



OPERATOR



November 2008 Edition

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Winner of the Actizyme Prize at the Victorian conference, Rex Humphreys (R) congratulated by Alex Madarasi.

Meet "Hogey" from Cape York and read about the antics of operators in FNQ on page 11.



Come and join us in Tamworth – 2009 NSW Conference Venue

Newsletter of the WATER INDUSTRY OPERATORS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

From Cynthia's Desk

George is taking a well earned break and has gone fishing.



Therefore the reigns for this edition have been handed over to me. Firstly – happy Movember! I know many of you partake in the growing of a mo to raise money and awareness for men's health – specifically prostate cancer and male depression. If you don't know about it and want to learn more go to: <http://movember.com> for those growing the mo good luck.

The Victorian conference in September was huge with the usual antics, minimal hiccups and smiling faces all around. Thank you to all who participated in the event and helped make it the success that it was. Congratulations to the award winners and well done to all the presenters and our valued sponsors. More details appear later in this newsletter.

Most of the WIOA staff have been able to take a well earned break after the Victorian conference and we are now back with a vengeance, energised and ready to attack 2009. We have been busily visiting potential conference sites for NSW and Queensland and are pleased to announce that we will be holding our 2009 NSW conference in Tamworth and the Qld conference will most likely be in Rockhampton at a new venue at the Showgrounds.

George and I headed to Brisbane to check out the Logov expo which was held in Logan and showcased tools, equipment and services for councils. It was an interesting day where we made new contacts, met some old faces and had a chance to discover a different sort of expo. It's amazing the things that can excite us these days!



'Look George – imagine how fast and clean we could get conference venues with this!' George's response: 'yep – we've budgeted to get you a new broom!'

It is with sadness that I report the recent passing of one of our members. Tony McLeod of South Gippsland Water passed away in early September. All at WIOA pass on our sincere condolences to the McLeod family, Tony's mates and his colleagues at South Gippsland Water. We have a tribute to Tony in this issue. I am sure that many of you will recognise Tony from the photos and remember sharing a beer at a conference or time at training with him. His involvement and enthusiasm in the water industry will be missed.



George relaxed at an expo and not organising a thing!

In late October we also held our annual charity golf day; the weather was good, the drinks flowed freely and the day was enjoyed by all. Readers will have to wait till the February edition for photos and further information on the event. The proceeds from the 2007 golf day were presented to the Albury branch of charity Christmas Party for Special Children. You can read more about it on page 5.

Fees 2009

\$20.00 for individuals and \$165 for corporates. Invoices will be sent out early in the New Year. Please pay promptly.

So that wraps it up for the past few months, there's been fun, smiles, sweat and tears! Until February; we hope you have a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

Cheers,

Cynthia Lim
Operations Manager

AWWA Operators Salaries

An interesting chart appears on the American Water Works Association website on average salaries based on population served. WIOA has been requested to produce something similar many times. This is an area we do not intend to enter due to the differences between State awards, enterprise bargaining (etc) however this chart can give you some comparison of what our US counterparts are earning. Remember to consider the exchange rate and differences in cost of living as well.

Source: <http://www.awwa.org/Publications/MainstreamCurrent.cfm?navItemNumber=1623>



Profile of a Member

Name

Terry Clare

Position

Water Works Operator

Employer & Location

Esk Water, Launceston

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

18 years, started with Rivers and Water Commission in 1990 as maintenance fitter and progressed into relief operations group for four years, then left Rivers and Water to take up a new position with West Tamar council as relief treatment plant operator. After approx three years Esk Water was formed and Terry transferred over to the new company as relief operator and maintenance until three years ago taking on the permanent role of Water Works Operator at the Reatta Rd treatment plant in Launceston.



What do you enjoy most about your job?

Opportunity to provide a safe and high quality product to our customers/consumers.

How did you get into your current role?

Previous operator decided on a sea change and moved to Queensland.

How long have you been a WIOA member?

Three Months.

What do you think of WIOA?

From what I have seen in the form of literature and services that WIOA produces for it members I think that it is a great idea and I am kicking myself that I have not been a member until now.

What does your current job involve?

Operation of 20M/day Water treatment plant in Launceston which supplies the north-western suburbs of Launceston and West Tamar area. And small maintenance projects as required on the plant.

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

Automation of the treatment plant including implementation of a full SCADA system which is currently being commissioned. Construction of new flocculation tank to improve detention time and improve chemical mixing. (Interesting that Esk Water sought advice and guidance from Bruce Murray aka co author of the Filters Guide by WIOA)

Ok, a few quick questions to finish

Age:51

Nickname: Tessa

Family Status: Married

Pets: Fat lazy Labrador

Favourite food: Roast

Least favourite food: Broccoli

Favourite TV show: PGA Golf Show

Worst TV show: Neighbours/Home and Away

Favourite Movie: American Graffiti

Current CD in stereo: CCR

Current book you're reading: Stone Alone-
Bill Wyman Rolling Stones biography.

