



OPERATOR



Novemember 2005 Edition

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Margarita Grozdanoski being presented the Tradies Cup by President Cynthia Lim at the recent WIOA Golf Day. See story and results Page 6.



Cheryl Marvell looking the part at the NSW conference dinner in Tamworth. Story Page 4.

So much has happened since the last Pres' Prattle. The 68th Victorian Operators & Engineers conference, the annual charity golf day, the NSW Operators conference and the New Zealand NZWWA conference have all come and gone. Can you imagine the amount of networking, socialising and general chit chat which must have happened over the past couple of months? Congratulations to everyone who made the effort to attend one of the events mentioned above, I hope it was rewarding.



The Victorian conference was our biggest ever, with well over 850 people involved either as a conference delegate, a trade representative or a visitor. I must thank the committee and all those involved in organizing this event, especially to George Wall who did much of the planning solo this year. There were 144 trade sites to visit which is a mammoth task over two days.

My warmest congratulations are extended to all the conference paper and poster presenters and award winners. We know it's never easy to stand up before your peers and share your ideas. All the winners are listed elsewhere within this edition of the Operator. Thanks also goes to all the conference sponsors and to Coliban Water and CAMS as our hosts. This year WIOA had the opportunity to award a new prize. Courtesy of a sponsorship from IWA, the winner of the Best Operator Paper - Jarrah Feather of East Gippsland Water – was sent to the NZWWA conference. Look out for Jarrah's report in the next edition of WaterWorks.

The inaugural Kwatye Prize valued at \$6,000, sponsored by Environmental & Process Technologies, was also presented during the conference. We look forward to learning how this money will benefit the Australian water industry and will be kept updated with frequent reports from the winner - Eddy Ostarcevic.

Where to from here? I would love to hear more about the water projects undertaken – no matter how large or small. Often we forget to provide feedback and good ideas get lost in the ether. WIOA is always asking for short articles or interesting news from your district. This could be the time to share one of your stories - why not send something in or call one of your WIOA committee members to help. The more we share, the more we can grow as a professional industry.

Cynthia Lim
WIOA President

Guess Who ???

In this edition you will find various "caricatures" of WIOA members drawn at the recent Victorian conference. The first two members (Committee excluded) who successfully identify all these faces will receive free Membership of WIOA for 2006. A list of names to choose from are provided on page 8.

Entries via e-mail to the EO – info@wioa.org.au.

Certificates in Water Industry Operations – Victoria 2005

Representatives from the Water Industry Training Centre, Goulburn-Murray Water Training Services, Ballarat Uni TAFE and Riverina TAFE all attended the Victorian conference to announce those who had completed all the requirements to be awarded a Certificate in Water Industry Operations during the past year. A number of awardees were present to receive their Certificates. To them, the recipients listed below and any others who completed their training this year, we extend our heart felt congratulations for your achievements.

Certificate II.

Christopher McMennemin, Danny Brown, Darren Weda, Brian McNeill, Dale Yeates, Dean Cunico, Chris McLean, Luke Ellis, Kane Watson, Greg Bramley, Paul Cox, Gavin Catto, Darren Noles, Kelvin Mayberry, Danny Ballinger, Cameron Dudgeon, Kane Dougherty, Frank Harding, David Hicks, David Keenan, Marc Taylor, Michael Hynes, Rhys Jenkins, Bradley Chessells, Mick Pettifer, Luke Woodman, Kahl Oliver, Shane Trethowan, John Torpey, Zane Lyons, David Currie, Rodney Kerris.

Certificate III.

Bob Malone, Graeme Tankard, Richie Kreuzer, Roland Passuello, Jamie Baker, Rodger Mottram, Mark Walters, Russell Gillingham, Stephen Gemmill, Craig Sullivan, Peter Egan, Brian Letcher, Trevor Haines, Sarah Angel, David Dickson, Brett Forsyth, Adam Glasson, Peter Moore, Laura Oaten, Geoff Prowd, Peter Reberger, Chris Spokes.



Some Certificate recipients and their trainers at the Victorian Conference



Latrobe University (Wodonga Campus) Scholarship.

Sponsored by Anglian Water and WIOA.



Hi everyone! My name is Ainsley Rosser and I am studying environmental management and ecology at La Trobe University in Wodonga. One of the subjects that I have completed during my course is Waste Management and Treatment, which was mainly about wastewater treatment. Through that subject I discovered that I have a passion for sewerage!! As our course includes a mandatory ten-week industry placement, I organised to go and work with Peter Tolsher (Tolsh) at the West Wodonga Wastewater Treatment Plant which is operated by Anglian Water. I am currently about 2/3 of the way through my placement and enjoying every minute.

