2003, he was elected to the Committee for the first time and he has been voted back on ever since. 2012 is his 10th consecutive year on the Committee.

In 2004, Anthony was instrumental in working with a number of indigenous people in the Northern Territory in the development of the "KWATYE" prize and brokered the production of the painting and then the transfer of the Kwatye artwork and its story back to WIOA. Fittingly, in 2006 Anthony applied for and was awarded, the Kwatye Prize. He did a project in the height of the drought investigating the possibilities for saving water at various locations in and around the water treatment plant.

In 2007 and 2008 he was elected to the role of Vice President and then took over the reigns as President in 2009 and 2010. He has also been a Director of WIOA Ltd since 2010.

Anthony is one of those great guys to have around and his dry sense of humour and razor sharp wit keeps everyone smiling and on their toes. He also demonstrated how professional he can be and the speech he gave at the conference dinner in Bendigo in 2009 surprised a lot of people by how insightful it was.

Anthony has been a great asset to WIOA helping out at conferences and with the support of Wannon Water, has been prepared to travel to a number of Qld and NSW events to do his bit. He cut his teeth in Victoria looking after the papers room with Thommo for a long time, and recently has put his gift of the gab to great use as MC at many WIOA events.

Anthony's been one of those really reliable Committee members, has rarely missed a meeting and always has something sensible to say, but often mixed in with a wise crack or two. He's shown

outstanding dedication to WIOA and we are pleased to have him officially called an IDIOT.

As per standard procedures for all IDIOTS, Anthony was requested to demonstrate his credentials to allow him to join the IDIOTS fold. As a keen shooter it was appropriate that he shoot some wild game that just happened to be on hand for this purpose. Utilising the vantage point of a Branach ladder, Anthony quickly dispatched the live game (aka other IDIOTS) that were trying to avoid the bullets heading in their direction. Anthony was then presented with his IDIOTS badge (pin) and plaque before those assembled.

*Loading the gun*



*The Game*



## UGLY FISH EYEWEAR BONUS FOR GWMWATER



At each of the 2011 WIOA conferences, Ugly Fish Eyewear provided a bonus prize of \$2000 worth of safety eyewear. For every individual delegate registered for each conference, the employing Council or Water Authority received a ticket in the draw. The winning employer was drawn from the barrel at the Victorian Conference Awards Dinner and Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water (GWMWater) was the lucky recipient in Victoria in 2011.

A presentation of the prize was held recently with a number of staff on hand to receive the award and model the product.



*The  
GWMWater  
team  
receiving  
the Ugly  
Fish Prize*



# BIRDS EYE VIEW

## Facilities Members Operate - Karangi Water Filtration Plant



To have your facility featured in Operator contact Craig on 03 5821 3757.



Coffs Harbour water treatment plant (WTP) is located at Karangi, a suburb in the city of Coffs Harbour, New South Wales. The \$60 million Water Filtration Plant at Karangi was officially opened on 9 June 2009. Design and construction of this state of the art plant was undertaken as part of the \$250 million Coffs Infrastructure Alliance. The plant uses a Dissolved Air Filtration and Flotation (DAFF) treatment process, and also features an educational centre.



