



# OPERATOR



November 2006 Edition

## Inside

- ~ President's Prattle P. 2
- ~ Profile of a Member P. 2
- ~ Vic Conference Report P. 3
- ~ Water Training Package Review P. 4
- ~ Operator of the Year Qld P. 5
- ~ Cairns Filters Workshop P. 6
- ~ Leak Detection to the Rescue P. 6
- ~ Outback Car Rally P. 7
- ~ Kwayte P. 7
- ~ IDIOTS P. 8



*What IDIOT would wear a shirt like this?  
Find out on Page 8*



*Hamming it up at the Victorian Conference Dinner. Read more on page 3*



# President's Prattle

From little things, big things grow! This is the tune that seems to pop into my head whenever I reflect on WIOA over recent years. I think of the growing number of Members, both individual and corporate, across the entire country and even from New Zealand as well. We have successfully staged our biggest ever Victorian Engineers and Operators conference recently in the regional centre of Bendigo and it is now almost impossible to find another town and venue suitable. Not only did we hold two successful conferences and trade exhibitions in 2006, we also held a series of technical seminars, assisted in the publication of a series of 'Practical Guides' for operators, spoke on behalf of Operators on various training advisory boards, traveled to New Zealand and joined our WIOG brothers at their workshop in Palmerston North, ran our charity golf day, held our ninth weekend seminar - the list goes on. Next year we embark on three conferences and trade exhibitions, bringing in New South Wales to the complete the trilogy, along with working to ensure all the other events already mentioned continue to grow and improve.

George Wall our Executive Officer has a lot to do with our success and I take my hat off to him for his enthusiasm, patience and unfailing commitment to the Association.

I have learnt whilst in the top job that WIOA's success doesn't just happen by chance. It takes a great amount of planning, foresight and discussions with a wide variety of associated groups and water industry people. Another forum is coming soon where we invite Members to share your ideas with the Committee and help us to shape WIOA for the future. About five years ago we held a similar meeting titled "Future Directions" and we are pleased to report that we have reached all the goals set out during that meeting. Look out in the calendar of events for the meeting date and venue and I look forward to spirited discussions on 'where to' from here.

Congratulations to all the award winners announced at the Victorian conference. There are now so many awards, prizes and give-aways to announce during the course of the conference, but it is satisfying that the conference is being used to acknowledge those who have achieved something during the year.

There are plenty of Members still out there who are yet to participate in some of WIOA's great events. I invite you to take the opportunity to get out your diary and mark in some of the coming WIOA events for 2007. Remember you don't necessarily have to attend an event in your State - spread your wings. It seems that water is finally gaining the recognition of the public that it truly deserves, so please make some time to join your peers and participate. You will find it more fun than you thought - guaranteed!

Cheers,

Cynthia Lim  
WIOA President

## REMINDER

WIOA Individual Membership fees will increase to \$20 from 1 January 2007. Invoices will be sent to all members early in the year.

## Profile of a Member

**Name.** Garry Needham.  
**Position.** Facility Supervisor Water Filtration Plants  
**Location.** Albury.

**How long have you been a member of WIOA?**  
17 Years

**How long have you worked in the Water Industry and where?**  
Albury City Council Filtration Plant for 27 years

**What areas of the water industry have you worked in?**  
Started working with John Thompson Australia installing filter cells.  
Operating Albury's two 70ML a day Plants

**How did you get into your current role ?**  
Whilst working for John Thompson Australia in Albury, the position of assistant Operator became available. I applied and later became the operator in charge.

**What does your current job involve?**  
Supervising staff, operation of the filtration plants and 27 pumping stations as well as the 22 reservoirs; supplying raw water to the Norske Skog paper mill and supplying water to the Hume Weir Village.

**What have been some of the big changes in recent years?**  
Duplication of Albury's filtration in 1990 and the expansion of Albury's boundaries.