This year, for the first time, La Trobe offered a scholarship that was sponsored by Anglian Water and WIOA. The prize was a trip to Bendigo to attend the WIOA conference on the 7th and 8th of September. I was lucky enough to be chosen as the first winner of the scholarship and went along to Bendigo with Tolsh and Charlie Suggate, who was also one of three finalists for the Kwatye Prize. The first day of the conference was a real eye-opener as I had never been to any event like it before. After a quick look around the trade sites, we listened to some technical paper presentations. I was impressed by the great job done by people who wrote and presented technical papers, and by the friendly attitude of people towards "first-timers".

I found the conference to be a great way to learn more about the water industry and meet people who already work in the industry. It was a great learning experience as I was able to chat with some very knowledgeable people who were more than willing to share some of their knowledge with me. So, thank you to Anglian Water and the WIOA committee for inviting me to your fantastic conference. Thank you to all the people who were so welcoming and patient with someone who a lot of the time had only a vague idea of what they were talking about!

Ainsley Rosser, La Trobe University, Wodonga.



Ainsley (r) helping pack satchels at the Vic conference

From the EO's Desk

Preliminary Notice Weekend Seminar – 2006

All Members please note: the 2006 AGM & Weekend Seminar is programmed for the weekend of 25 & 26 February 2006.

The venue is the Surf Coast Spa Resort, Anglesea. More details including the list of presenters and a registration form will be sent out soon. Remember, spots are allocated to the first 50 financial Members who complete and return the registration form. To avoid missing out, make sure you fill the form in and return it as soon as you receive it.

British Tapping Competition

Utility Services have entered a team in the British Tapping Competition being held at the IWEX Conference in Birmingham UK. This is the first time an Australian team has been entered into this competition, and they will be competing against teams from around the world including USA, Holland and England.

The event is a team time trial, where each team has two contestants one of whom must be connected to the water industry either employed by a water company or contract partners. Their aim is to drill and tap a 150mm-diameter ductile iron main under pressure at 70-100psi, together with the installation of a simulated service connection. Skill, dexterity and speed are a prime requirement, but quality is paramount and time penalty points are added if there are any leaks or infringements of the Rules & Regulations governing the Championships. A prize is awarded for a 'quality tap', i.e. no penalty points incurred. We'll keep you posted with how they go and if there is enough interest out there we may be able to include this sort of competition into future conference programs. We'd be interested in your thoughts about this idea.

Conference Evaluation – Your Comments

Thank you to all those people who completed and returned the delegate evaluation form to us following the recent Victorian conference. In general the comments were positive, although there were some specific concerns raised. We were already aware of many of them and will take the necessary actions to remedy these problems and make next years conference even better. We are still prepared to receive your comments (good or bad) so if you have been thinking about sending the form in, it is not too late and we would appreciate your thoughts.

We also sent out a separate survey to all the Exhibitors in order to gauge their level of satisfaction and to help implement improvements for future exhibitions. We will complete a report outlining the comments received and will forward that to all exhibitors. In the main, the comments were also positive and some good suggestions have been noted for our consideration.

George Wall
Executive Officer - WIOA

Conferences 2005

Victoria

As there are so many award winners to note from the Victorian event, we thought we'd give a summary of the Victorian event a miss to make sure we don't run out of room. We can however, advise that there were some excellent platform and poster papers presented and no doubt you will read some of them in future editions of WaterWorks.



The Trade Exhibition had a record number of 144 sites occupied (up from 110 last year) and the booths were looked after by more than 350 company representatives. There were 305 delegates registered (up from 230 last year) and just on 200 other people attended as trade exhibition visitors. All up there were more than 850 at the conference with not a single motel room left in Bendigo. Thanks again to the WIOA Committee, Ron Bergmeier and staff, Coliban Water and CAMS and all the other sponsors, trade exhibitors, delegates and anyone else who helped out in any way.

The conference award winners as presented this year were:

Hepburn Prize (best Paper overall)

Mark Jarvis, Melbourne Water.

Actizyme Prizes (best Paper by an Operator)

1st Place: Jarrah Feather, East Gippsland Water

R/Up Actizyme Prize: Jason Whittaker, Goulburn Valley Water

Third Place Actizyme Prize: Jeff Nock, Aqwest (WA)

For his presentation being judged the best Operator paper, Jarrah also won the IWA sponsored prize of an all expenses paid trip to the NZWWA conference in Auckland .