Ambition in life: To be healthy and happy and achieve
a single figure golf handicap

Hobbies: Bass guitar & golf

Best Trait: Sense of humour

Worst Trait: Cynical and impatient

Four people to invite to a BBQ: Paul McCartney,
Mark Knopfler, Tommy Emmanuel & Tiger Woods.

Certificates in Water Operations

WIOA would like to acknowledge and congratulate the following Operators who completed their Certificates in Water Industry Operations and were announced at the Victorian Conference. A number of the recipients were present and were awarded their certificates in the presence of their peers. Well done to all!

Certificate II.

Geoff Bartlett, Stephen Blum, Stephen Catterall, Ronald Keith Challenger, Luke Cruikshank, Bruce Etherington, Michael Douglas Flower, Ron Gardner, John Hanrahan, Ryan Hargreaves, Leslie Hart, Graeme Hays, Andrew Heslin, Mathew Thomas Hodge, Michael Kelly, Glen Kinlyside, Peter Lamb, Damien Lavelle, Rachel Lawlor, Frank Leocata, David Mason, Nick McKinley, Ashley Kenneth Meehan, Darren James Muir, Anthony Mark Muldeary, Robert Muller, Malachy O'Dolan, Mark Oliver, Kenneth "Mick" Pettifer, Alex Ridley, Pino Taglieri, Russel Martin Talbot, Simon Terry, Scott Thomson, Matt Todd, Tim Vos, Lee John Westerveld, Darren Winter, Anthony Worth.

Certificate III.

Tony Anderson, Kristy Bourke, Gary Brumby, Stephen Mario Candian, Lloyd Bendall Chisholm, Paul Clancey, Jeff Coulson, Lincoln Dibben, Sean Doyle, Russell Durie, Peter Dwyer, Colin Ellett, Anthony Evans, Stuart Evans, Stephen Flack, Jay Flanner, Leslie Fonay, Matthew Forsyth, Lee Franke, Kenneth Frankel, Mathew Grove, John Harris, Jason Leigh Hood, Brendan Hood, Gerard Kavenagh, Stephen Kerr, Peter Klowss, Peter Lamb, William Mackrell, Jamie Madgwick, John Mateussen, John McLeod, Kevin Mills, Andrew Naughton, Paul Neivandt, Kendall Niblett, Stephen Parsons, Chris Pearson, Roydon Peters, Rohan Poll, Andrew Povey, Megan Rees, Andrew Roberts, Brenden Rouse, Bruno Spiller, Christopher Andrew Stanbury, Russell Terry, Benjamin Van Zeyl, Heath Vine, Bayden Charles Wright.

Certificate IV. – Mark McConnon

Diploma in Water Industry Operations. – Dirk Pieter Jol

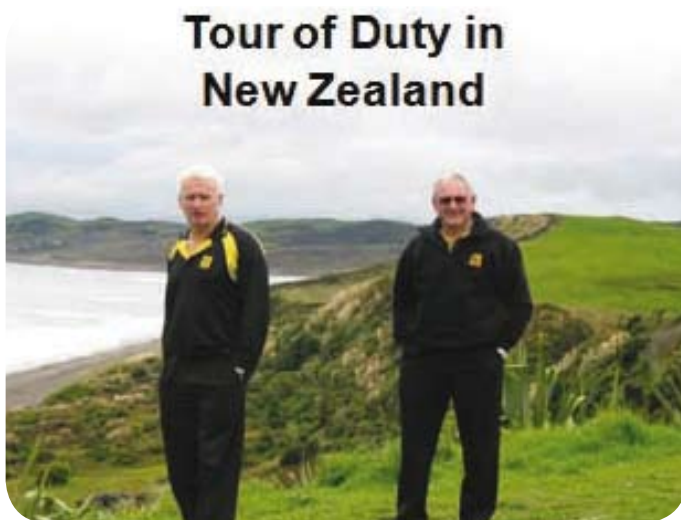
Australia/ New Zealand Operator Exchange 2008

Notes from Bryan Findley - 'us' Utility Services, Vic.

I was involved in the WIOA/WIOG Operator exchange program between 'us' - Utility Services and the Dunedin Water Board and went there during May 2008.

The exchange program allowed me to attend the WIOG conference and spend one week with the City of Dunedin, learning & observing the harvesting & treatment of the water supply from the river system, as well as the treatment of the sewage.