**What do you think you will be doing in 5 years time?**  
Hopefully still working in my current role.

### Ok, a few quick questions to finish with.

**Age:** 53  
**Nickname:** Gaza  
**Family Status:** Married with 3 adult children  
**Pets:** 2 Golden Retrievers  
- Tasha & Zak  
**Favourite Food:** Seafood  
**Least Fav Food:** Carrots  
**Favourite TV Show:** Dads Army  
**Worst TV Show:** Home and Away  
**Favourite Movie:** Gladiator with Russell Crowe  
**Current CD in stereo:** Neil Diamond  
**Ambition in Life:** To have a long and healthy life; to travel and watch my children's families go thru life

**Hobbies:** Motor bike riding  
**Best Trait:** Easy Going  
**Worst Trait:** Interrupting my wife when watching Home & Away

**Favourite Book:** War of the Worlds.

**Four People to invite to a BBQ:** My wife and Children.

**Most memorable moments:** When I met my wife and the births of my son & 2 daughters.



Garry Needham



## Vic Conference Report

The 69<sup>th</sup> Annual WIOA Victorian Water Industry Engineers and Operators Conference was held in Bendigo on 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> September 2006 with 270 registered delegates and just over 240 trade visitors in attendance. The trade exhibition was the largest ever for our conference with 169 booths occupied by 136 companies displaying their products and services. There were more than 400 trade representatives present looking after the booths. We would like to thank all the companies involved for the time and effort put in to making the exhibition so impressive.

The technical paper sessions were well attended and the papers presented were of an excellent standard.



*Papers session*

Congratulations to all the prize winners at the Conference including:

**1<sup>st</sup> - Actizyme Prize** for best Operator Paper – Jason McGregor from Central Highlands Water for his excellent paper on Trade Waste minimisation through substitution and recycling.

**2<sup>nd</sup> - Actizyme Prize** – Paul Balassone from Melbourne Water.

**3<sup>rd</sup> - Actizyme Prize** – Ian Syer from ‘us’ – Utility Services.

In addition to the Actizyme Prize, Jason McGregor was also awarded the **Hepburn Prize** for the Best Paper presented overall at the conference. Not to be done there, Jason also picked up the Victorian **Institute of Water Administration (IWA) Prize** of an all expenses paid trip to the New Zealand Operations Conference to be held in Christchurch in May 2007 to do his paper again.

**1<sup>st</sup> – Water Industry Training Centre (WITC) Prize** for best Operator Poster Paper – John Day from Power and Water in NT for his presentation on the Alice Springs bore field.

**2<sup>nd</sup> WITC Prize** – awarded to Tim Tanner from Goulburn Valley Water.

**3<sup>rd</sup> WITC Prize** – Bob Millar from Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water.

The **AWA, Wal Whiteside, Vic Operator of the Year Award** was presented to Rodney Curtis from Western Water. Look out for the February 2006 edition of Operator for more information on Rod’s achievements.

Congratulations to all the winners of the Trade Competition and a big thanks to Peter Tolsher for organising it. Special mention to all the companies who donated prizes.

The entertainment at the Trade Dinners was great value with both Russell Mack and Tony Hourigan on stage and right in the thick of the action – have you still got your wallet Tony? Special mention to Peta Thiel for being a big chicken and not trying out the (fake??) guillotine.



*“Put your hand back in there Peta!!”*

Mike Brady was a big hit at the conference dinner and belted out a heap of familiar tunes, as well as a few we didn’t know he wrote – talented man. Unfortunately a sore throat cut his act a bit short but for a price, Etienne from RTUnet did manage to lob a heap of footy shaped stress balls into the crowd in the middle of “Up There Cazaly”.

The EO (and that “Inter-territorial man of mystery” – John Day) were seen hob-knobbing it with Ted Baillieu (Vic Opposition leader) and Wendy Lovell (MLC) when they took time off the hustings and dropped in for a look at the showgrounds venue and conference. They liked what they saw and we can expect some strong support if the Libs win the November election.



*Victorian opposition Leader Ted Baillieu and Wendy Lovell, MLC visit the Victorian Conference*

A big thank you from WIOA to all the sponsors of the event including our Host and Major Sponsor in Veolia Water; Australian Pollution Engineering; Australian Water Association; ITT Flygt; Peerless Industrial Products; Merck; Alldos Oceania; LV Rawlinson and Associates; KSB Ajax Pumps; Iwaki Pumps; G-Tech Separation; Earth Tech; Water Industry Training Centre; Southern Cross Laboratories (Actizyme); ATMR; CIBA; Allight; Grundfos; WME Media; Davey Products; IDEXX Laboratories; Omega Chemicals; Environmental & Process Technologies (Division of Biolab); Institute of Water Administration (Vic); Centre for Groundwater Studies; Bürkert Fluid Control Systems; Nordical Diving and CRS Industrial Water Treatment Systems.