Water Industry Training Centre Prizes (Best Operator Poster Papers)

1st Place : Barry Waddell, East Gippsland Water

R/Up WITC Prize: Belinda Streader, Goulburn Valley Water

3rd WITC Prize : Lou Wilson, Utility Services

The AWA sponsored "Wal Whiteside Operator of the Year Award" was awarded to Simon McCracken from Barwon Water.

A special prize for the **best trade site** (a one year Corporate Membership of WIOA) was presented to 'us' – Utility Services.

New South Wales

The conference was held in Tamworth this year and was a combined Operators and Liquid Trade Waste event. There were 31 trade exhibitors, about 45 operators and about 90 liquid trade waste delegates in attendance.

At a joint opening session chaired by AWA NSW Branch President Annalisa Contos, we listened to a very interesting presentation from Peter Dwan from WaterAid. After this, the delegates headed off to paper sessions in their individual streams. The papers presented in the Operators stream were very informative and the four papers eligible to win the Actizyme prizes were of high quality.

The first day ended with a late afternoon "country" V's "city" cricket match with some very dubious umpiring provided by Michael Seller from AWA. Still sporting my crook back, I was thrown the pen and the scoring responsibilities. True to form at one of these games, and with no fudging by the scorer, the result was a tie. This was courtesy of the last batting pair losing 20 runs in the last of their 4 overs (indoor cricket rules used where you lose 5 runs every time you go out).



The teams limbering up for action

Needless to say, all this exertion made the "country and western" dinner even more enjoyable. In the spirit of the night, it was great to see Cheryl Marvel decked out in her finest country attire. The entertainment was a real treat with a number of local kids performing some new and old country rock music. There was a wealth of talent on show and the lead guitarist was something special at just 16 years of age. Look out Nashville.

After another joint paper session to start off the second day, we again moved off to our separate rooms for the last few papers, including Jason Whittaker who won an Actizyme prize for his paper in Victoria. After lunch the presentations were made to the best operator papers and the various prize draws for items donated by the exhibitors were completed.

Actizyme Prizes (best Paper by an Operator)

Equal 1st Place: Iain Fairbairn, Sydney Water

Equal 1st Place: Paul Cooper, Clarence Valley Council

Encouragement Awards: Ross Fleming & Matthew O'Sullivan.

WIOA will arrange for Iain and Paul's papers to be presented again at another operator conference somewhere in the country in 2006.

Although the event operator was a little light on for numbers, the information provided was first rate, we all enjoyed ourselves and as usual made some valuable contacts for the future. Discussions with the conference organising Committee over the course of the event were also fruitful and it is now highly likely that WIOA will be assigned responsibility for organising the operators event from 2006 onwards.

By George Wall



*Iain Fairbairn being presented his Actizyme award in NSW
Robert Unsworth from Southern Cross Laboratories*

New Zealand Water and Wastes Conference

This year I was fortunate to be able to represent WIOA at the NZWWA Conference in Auckland. I accompanied our exchange operator Brendan Holt from Gippsland Water, and Jarrah Feather, the winner of the IWA Prize for the best operator paper at the Victorian conference.

We were collected at the Auckland airport by Gil Miers for the trip to our motel. Although Gil had attended the Vic conference as part of the NZ Operators tour and looked kind of familiar, we were expecting to be collected by Dave Neru. A few sideways glances and some head nodding later and we were on our way.

Gil works at the Mangere WWTP and being right next to the airport he took us for a quick tour of the plant. It has a number of different treatment processes and we were able to see them all without leaving the car. A real bloke's tour, but very interesting to see the size and structure of the place.

We dropped our gear off at the motel and took a drive around the city ending up at Bastion Point - a great place to view the city and surrounds. We then headed off to the official conference opening at the Aotea Centre. Afterwards we caught up with Dave and Rob Blakemore, the Keynote speaker from our 2002 conference in Geelong, along with Bert Grey and others from OPUS for dinner. Our evening ended with a trip to the Casino where Jarrah did a great job boosting the NZ economy with our pooled funds.

Wednesday saw us at the Aotea Centre nice and early for the start of the day's paper presentations and a walk through the trade exhibits. We ran into Tony Hourigan at the Alldos stand and some other familiar faces from Oz. There were plenty of papers to choose from with up to three streams running concurrently throughout the day. The content and discussion in the papers was very similar to our own which goes to show we all face the same day to day operating problems no matter where we live. During the day Dave managed to introduce us to just about every committee member of the NZWWA as well as a lot of the exhibitors. Our day ended with a great dinner at the wharf courtesy of Alldos, thanks to Tony and Ozzie.