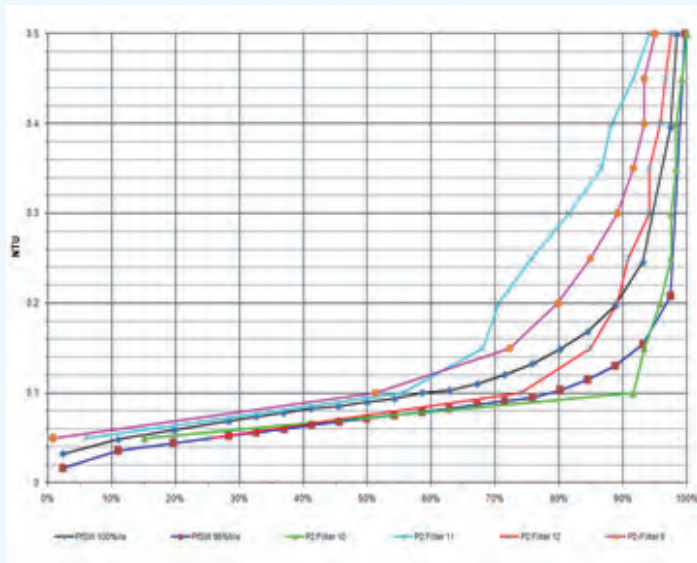


# Assess the Performance of Your WTP with WTAlysisers

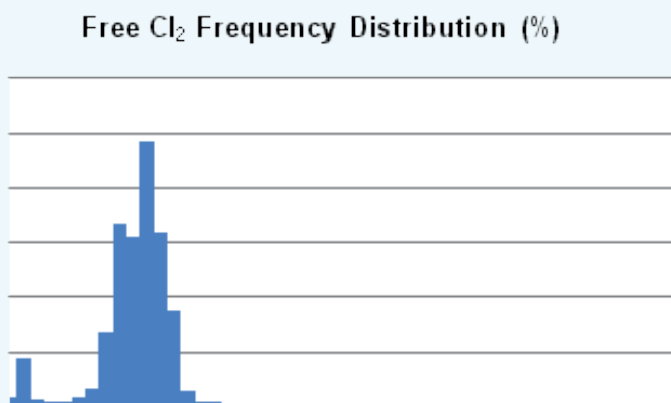
The 2011 version of the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG), contains guideline values for the turbidity of filtered water produced by individual filters.

The Water Treatment Alliance and the Water Services Association, with support from the Victorian Department of Health, have developed some Excel based software tools to allow Water Utilities and Water Treatment Plant (WTP) operators to assess the performance of their plants at the two key control points for pathogen control, namely media filtration and chlorine-based disinfection.

The two WTAlyser tools are also now available for download from the WIOA website. The input requirements for the tools are a SCADA system at the WTP that logs filtered water turbidity and chlorine residuals (and pH). The turbidity, chlorine residual and pH data is imported from the SCADA system to the appropriate WTAlyser tool for whatever period you have chosen. This could be a week, month or even a year. The tools display the performance in an easy to understand graphical presentation, suitable for detailed interpretation by WTP operators and managers, or General Management teams and Boards.



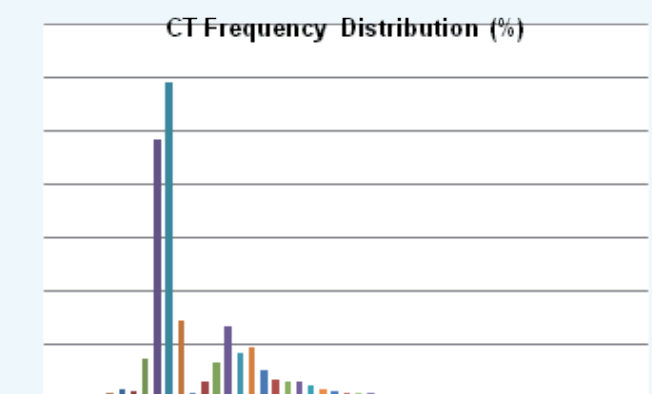
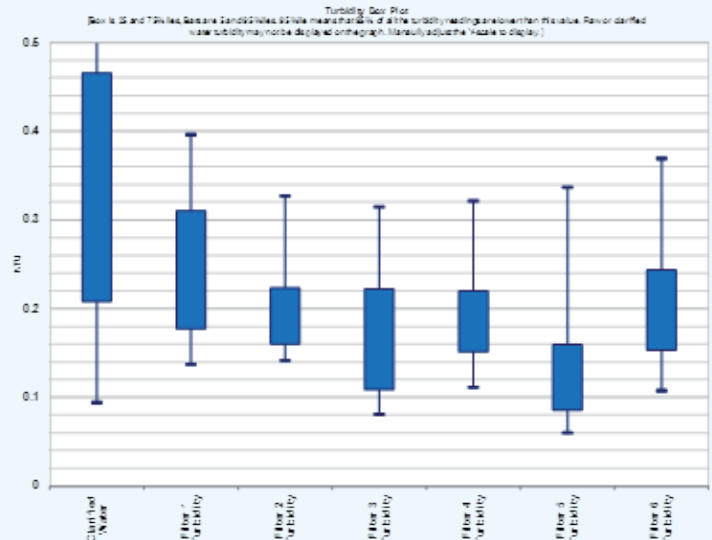
Filter Control Point Performance