Whilst the scale of works is different than here at South East Water, I found it to be most advantageous for my appreciation of the Water Industry as it is a very much "hands on" organisation.



The operators take great pride in their work & are very much involved in "problem solving" as they are a smaller organisation & do not have access to resources we tend to take for granted.

The quality of water they harvest is substantially different to ours as we receive bulk water supply from Melbourne Water for distribution.

Experiencing the process taken to treat it for domestic consumption I found very interesting & informative.

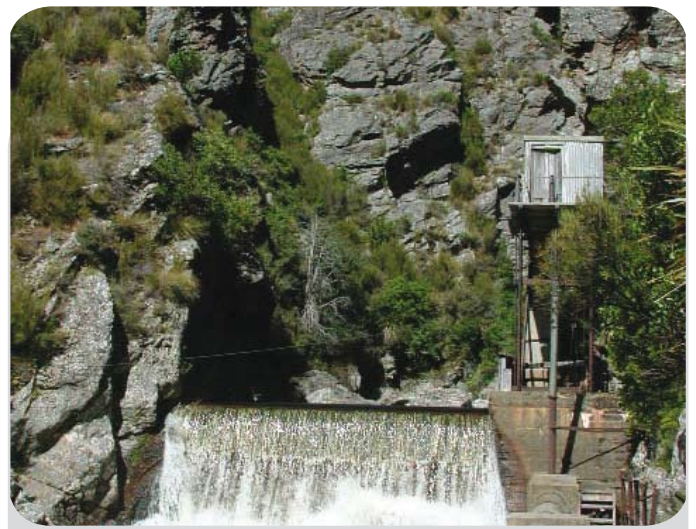
My sincere thanks to the City of Dunedin & particularly my host Kevin Bryson & his manager Peter Brownie

I hope the operator exchange program continues as it allows participants to get an insight into the workings of other water companies, networking, sharing a laugh & broadening of knowledge.

Bryan Findley
"us" Utility Services

Notes from Kevin Bryson, Dunedin:

"Hello....I dropped Bryan off at the airport this morning on the start of his journey home and he should just about have thawed out by now. I think he enjoyed himself on his visit to our fair city even though he took quite a while to adjust to the uncharacteristic cold snap we have just had. The weather has been beautiful since he left.



Deep Creek Intake - Dunedin

I managed to get him around a number of our operations from water supply through to wastewater operations. I am not sure if he had enough time to gather sufficient information as it was a flying visit to most of the plants/operations areas. We covered a few miles and he got on well with all the staff he met. He has a hell of a sense of humour which we all found out about.

I am glad to have met him as he is a bit of a character and I hope he found the WIOA / WIOG operator exchange program worthwhile.

Kevin Bryson
Dunedin City Council

Expression of Interest for 2009

WIOA and WIOG are pleased to invite members to consider participating in the 2009 NZ/Aus Operator Exchange. For more information please contact the WIOA office.

The lighter side



Best ever pub sign

Honest Officer I'm Just Taking Water Samples!

Contributed by: Marc O'Bryan Water Treatment Operator from Goulburn Valley Water, Victoria



In the South West District, I am responsible for all of our sampling which occurs on the first three days of each week. In that time, I average approximately 750km's of driving and attend 51 sites. The samples collected range from raw water supplies, treatment plants and reticulation points. As with other districts, we also collect our own internal samples, which are tested back at Seymour for colour, turbidity and aluminium residuals. These results are then circulated to our operators, so they can see how their plants are performing.

Because much of my time sampling is spent in residential areas, I am often approached by people, who want to report water faults, discuss water restrictions or just generally ask about our reservoir levels (particularly in towns that have or have had stage 4 water restrictions). Although I am on a fairly strict time-line, it is important to have a quick chat, report their concerns and make sure that they have our 1800 number for future reference.

Water sampling also has similar hazards to those experienced by other operators, such as large vicious dogs on the loose, red back spiders and snakes, but I really enjoy the job, and as a Melbourne born and bred city slicker, it has been fantastic in showing me this beautiful part of the country.



Marc O'Bryan sampling

I would like to recount the most bizarre thing that has occurred to me in my time as a water sampler. Whilst sampling one of our regular reticulation points; in a town which shall remain nameless; on a street which we will just call 'Easy St'; one dark winter's morning, I heard footsteps approaching, and looked up to see a rather large stern, plain clothed fellow walking towards me.