After a late night we had a quick look at the Sky Tower early in the morning. It provides a great view of the city from 210 metres up in the air, not a good idea if you haven't had enough sleep. If you're game you can even freefall to the ground in a harness, for a small fee. If we had a bit more time we all reckoned we would have had a go but the lift was a much better option.

Back at the conference centre we listened to more papers and having a bit of time to kill before dinner, had a quick look around the Auckland harbour precinct. They have made many improvements from the days of the America Cup yacht racing. We then headed out to dinner as guests of OPUS for the evening.

After another late night we rocked up for the final morning of paper presentations before heading home. Brendan was heading off for the afternoon on a study tour of water and wastewater treatment facilities before making the trip to his host authority for the next fortnight so we wished him well and headed for the airport.

With Dave, Jarrah and myself all scheduled to leave within about an hour of each other we caught a shuttle bus to the airport. On arrival I was informed that my flight to Melbourne was delayed for 2 hours, that turned into 3 then a bit more so I had a really good look around the airport. I saw the others off, including Tony Hourigan and had another good look around. At the end of the day it was a small price to pay for the great week of friendship and hospitality provided by a wonderful group of people we can now call friends.

by Anthony Evans



Anthony and Jarrah checking out adventure Evans.com in NZ



2005 Charity Golf Day



The seventh annual Water Industry Charity Golf Day was held at Kilmore Golf Club on Sunday 2 October 2005.

Numbers were a lot stronger than last year and the players were greeted by a fantastic day weather wise. The course was an absolute picture and playing the day after the start of the Club Championships, it could not have been in better condition.

There were numerous companies who generously sponsored the day and we wish to recognise the support and generosity of the following organisations:

Major Sponsors

Gippsland Water, Environmental & Process Technologies & ITT Flygt

Gold Sponsors

Piping and Automation Systems, Ecowise/ WSL Consultants, Australian Pollution Engineering, ProMinent, RTU.net, By-Jas Engineering, Alldos, ABB Australia, Acromet, Lisa Rawlinson & Associates, Heraeus-amba, Haulton Construction Services and Merck.

Silver Sponsors

Unimin Australia, CMW-BVA Valves, Nordical Diving Services, Complete Tapping Service, Utility Services and Bell Environmental

Special thanks to ITT Flygt for sponsoring the BBQ before and after the golf and to Biolab who supplied the "booze buggy" and kept the players well lubricated on the way round.

This year the format of the day was changed to "ambrose" in teams of three with the players in each team drawn out of a hat. To make sure all teams were reasonably competitive, there was at least one player with a handicap placed in each group. The scores were all reasonably close at the end of the day so the system seemed to work OK.

To the results -

Winners – The team of Shannon Ford, Andrew Whray and Murray Withington with a score of 67 less 8.7 – net 58.3

Runners-up - The team of Barry Waddell, Les Harrison and Matt Collins with a score of 69 less 9.8 – net 59.2

The **Tradies cup** was won by the Utility Services team comprising Margarita Grozdanoski, Paul Patrick and Ivan Carroll.

Nearest the pins - Owen Braybrook, Rex Humphries, Jill Busch and Peter Fitzmaurice

Longest Drive – Murray Withington

The eighth annual golf day will be staged at Kilmore GC, we anticipate in early October 2005, and we look forward to the industry continuing its strong support of the event.



Cynthia with the winning team of Andrew, Shannon and Murray

Water Industry Training Package Review

The first meeting of the Water Training Package Review Steering Committee was held in Melbourne on 7 October 2006. WIOA has a strong voice on this national committee with John Harris as the Chair, George Wall representing WIOA and Stephen Wilson representing the private RTO's.

The review is running on a very tight timeline with the entire project currently programmed for completion by the end of July 2006. All WIOA Members were recently forwarded a newsletter from ALGT outlining the progress of the review and more updates will be provided as the project moves on.



Integral to the review process is the formation of a number of Industry Advisory Groups (IAG's). Included with the ALGT newsletter was a separate form for people to nominate to be on the various IAG. WIOA would like to encourage as many Members as possible to register for one, or a number of, these groups so that a wide range of views can be heard.

The role of each IAG is to review and provide appropriate technical comment on the unit descriptors for each of their areas of expertise. As the template for the presentation of each unit is being changed, it is an ideal opportunity to update the content of each existing unit as well to review the new units being developed. It is planned for the majority of this work to be e-mail or website based but some face-to-face meetings may be convened.