Overall the Conference was a huge success and we look forward to 2007 being even bigger and better.

# Water Training Package Review

The current drought and concerns about water conservation and water quality standards are proving to raise the profile of the industry and awareness of the importance of the fundamental national infrastructure that it manages.

The recent review of the Water Industry Training Package has been timely. It is five years since the basic work involved in the endorsement of the NWP01 Training Package was undertaken and a great deal has happened within the Water industry and workplaces generally during this time. The review provided an opportunity to build an understanding of those changes and develop appropriate solutions that are reflected in this revised Water Industry Training Package.

With the assistance of Water Industry stakeholders nationally, much has been achieved. Including:

- Re-development of all existing units of competency in the current Water Industry Training Package.
- Development of 45 **new units** of competency in the following areas:
  - Dams
  - Trade Waste
  - Treatment
  - Hydrography
  - Confined Spaces
- Extensive review and re-development of the Qualification Framework.
- Incorporation of Employability Skills into the Training Package.
- Development of a new Certificate I Pathways program.
- Development of a new Vocational Graduate Certificate.

The Water Industry responded generously to the project development teams call for technical input. This industry feedback assisted the technical writing team greatly in the development of the end product - an enhanced/updated Water Industry Training Package.



*Water Training Committee Signing off the revised Package*

At their October 3rd, 2006 meeting in Melbourne, the Project Steering Committee validated the findings of the project team and signed off on the project. Some minor amendments were made to the Final Draft Qualification Framework at this meeting. The changes made to the Final Draft Qualification Framework along with a copy of the units of competency, can be viewed at the

Government Skills Australia website: [www.governmentskills.com.au](http://www.governmentskills.com.au). It is expected that the revised Water Industry Training Package will be available for implementation in early 2007.

The project co-ordinators ALGT, would like to take this opportunity to thank the Water Industry and in particular the members of WIOA for their support and assistance over the past twelve months.

For further details on the endorsement and subsequent implementation of the revised Water Industry Training Package, contact: Prue Madsen, Government Skills Australia Industry Skills Council, Email: [prue.madsen@governmentskills.com.au](mailto:prue.madsen@governmentskills.com.au), Phone: 08 8410 3455 or visit the GSA website: [www.governmentskills.com.au](http://www.governmentskills.com.au)

Contributed by **Joan Whelan**, ALGT

## Practical Joke – Or Not??

**Editors Note-** this email was sent to WIOA soon after the Qld Conference and to prove that Operators are the same the world over, Peter gave us permission to reproduce his note here.

George,

Following my presentation at the Rockhampton WIOA workshop I had to make a rather hasty departure in order to meet other work commitments back in Brisbane, and subsequently I missed the dinner on Thursday night. The next day I received a call from one of our operators in Collinsville who had also attended the workshop, who told me that I'd been awarded the WITA Prize for the Best Paper at the conference. This particular operator has a reputation for practical jokes, so when he told me that I'd won a laptop, and that he had it in his possession, I was certain that he was pulling my leg.

Yesterday the laptop and trophy hit my desk. My jaw followed shortly thereafter.

Given that I missed my opportunity to do so at the presentation, I'd like to now thank the WIOA for the award - I'm truly flattered and somewhat dumbfounded, and very appreciative.

Would you please pass my thanks on to the WIOA management committee, WITA, and any others who are involved in the administration of the award. It was very unexpected, and gratefully received.

As a final note I'd like to congratulate you on running such a successful workshop. The SunWater staff who attended have all commented on the benefits of attending, and next year we will make sure that we bring a larger contingent to participate in what is a very informative and enjoyable forum.



Regards,

**Peter MacTaggart** Project Manager,  
Business Development Operations &  
Maintenance, SunWater



## 2006 Qld AWA, Leon Henry Memorial, Operator of the Year Award

Congratulations are extended to James Castle from Cabwater for being awarded the Inaugural Leon Henry Prize at the Queensland Water Industry Workshop held in Rockhampton in July. James was awarded the prize for "Excellence in Operations" and was selected from a group of candidates submitted for consideration by their employing authorities.