Disinfection Control Point Performance

The Victorian Department of Health has already provided these analysis tools, free of charge, to Victorian Water Utilities, as a forerunner to potential performance monitoring standards that are likely to commence in mid 2015.

When you download the files, do not open them directly from the download, but rather save them to a directory. We know some systems have had trouble opening them when opened directly from the download.



WIOA strongly encourages you to download these tools for use at your WTP. Download the files, download some data from your SCADA system, and see how your filters are performing against the ADWG guideline values or your own internal targets. If you have any problems just contact us here at WIOA.

**Peter Mosse**  
WIOA Technical Advisor



# CORPORATE MEMBERS NEWS

## India Project

Johnson Screens has built and supplied a custom, passive intake screen for the new 100 ML/D seawater, reverse osmosis (RO) desalination plant at Nemmeli in Chennai, India.

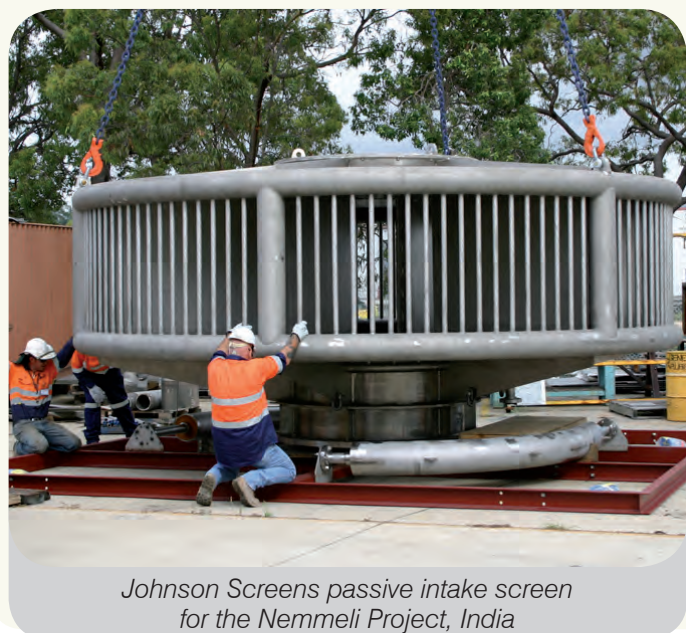
The Nemmeli desalination facility is on 40 acres and is the city's second such facility, with the first installation already in operation at Minjur in North Chennai. When the new desalination plant is completed in mid 2012, it will supply 100 ML of potable water per day and reduce stress on Chennai's groundwater resources.

The facility has been designed and manufactured using custom gravity intake screen capable of handling a peak flow rate of 11,060 m<sup>3</sup>/hr. The screen has a diameter of 5.5m and a height of 2.65m with a manhole and provisions for air bursting and chlorination. The entire construction was in Alloy 2507 (UNS S32750,) ie. super duplex stainless steel, used to resist the highly corrosive seawater.

"There were many strict quality control requirements such as: material certification, welder qualifications and radiography of welds, which Johnson Screens was able to comply with." said John Phillips, Market Development Manager – Asia Pacific (Water Process).