If you have any queries about the process or concerns with



Training Package Review Steering Committee meeting recently

The Inaugural Kwatye Prize

Our congratulations are extended to Eddy Ostarcevic who was named the winner of the inaugural Kwatye Prize at the 68th Victorian Operators and Engineers conference in Bendigo. The Kwatye Prize is sponsored by Environmental & Process Technologies (division of Biolab) and is their way of giving something back to the industry which has supported them well over the years.

WIOA was given the task of developing a meaningful prize, using the framework of a scholarship and covering the following points:

- ◆ To advance technology/systems for operators
- ◆ Foster encouragement of an individual to aspire for improvement
- ◆ Recognise an outstanding individual (must be WIOA Member)

Applications were accepted for a period of four months in early 2005 with application forms able to be downloaded from the WIOA website. The prize was only open to individual WIOA Members. A judging panel comprising Dr Stephen Gray - Principal Research Scientist from CSIRO – Urban Water, Mr Peter Donlon - Technical Director of Water Services Association of Australia and Ms Cynthia Lim - President of WIOA was appointed. It was felt that between them, this panel provided a broad spectrum of industry knowledge.

At the closing date for applications, six submissions had been received. The judging panel met and short listed the applications to the final three. These applicants were then interviewed by the panel. The shortlisted applicants and their proposed projects were:

- ◆ Jason Mullins – Combating the Chloramination Variables
- ◆ Charlie Suggate - Pre-treatment of Industrial Waste for Discharge to WWTP's
- ◆ Eddy Ostarcevic – Colour Removal without Chemical Addition using Nanofiltration.

The shortlisted applicants had a one hour interview with the judging panel and were able to describe their project in more detail and provide a tentative budget.

After the interview process, the judges then discussed each proposal in turn and ultimately selected Eddy Ostarcevic's project as most closely meeting the judging criteria. The prize encompasses a cash grant of up to \$6,000 to offset the costs of travel and other expense to allow Eddy undertake his project. No doubt you will read and hear more in future editions of Operator and WaterWorks as Eddy's project develops.

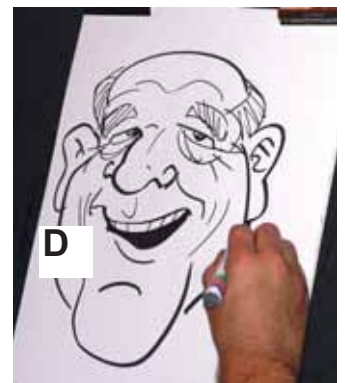
Congratulations to the WIOA Members who participated and entered a proposal for consideration for the inaugural Kwatye Prize. Next year we look forward to receiving an even more fabulous range of projects and ideas. Applications for the 2006 Kwatye Prize will be available from the WIOA website in early January.



Rohan Latham (r) from Environmental & Process Technologies presenting the 2005 Kwatye Prize to Eddy Ostarcevic



The other Kwatye Prize finalists in Jason Mullins (l) and Charlie Suggate



Coming Events

WIOA AGM & weekend seminar – Anglesea – 25-26 Feb 2006

SA Operators Conference – Adelaide - 6 April (to be confirmed)

NEXT EDITION

**Article Contribution Deadline
For the February 2006 Edition
14th January , 2006**



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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 Cameron Patrick, Ray Spiller, David Aitken, James Povey, Wayne Pell, Mark Rutherford, Craig Bindoff, Sirimath Dep, Ray Baird, Brett Geale, Suzy Hatch, Colum Kearney, Clinton Hardy, Manfred Glombowski, Ben Murdoch, Ben Spedding, Gil Miers, Roger Westgarth, Alan Beardall, Paul Slattery, Dave Neru, Jarrah Feather, Murray Baillie, John Walsh, Mike Todd, Chris McLeod, Bruce McPhee, Cec Capon, Bruce McCallum, John Flett, Peter Roberts, Chris Fletcher, Sharon Heyme, Peter Ward, Mark Chappell, Gene Hawthorne, Ross Fleming, Iain Fairbairn, Mark Jarvis, Belinda Streader, Cameron Tully, Stewart Ramsay.

New Corporate Supporters include Just Dig It (NZ), McBerns, Waipa Dist Council (NZ).



The WIOA gratefully acknowledges the support provided by
Barwon Water in producing 'Operator'



The names to go with all the caricature faces are Cynthia Lim, Peter Tolsher, Anthony Evans, Ray Archer, Roland Passuello, Suzy Hatch and Barry Waddell – Good luck!

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WANTED

Any articles, news snippets,
information on improved work practices, etc as contributions to your
magazine

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