Leon Henry for those who don't know, was a leading advocate in Queensland of the need for educating, training and developing operational staff in all aspects of the water industry. Leon actively promoted these ideals using his former position as Director of Queensland's Water Quality Council and in more recent times as the President of the Water Industry Training Association of Queensland, the former host of this important conference.



*James Castle receiving his award from AWA Qld President Helen Stratton*

So why did James attract the eyes of the judges? A quick review of his career within the industry will give us some idea. James has made a career objective of acquiring the necessary knowledge to succeed. He gained his first introduction to the field of water through an Associate Diploma in Aquatic Resource Management through Central Queensland University in 1992 only moving into the municipal arena with Caboolture Shire Council in 1995. He is glad he started at the bottom, he was in sewage maintenance smoke testing and then took on the relieving Assistant Water and Sewage Treatment Plant Operators position followed by the Assistant Water Treatment Plant Operators at a number of smaller plants. He then took on the Operators role at the South Caboolture Water Reclamation Plant, then Sewage Treatment Plant Foreman, then Foreman of all Treatment plants (water and sewage) to his current position as Treatment Superintendent in Cabwater.

Whilst this career is impressive it has not been achieved without a deal of hard yakka by James. In this career James has acquired Certificates in Sewage and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations (1997), Water Treatment Plant Operations (1998), and Swimming Pool Plant Operations in 2000 through the Open Learning Institute. This of course makes him a valuable commodity for any employer in the industry but he is not yet finished and has commenced a Graduate Diploma in Engineering – Wastewater Management through the University of Queensland.

Amongst James' work accomplishments has been his role in the amalgamation of Cabwaters Water and Sewage operations, his contribution to the installation of a Quality Management System in their treatment plants, his capacity to deputise for senior staff in the organisation and his recent role in dealing with some challenging episodes with Queensland's Administrating Authority (the EPA). To top all this off James is a known team player, he knows we are there to serve the public, is self motivated, positive and enthusiastic about his future in our challenging industry. His loyalty, trustworthiness and reliability were the reasons his employer supported his nomination. I am sure the late Leon Henry would be very pleased to know that operational staff in Queensland are setting the pace for their peers throughout Australia.

Should any Queensland Authority wish to nominate one of their operational staff for this prestigious Award at next years Conference please feel free to contact Don Mackay at OLI - Email [Donald.Mackay@det.qld.gov.au](mailto:Donald.Mackay@det.qld.gov.au)

## Certificate in Water Industry Operations – Victoria 2005

Representatives from the Water Industry Training Centre, Goulburn-Murray Water Training Services and Ballarat Uni 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.**

Nathan Scott, Matthew Forsyth, Vicki Giles, Kane Watson, Rick Ziarkowski, Gavin Overy, Daniel Bourke, Greg Bramley, Paul Hughan, David Keenan, Kris Lee, Peter Taylor, Lincoln Wellington, Alan Beardall, John Bourke, Kristy Bourke, Graham Bowers, Lincoln Dibben, Dennis Ebery, Benjamin Evans, Peter Kanters, Megan Knight, Henry Maro, Ben Murdoch, Adam Panozzo, Brian Pollard, Aaron Sewell, Brenton Siviour, Ben Spedding, Gary Stanley.

### **Certificate III.**

Justin Brown, Matthew Grivas, Peter Gstrein Hekman, Edwin Joyce, Ben McEwan, Robin Millard, Peter Miller, Craig Parker, Shane Small, Gary Wills, Peter Skelton, Joshua Lamanna, Kris Filipov, John Deans, Matthew Gallace, Steven Brodribb, Daniel Marsden, Connie Mladenovic, Raymond Barassi, Joan Barry, Paul Barry, Gerard Barry, Graham Brock, Mark Closter, Robert Clough, Rod Curtis, Brendan Dalgleish, John Dodd, Craig Dovaston, Neville Dutton, Mark Liefing, Peter Little, Desmond Ryan, Paul Wilkie, Wes Wittick, Richard Woulfe, Greg Bramley, Brendan Brooks, Edward Carmody, Richard Carter, Peter Clune, Geoffrey Davey, Michael Doherty, Patrick Doyle, Peter Egan, Murray Evans, David Francis, Greg Friedberger, Rod Gale, Trevor Haines, Frank Harding, David Hicks, Geoffrey Kirchofer, Shannon Lancaster, Steven Lawless, Brian Letcher, William Maslen, Khane Mason, Peter McEvoy, Brett Morris, Kevin Orr, William Otte, Max Poole, Craig Sullivan, Lincoln Wellington, Alan Beardall, John Bourke, Graham Bowers, Michael Chapman, Dennis Ebery, Benjamin Evans, Luke McCormick, Adam Panozzo, Aaron Sewell.