The Nemmeli project is being executed by one of India's leading water solution companies, VA Tech Wabag Ltd for the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (Chennai Metrowater). The firm will construct the plant in consortium with IDE Technologies, Israel and with Mecon Limited as the consultant for management and supervision of the project.

Contributed by **Kelley Musgrave**, Marketing, Johnson Screens (Australia)



## The Tradition Continues



The Victorian Engineers and Operators Conference has a rich tradition going back to 1938 when the late Mr E. A. Hepburn of the Victorian Health Commission convened the very first conference at the offices of the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works.

For the next 41 years it continued under the Health Commission auspices before the Water Industry Training Centre took over from 1979 to 1988. From 1989, the Conference was organised by the AWWOA and once we changed our name in 2002, by WIOA with strong support from the Industry. The very first trade expo was organised by Ron Bergmeier and was held in conjunction with the Shepparton conference in 1989.

This year, WIOA is celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Conference in Victoria when we get together in Bendigo on 5 & 6 September 2012.

To celebrate this very important milestone, we are looking to develop a historic look at the water and wastewater industry in Victoria. We are looking for photos, articles and profiles that members may be able to find within their own businesses, of individuals who have played a significant role in the industry.

So please search through the old filing cabinet or ask around your office to see if there is some material that we would be able to use. Please scan any items that may be of interest and provide a brief caption and send them to Craig at the WIOA office ([craig@wioa.org.au](mailto:craig@wioa.org.au)). Any contributions will be greatly appreciated.



Jar Tester circa 1970's



2011 Version Electronic Jar Tester

## 2012 WEEKEND SEMINAR & AGM

### Perspectives of the 2012 AGM & Weekend Workshop

Each year WIOA conducts a Weekend Seminar which is open to all WIOA individual members. The event is free and the weekend is designed to be fun, informative and a way to meet other WIOA members and water professionals. The 2012 Weekend Seminar was held on the 3rd & 4th March 2012 at the Parklake Motel, Shepparton Victoria and included a keynote presentation by David Sheehan from the Department of Health, Victoria.



*Jason Mullins, John Day and David Sheehan (DOH) at the weekend seminar*

The weekend was a great networking opportunity and below we have provided a couple of different perspectives from attendees at the event.

#### Operator

It was a little disappointing that there was not a larger presence of WIOA members at this event. These events are put on by our WIOA and as members we should support them. I think that being able to talk to people all associated with the water industry, operators and distributors, picking up little bits of info which we can use in our own areas and developing our skills base is a huge benefit.

Our visit and tour of the Shepparton Water Treatment Plant was of great interest as GWMWater is about to upgrade our Mt Zero, Horsham WTP. Of particular interest was the streaming current detectors that they have at their plant, with two types in line. We are planning a further visit to gather more info and knowledge before we select what type we install. The history of the plant and the different types of water treatment that occurs would make an ideal training base for young operators.

The practical demonstration that Rodney Norman from PAAS gave on the PVCU pipe gluing with the proper glue (Tangit) and chamfering tool was fantastic. I was able to instruct the contractors who are presently installing a new chemical dosing line at one of our Water Treatment plants, who were not deburring the PVCU pipe when gluing, about the correct procedure. They may have wanted me to get lost, but it is us who have to repair the faults and leaks after they have gone.

I was very interested and amazed at the work being done by WIOA in other states and in New Zealand. The amount of seminars, conferences, events as well as the technical publications in the water treatment and wastewater areas that are developed and conducted each year is a credit to the people behind these events and the informative books.

And having a good fishing tackle shop in town is always a winner.

Contributed by **Ivan Wild** from GWMWater

#### Presenter

From a Manufacturers perspective the chance for Branach to put our product range in front of key decision makers from within the Water Industry was invaluable.

We have had excellent feedback from your attendees not only regarding our products but also in terms of the OH&S Standards changes, and ways we can assist the water industry through our engineered solutions. Through the course of our normal work this feedback would be much more difficult to receive.

We have had several orders for product from attendees and have a number of 30 Day trials underway with our Safety Step Platforms.

Thanks to WIOA for the opportunity to present to your delegates at the Shepparton Weekend Seminar and we look forward to involvement at future events.



*Mike Jones from Branach doing a practical demo of his ladders*

Contributed by **Mike Jones** from Branach Manufacturing

#### Site Tours to GV Water & Challenger Valves

Goulburn Valley Water provided an interesting tour of the Shepparton WTP on Saturday morning. The WIOA contingent fought through the rain and were provided with an interesting insight into the plant as the Goulburn River was on low flood alert and many towns in the Goulburn Valley were being inundated by flood waters at the time.

Challenger Valves opened the doors to their Shepparton factory and distribution centre on Sunday morning and provided a site tour and practical demonstration on some of the testing and processes.

WIOA corporate supporters who gave their time to provide practical demonstrations included Latitude Products, Branach Ladders and Piping and Automation Systems (PAAS) and their support is greatly appreciated.



*Tour of the Shepparton water treatment plant*



*Challenger Valves team (Left to right: John Trapani, Mark Jackson and Dave Heenan) with the WIOA weekenders*



## A WIOA AGM Virgins Perspective

After leaving Sydney at 3am, Heysen Dennis and I travelled down the Hume highway on our way to Shepparton, Victoria to participate in our first WIOA AGM and Weekend Seminar.

After arriving mid-morning and a little red eyed, we were greeted and made to feel welcome by the WIOA committee and fellow WIOA members /water industry professionals. After a tour of the Shepparton WTP we all met back at the seminar venue for lunch and a chance to meet and greet fellow attendees. As part of the AGM we were informed by a series of reports on WIOA's current and future initiatives, current financial position and other important issues affecting the day to day operation of WIOA. We then took part in the voting in and seconding of the appointment of the WIOA committee for the upcoming year.

Over the course of the next two days we had the opportunity to hear and see presentations from corporate suppliers on their particular products and services which they provide to the water industry, all of which I found to be very relevant and informative.

In between all of the formalities of the weekend seminar and the presentations, we also had the pleasure of participating in a variety of competitions which were great fun. Although I was not fortunate to win any of the prizes available, I know the attendees who did manage to get a prize were very pleased with what they took home.

Myself and number of fellow WIOA AGM 'virgins', as those of us attending this event for the first time were called, were each given an envelope containing a certain mission to complete at some time throughout the two days. These 'missions' turned out to be great fun with some of the things bordering on the bizarre, but not too scary. I can't reveal exactly what we had to do in case we spoil it for future attendees. Of course, no one will forget the visit from Mr David 'Booney' Boon himself (WIOA's own Craig Mathisen who was also a virgin).

On the last day we had the opportunity to do a site tour of the Challenger Valves state of the art factory which was a great way to finish the weekend.

All in all I had a great time over the weekend and came away with better understanding of the workings of WIOA, where it is heading in the future and also had the chance to make some great contacts. I highly recommend attending next year's AGM to any current WIOA member as it is a great chance to have a say in the future of the association, learn a little something, and of course to have some fun along the way.

Hope to see you all there next year

Contributed by **Sam Magill**, AQUALIFT PACIFIC



*Booney – aka Craig  
at the Weekender*



*Sam Magill having more fun  
in New Zealand recently*

## QUEENSLAND ACTIVITIES

### Murrumba Downs STP Field Visit (Feb 2012)

We had the ideal perfect Qld weather start for the Unitywater, Murrumba Downs STP, field day, for the first ten minutes anyway!

Attendance for the day was great with around 40 people attending from all over SE Queensland. The program for the day included a welcome from King Intrapaboona, Manager Treatment Plants at Unitywater, followed by an overview of Unitywater's 18 STP's presented by James Castle, Treatment Plant Operations Manager who did well to get through the presentation in under 40 minutes.