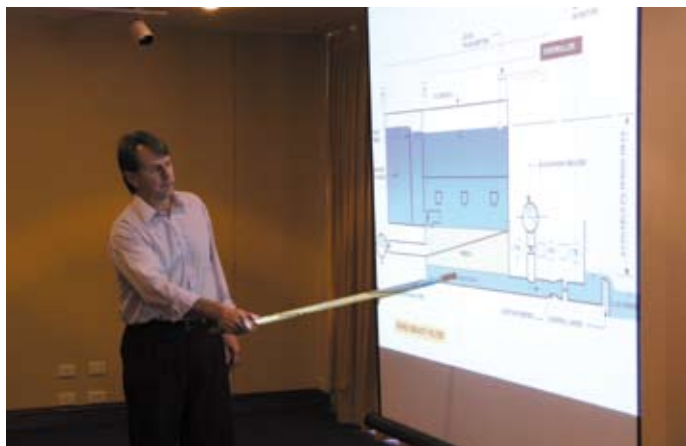
### **Diploma.**

Geoffrey Enever, Eddie Tappe.

## Filter Workshop - Cairns 2006.

It was a long day driving from Townsville to Cairns and return with an 8-½ hour workshop, but it was well worth the effort and I would encourage anyone to attend upcoming workshops on this subject.

The workshop highlighted just how limited our knowledge was on sand filters. We currently run an 8.0 ML per day Dissolved Air Floatation Filtration on the back of a biological trickling filter wastewater treatment plant. This helps to clean up our final effluent as well as supply tertiary treated water to one of our major golf courses.



*Bruce Murray at the Filters Workshop in Cairns*

The very next day we implemented some changes gathered from the workshop for example: - We were running our air scour much too long and cut it back from 300 seconds to 120 seconds. Other problems were plainly obvious after attending the workshop such as possible holes in the plenum floor or broken nozzles. At the start of an air scour there are large eruptions of air indicating that something is a miss below causing disruptions to the support media – sand – filter coal with subsequent short-circuiting. This will mean a dig out of the filter media to find the cause. Another problem is that backwashes are not regularly observed.

The content of the workshop well and truly met our expectations and I found myself wishing that the workshop would run for another day.



*Peter Mosse in full flight*

This is the first WIOA workshop that I have attended and if this one is any thing to go by operators should be attending. There is heaps of information available and with other workshops coming up around the country in the near future I would highly recommend the workshops to all operators. Make sure you get there if you can.

Contributed by **Andrew Haden**, Citiwater, Townsville

## Leak Detection to the Rescue

The 'us' – Utility Services Leakage Detection Team received an urgent call recently from Coliban Water requesting our leak detection services in Bendigo. Stage 4 Restriction are currently in force meaning all outside watering is banned and water saving is at a premium.

Coliban Water required some specialised leak detection as they were unable to locate the source of a leak that was flooding the basement of a property in Myrtle Street, Bendigo.

The infamous leak was causing Coliban Water a lot of unwanted publicity in local papers and on the WIN TV local news.

Mark Bishop was sent to Bendigo with the acoustic leak detection equipment to find the location of the leak. To say Mark was under pressure was an understatement. There were TV cameras, reporters, Management from Coliban Water, work crews and the suspect water main was newly constructed under a new by pass road that was opened very recently by a local politician.

Mark, unphased by all the pressure, went through the process of using all the acoustic equipment and determined the possible location of a leak under the new road pavement that was 60 metres away from the property that was being flooded.



Coliban Water were not convinced, so only a small test hole, 300mm by 300mm was cut in the new road and by using "no dig" technology, a suction pump was used to excavate over the water main.



To everybody's surprise, (except Mark's), right in the middle of the small excavation a flange fitting from the water main was leaking at about 10 litres per minute. You can see the water squirting from under the blue plastic wrapping.

Coliban Water was extremely impressed with our response, Mark's professionalism and expertise with the acoustic equipment. It certainly saved them thousands of dollars in trying to locate the leak and more importantly prevented the continuation of water wastage. A difficult job well done!!

Contributed by **Bernd Vetter**, Utility Services.



## The Great Escape - Update

Using fundraising for Cystic Fibrosis to justify building a rally car and heading for a 10-day adventure has to be the best idea we've had all year.

A lot of work goes into preparing for such an event and heaps of people chipped in to help. Even more chipped in with 'advice!' So, to all the people who rolled their eyes at the thought of running an auto in the event - you were right! It did develop a small leak late on day one, filling the cabin with smoke, and for more than a couple of seconds making us think we were on fire.

But it was nothing the true rally spirit could not overcome. In fact you couldn't have got it fixed quicker if you were Paris Hilton with a wardrobe malfunction. The first bloke knew a bloke in Colleambally who might be able to help, and that bloke knew a bloke in Griffith who might be able to help. And before we knew it the absolute legends at Riverina Automatics were sending us to the pub while they fixed the car. It was, of course, a simple fix if you think pulling the auto out, pulling it apart and putting it all back again is simple.



*Car 77 Back on the road again*

We rejoined the rally on the second morning, car in perfect working order. And ourselves in much better working order than many of those who'd had too much of a good time at the Wentworth RSL.

The only downside to this was yet to be revealed. While the rest of the field had a full day of outback driving under their belts from the previous day, we still had a little of what can be best described as 'first day fever.' At least that's our excuse for hitting a badly eroded drain at a very badly designed speed. We were very lucky considering that the next car to hit it was a big old Valiant, which wound up with the fan through the radiator and a massive crease across the roof!

If you've ever said 'I'd love to do one of those events' - do it. It's a blast, and it looks like the rally will raise over \$350,000 by the end.

We hope to have the car at the Lake Hume Resort for the weekend seminar in March, so check it out.

A huge thanks to our gold sponsors EGL, ITT Flygt and WIOA - all doing their bit for a great cause that gets zero support from government.

Contributed by **Craig Heiner** North East Water

## 2006 Kwatye (Water) Prize Winner

Congratulations to Anthony Evans from Wannon Water in Warrnambool who has won this year's Kwatye (Water) Prize. Anthony was awarded a beautiful plaque by Rohan Latham, General Manager of Environmental and Process Technologies (a division of Biolab) at the recent WIOA conference in Bendigo.

Anthony's winning application outlined his proposal to investigate methods for leakage management and reduction in our water distribution systems. There are plans to survey Australian Water Authorities and Councils to discover what is being done around the country and will also include some examples from overseas where they have much older systems. The \$6,000 Prize will be used very wisely, mainly to cover the costs of travel and the outcomes from the project will be reported at the 2007 conference.

Anthony is the second winner of this prestigious prize and WIOA thank Environmental and Process Technologies (a division of Biolab) for their generous support. Eddy Ostarcevic, the inaugural Kwatye Prize winner delivered his presentation at the Bendigo conference on 'Colour removal from water without chemical addition'. If you wish to read his paper keep a close eye on the WIOA website [www.wioa.org.au](http://www.wioa.org.au) as 2006 platform papers will appear shortly and a summary will appear in a future edition of *WaterWorks*.



*Anthony Evans receiving his award from Rohan Latham*

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Older members may recall the intermittent "Operator" newsletters, some of which only contained 2 or 3 pages of info. When Richard Greenhough took over as Editor he turned Operator around, secured a sponsorship from Barwon Water for the printing and ensured that 4 editions of the 8 page newsletter were produced annually.

In 2003, Graham Thomson enthusiastically jumped into the chair as Editor taking over from Richard and with the help of Robert Turner from Barwon Water produced and delivered the past 12 editions.

Responsibility for the production of Operator has now been transferred to George Wall. On behalf of all WIOA Members, we would like to pass on our sincerest thanks to Richard, Graham, Robert and Barwon Water for their assistance in producing past editions of Operator.