Mike Thomas gave us an insight on how to size a treatment plant based on EP of the catchment, which was of interest, based on the questions following the presentation.

Craig gave us "What's on with WIOA" presentation and got all delegates in the room involved in some networking, it was a good way to meet others working in different aspects of the water industry.

The last presentation was from Niloshree - Process Engineer, Unitywater who provided an overview of the Murrumba Downs STP process as a prelude to a Tour of the treatment plant. Unfortunately the closer it got to tour time, the heavier the rain fell. We stopped for an early BBQ lunch and a bit more networking, hoping the clouds would part and let us get outside and undertake the tour. But no such luck. Fortunately we had a quick discussion with the staff from John Holland, who operate the Advanced Water Treatment plant and we got to see the advanced processes involved within the AWTP, (all under cover). Thanks to the John Holland staff involved.

All up, it was another successful day and a big thanks to all involved.



*Members at the Murrumba Downs site tour*

Contributed by **Colin Haynes** from Unitywater

## QUEENSLAND ACTIVITIES cont.

### Bundamba Advanced Water Treatment Plant Site Visit (Apr 2012)

During my time working in the water industry I have never been in a plant that resembled the Bundamba Advanced Water Treatment Plant. Apart from the odd chemical holding and dosing equipment, the industrial type sheds and huge concrete inlet works gave no indication the site was an operational advanced water treatment plant capable of treating 66 ML treated effluent /day. The ground level clarifiers, microfiltration and RO vessels housed under a skillion roof we are all used to seeing when entering a plant were not there. Instead the entire process is neatly tucked away inside massive industrial sheds that almost need to be seen to be believed. SEQ Water has an excellent virtual tour on their web site that is well worth a look at for those interested visit [www.seqwater.com.au/public/virtual-tours/bundamba/](http://www.seqwater.com.au/public/virtual-tours/bundamba/)

The day kicked off with Ray Farley presenting an overview of the South East Queensland Western Corridor and the 3 advanced water treatment plants operated by SEQ Water, consisting of Bundamba 66 ML/d, Luggage point 80ML/d and Gibson Island 100ML/d. Ray informed the group of the reuse applications for the recycled water consisting of Swan bank power station, the ability to direct the flow into Wivenhoe Dam as an indirect potable reuse supply and future plans for agricultural and industrial applications. The session progressed into the process side of the treatment facility and the seven barrier approach adopted by SEQ water for their AWTP's.

Dr Aaran Canning followed and gave the group an informed briefing on the current Australian Drinking Water Guidelines and the quality management tools adopted by SEQ Water. Aaran commenced his presentation with a fantastic history lesson identifying some interesting facts regarding the history of manmade sewers and referred to an interesting web site [www.sewerhistory.org](http://www.sewerhistory.org) I am sure all interested in the history of sewers will find some interesting facts within this web site.

Aaran's presentation moved into the water quality management plans, risk assessments and HACCP controls that are currently used by SEQ Water. The presentation then moved into the recycled water regulations currently in place in Queensland and the overarching management plans that filter down to the site specific HACCP and critical control points for each site. Further to this, the importance of identifying unacceptable risks that eventually lead to site improvements and capital injection for plant upgrades. Aaran wrapped up his session by informing the group of the reporting tools being used on site, explaining the current water quality notification forms with operator friendly questions to ensure accurate information is recorder in the event water quality is exceeded.

The final session was presented by Brian Hester on Recycled Water Monitoring Lessons Learnt. Brian described the scope of the water monitoring program and the size and complexity of the SEQ Water scheme. We were impressed to hear how SEQ Water are conducting source water monitoring and the ability

to interlock plants by monitoring water quality failures. Brian reinforced the importance of accurate and effective analysis. Brian moved into the purified recycled water monitoring, environmental compliance monitoring and operational monitoring currently in place including the current 254 routine sample points and the lessons learnt from schedules of sampling and analysis. Brian concluded by identifying the operational and budget advantages of having an accurate monitoring schedule, purchasing the correct equipment, as well as having effective laboratory contracts, on line analysis and the correct sample containers.