## Induction of More IDIOTS

Members would be aware that we normally perform the induction ceremony for those people we affectionately call IDIOTS at our Weekend Seminar / AGM. Unfortunately, two of the three recipients nominated to receive the award in February 2006 were unable to attend the Weekend Seminar. The two recipients were Pat Davis and John Harris.

The Committee decided that rather than leave it go for another year, the ideal place to catch up with the presentations would be at the Presidents Dinner held as part of the Victorian conference. This event is attended by the WIOA Committee, some invited VIP's and representatives from the sponsors of the conference. All these people made up a considerably sized and ideal crowd to cheer on the recipients in performing their challenges.

Pat Davis was introduced first and all those who have attended past WIOA events would recall Pat's penchant for wearing highly decorative, colored shirts. In keeping with this tradition, we considered forcing Pat to wear a plain white shirt but on second thoughts, changed the challenge to having Pat paint his own special WIOA shirt using kids oil paints and sparkles. The result was a quite catching ensemble as you can see, and Pat quite proudly wore the shirt and his newly awarded IDIOTS pin to the Wednesday Trade Dinner at the conference.

John Harris was next up and many may not be aware of the multitude of jobs John has performed over the years – gun shearer, bus driver, hotel bouncer (etc), and more recently water operator and former WIOA President. John's task was to use his bus driving skills, a chair on wheels and a purpose built mirrored hard hat to negotiate his way (backwards) down a specially constructed obstacle course. John had to use the mirrors to guide the way whilst making the reversing "beeping" noise continuously and loudly until he reached the end of the course. John really got into the spirit of things and luckily, we managed to stop him just before he backed out the door and over the edge of the second story balcony.

Both Pat and John have been staunch supporters of our Association over a long period and are widely recognised as gurus in the water game. We are pleased to have them involved and they are now proud to be called IDIOTS.



Pat Davis making his shirt



John Harris in reverse

### 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 Rod Bailey, Paul McLure, Paul Bourne-Bryant, Alex Ripps, Trevor Martin, Anthony Roberts, Craig Pender, Matt Holland, Raelyn Rika, Megan Knight, Stewart Cluning, Gabe Vigna, Chris Keogh, Ian Wilcox, Greg Johnson, Jason McGregor, Brian McNeill, Chris Haritou, Laurence Burmeister, Gus Ogilvie, Phil Harrington, Andrew Haden, Noel McCarthy, Mark Oliver.

**New Corporate Members** include Tamar Group, Which Pump, Odour Control Systems (Aust), Gold Coast Water, NHP Electrical Engineering, Odour Control Systems (Vic).

### WIOA 2006 OFFICE BEARERS & COMMITTEE

#### President

Cynthia Lim  
Phone (03) 9770 8099  
Mobile 0405 539 748

#### Vice President

Peter Tolsher  
Phone (02) 6059 1569  
Mobile 0419 337 151

#### Executive Officer

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

#### Committee

Barry Waddell  
Phone (03) 5152 4221  
Mobile 0419 878 085

John Harris  
Phone (03) 5562 9275  
Mobile 0417 338 688

Stephen Wilson  
Phone (03) 5244 0800

Russell Mack  
Phone (03) 5177 4659  
Mobile 0427 331 586

Mark McNeil  
Phone (03) 5551 0418  
Mobile 0408 356 559

Graham Thomson  
Phone (03) 5226 9109  
Mobile 0408 993 756

John Day  
Mobile 0401 117 526

Anthony Evans  
Phone (03) 5562 9275  
Mobile 0419 103 885

### WANTED

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

**NEXT EDITION**  
**Article Contribution Deadline**  
**For the February 2007 Edition**  
**10th January 2007.**



**All correspondence should be addressed to:**  
**Editor**

**64 Brauman Street,**  
**SHEPPARTON, VIC. 3630**

**Website: [www.wioa.org.au](http://www.wioa.org.au)**  
**Email: [info@wioa.org.au](mailto:info@wioa.org.au)**

### Disclaimer

The WIOA assumes no responsibility for opinions or statements of facts expressed by contributors or advertisers. All material in 'Operator' is copyright and should not be reproduced wholly or in part without the written permission of the Editor or Executive Officer