All presentations were well received by the audience. The group then had the opportunity to tour the plant. Following the tour we all enjoyed a nice lunch sponsored by McBerns where Noel took the opportunity to present the group with the newest McBerns rust protection and corrosion control product, Rust Bullet.

Thank you to WIOA, McBerns, Veolia Water and SEQ Water for a very interesting and informative day.



*Bundamba plant*



*Ray Farley presenting at the WIOA Bundamba Workshop*



*Ray takes one group on a tour around the AWTP in Bundamba*

Contributed by **Marcus Boyd** from Toowoomba Regional Council



## TASMANIAN NEWS

### Cradle Mountain Water Waratah WTP Project

Cradle Mountain Water (CMW) was formed when the Tasmanian Parliament legislated the formation of three separate water corporations for the state. CMW inherited various assets in varying degrees of service life. CMW quickly needed to identify a priority list of assets requiring upgrade works to maintain a compliant level of customer service.

Waratah was the first plant identified on the priority list compiled in consultation with the Department of Human Health Services. The existing Waratah plant consisted of rudimentary disinfection of raw water via hypo chloride (chlorine) dosing.

CMW conducted an assessment of the available usage data records. These records were total daily readings for a period of six months. Based on the available data CMW identified they required a 0.2 ML/Day plant and a reservoir with a capacity of 200KL. During this phase CMW conducted another review of potential treatment options. This review concluded that the most likely option would be a Membrane Ultra filtration (UF) plant. This likely selection was based on a number of realisations, the data available was limited and membranes provide the best adaptability for increasing or decreasing demand as required. The fact this plant was not going to be manned full time was also considered and membranes were deemed to be the more suitable solution for a remotely operable treatment train.

An “Expressions of Interest” (EOI) was advertised in a series of newspapers both in Tasmania and on the mainland. The purpose of the EOI was to make an evaluation of the capacity of the potential contractor to complete the work both on time and on budget prior to going to tender. CMW received 52 expressions of interest for the project. A significant amount of time was required to completely evaluate these expressions.

After completion of the EOI evaluations CMW forwarded tender documents to four successful contractors and asked for tenders to be submitted. Another lengthy evaluation process was embarked upon and significant weighting was given to the quality factors of the tenders. The price was not as significant as other factors. CMW conducted a final review of tenders via a steering committee to ensure due diligence was observed, the outcome from the steering committee review was one final contractor awarded the project. The contractor awarded the project was not the lowest tender received. A formal due diligence audit was conducted of the EOI and tendering process by a third party and no material errors were identified with the process.

The project is 70% completed to date and CMW can report the project is both on schedule and on budget. CMW believe the success to date is most likely due to the rigor of the EOI process and having the ability to only ask for tenders from the contractors identified as having the best chance of delivering a successful project outcome.

Contributed by **Scott Thow**, Technical Officer-Mechanical, Cradle Mountain Water



*This photo is the filtration system before being pumped to town with a dose of Hypo prior to CMW. (This is a metal screen that sits over the end of suction pipe to pumps)*



*This is the new plant being constructed to date holding the new membrane filters, Chlorine dosing, Fluoride dosing, online metering and a new holding tank.*

### Search the WIOA Website!

We have just added a search engine to the home page of the WIOA website that uses the powerful Google search engine to provide results from the entire WIOA website. Hopefully this will enable you to find that piece of information you may be looking for as it not only searches our site for content, but drills down into the previous papers that have been presented at WIOA conferences, some going back to 1998.

Check it out and let us know what you think. We have had many instances where operator questions have been answered by technical information just by searching through these papers; they are an underused wealth of resource that hopefully will now be unlocked through the search facility.



## 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:

Graeme Alaban, Ben Middleton, Oscar Hunt, Jordan Durham, Malcolm Leader, Allan Hooper, Richard Grimmond, Tony Evans, Matt LePoidevin, Damien Simmonds, Tahnee Thorpe, Jane Shepherd, Travis Sloan, Patricia Rokahr, Scott Brandon, Terrence Lambert, Ewan McPherson, James Coonan, Neil Roberts, Wayne Devonshire, Peter Orton, Stuart Richardson, Terry Dowell, Brett Allen, Tom Angus, Peter Bowman, Michael Buckley, Terry DeLaMotte, Andrew Doig, Michael Ducat, Wayne Ducat, Paul Evans, Clive Gerrard, Deanne Gooch, Bryon Heaney, Wally Hogg, William Holten, Nick Houston, John Ingram, David King, Kyron Kinnaird, Steve Lobston, Deiter Lorberg, John Love, Scott McDonald, Katrina Mesher, Clayton Miechel, Milton Mitchell, Wayne Morris, Rod Morton, Jason New, Terry Randall, John Russell, Gavin Salfus, Wayne Sinclair, Wayne Stahlhut, Wade Stapleton, Jye Walis, Ryan Wood, Peter Yerbury, Gavin Flood, Geoff Bellingham, Ian Pitt, Ron McGregor, Peter Cooper, Peter Ford, Ken Keliher, Craig Fisher, Shane Veney, Jeff Burrell, Paul Gregg, Edwards Slattery, Andrew Reid, Robin Edwardson, Lu Huabing, Errol Webber, Wade Probert, Javed Nishat, Lance Brazier, Mark Maluga, Shirley Kirkegaard, Greg Watson, Doug Leys, Mick Frost, Mark Byrne, Sharn Woolnough, Craig Smith, Kristy Lamb, Peter Barnes, Joshua Fern, Dallas Parkes, Joe Kowal, Robert Folkers, Adrian Phillips, Wayne Siganto, Loui Macri, Errol Carlsen, John Van Ryt, Bryan Jones, Luke Elliott, Todd Graham, Stuart Hildreth, James Meakin, Josh Batchelor, William Stone, Andrew Stevenson, Garth Parker, Elizabeth Millan, Jason Williams, Simon Jacobs, Nigel Jackson, Travis Lines, Adam Davis, David Annesley, Warwick Da Vanzo, Mathew Brodbeck, Glen Hackfath, Joel Warnes & Matthew Whitelaw.

New **Corporate Members** include:

Watson-Marlow Bredel Pumps, Total Eden, Baccara Automation, Rowe Scientific, Pall Australia, Ancra Australia & Philmac.

New **Utility Corporate Members** include:

Armidale Dumaresq Council, Cowra Shire Council, Tablelands Regional Council & Liverpool Plains Shire Council.

## COMING EVENTS

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 6 & 7 June      | 37th Annual Qld Water Industry Operations Workshop, Parklands, Gold Coast, Qld   |
| 14 June         | Calibration and Operation of On-line Turbidity Meters for Reliable Process Monitoring Seminar, Victoria – Waltzing Matilda Hotel, Springvale |
| 20 July         | 2012 Kwatye Prize applications closing date  |
| 5 & 6 September | 75th Annual Victorian Water Industry Engineers & Operators Conference, Bendigo.  |
| 21 October      | Victorian Charity Golf Day   |

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## NEXT EDITION

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### 75th Conference Anniversary Publication

WIOA will produce a publication celebrating the 75th Anniversary of conferences in Victoria.

- Old photos
- Articles of interest
- Conference history & anecdotes
- Companies to assist through sponsorship or advertising

Please contact Craig ([craig@wioa.org.au](mailto:craig@wioa.org.au)) or phone 0457 846 008 if you are able to assist.



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