As I stepped up from the tap I was crouched over, I noticed he was holding something in his hand...as he got closer I could see that it was a badge saying Victoria Police. "What do you think you're doing?" he asked me. I quickly blurted out that I was taking water samples for GVW. Despite having my GVW uniform on, my GVW safety jacket, and my GVW Ute parked next to me, super cop didn't quite buy my story. He made me go to the Ute and produce my paperwork, sampling bottles, ID card and Work Co-ordinators phone number, before deciding that indeed I was at this premises on legitimate business, and sending me on my way. When I inquired as to why he had bailed me up, he informed that the house that I was sampling in had been reported as "having suspicious movements", and that he had been staking it out. I can only presume that it must have been a really boring stakeout for him to take such an interest in me.

WIOA donates to Christmas charity

The Water Industry Operators Association of Australia (WIOA) donated \$3000 to the Albury branch of charity Christmas Party for Special Children.

The funds were raised as part of the WIOA's 2007 charity golf day. North East Water and operating partner EGL were the host sponsors for the 2008 WIOA Water Industry Victorian Engineers and Operators conference and received the \$3000 to provide to a local charity.

WIOA's President, Wodonga's Peter Tolsher, said the Christmas Party for Special Children, which buys Christmas gifts for disadvantaged children, was a worthy recipient of the funds.

"We felt that this particular charity makes a real positive difference to the community," he said.

The Christmas Party's project manager, Jenni Saville, said the donation was a huge boost for the charity.

"Currently the Christmas Party for Special Children still need 300 local special needs kids to be sponsored to attend this year's party on Saturday, 6th December," she said.

"This fabulous contribution of \$3000 is certainly going to go a long way to make sure some of these children receive their invitations.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Water Industry Operators Association of Australia for their incredible efforts in this fundraiser, and encourage other businesses, organisations and individuals to think of a way in which they could help us ensure no child misses out on receiving their invitation to this fantastic and enjoyable day for the children."



**WIOA President
Peter Tolsher and Jenni Saville
from the Christmas Party for
Special Children**



71st Victorian Engineers & Operators Conference Report

From 2-4 September the Victorian Water industry lobbed into Bendigo again. The numbers were fantastic this year with 137 exhibitors in 176 sites, looked after by more than 400 staff, 305 delegates and an enormous 336 visitors over the two days. We also had a contingent over from New Zealand again making this a truly international affair! Not only did they attend the conference but they also travelled around parts of Victoria for some sight-seeing and treatment plant visits. Thanks to our "bros" for making the trip and also thanks to Veolia Water, Coliban Water/CAMS and Melbourne Water for hosting tours for our visitors.

The conference progressed smoothly right from the beginning, with the exhibitors moving in, setting up, buffing and shining their equipment on Tuesday afternoon ready for the onslaught of tough questions from the delegates and visitors who arrived on Wednesday and Thursday. Congratulations are extended to all the exhibitors for working with us to make the setup such a breeze and for causing so little stress to the committee.

The technical presentations were of a very high standard yet again with some very interesting papers presented by Operators and Engineers sharing ideas and solutions to problems. Congratulations to all the technical paper and poster presenters who took the effort to share their ideas.

Congratulations to the following Victorian Prize winners for 2008:

- **Best Operator Platform Papers** – Sponsored by Actizyme; First – Rex Humphreys of North East Water; Second – Russell Mack, Gippsland Water; Third – Craig Griggs, Kingborough Council, Tas
- **Hepburn Prize for Best Platform Paper Overall** – Sponsored by Iwaki Pumps; David Errey from Yarra Valley Water.
- **Best Operator Poster Papers** – Sponsored by Water Industry Training Centre; First – Trevor Hayes, Western Water; Second – Barry Dullard CAMS, Third – Heath Vine, Goulburn Valley Water.
- **Young Victorian Operator of the Year Award** – Sponsored by IWA Vic; Adrian Rijnbeek from Environmental Group Limited (Operations)
- **Wal Whiteside, Victorian Operator of the Year Award** – Sponsored by AWA Victoria; Jeff Roscoe from North East Water
- **Kwatye (Water) Prize** – Sponsored by Environmental & Process Technologies (a Division of Biolab Aust); Nick Bray from Goulburn Valley Water and Paulus des Anges from Grundfos Alldos
- **Best Exhibition trade site overall** – Sponsored by WME Media; ABB Australia

A special presentation was made recently to retired RWA CEO's in Jim Martin and Laurie Gleeson in appreciation of their support, assistance and encouragement of WIOA and our people over a number of years. It was great that Jim could shoot over from Tassie to join us at the Dinner but unfortunately Laurie was a bit unwell and couldn't make it in person. George caught up with Laurie recently and presented the award and passed on our best wishes. Get well soon Laurie.

This year we launched the new WIOA video which highlights all of WIOA's achievements, the jovial characters amongst us, the fun we have and the successes we've made over the years. We also launched the new WIOA theme music which was used to prompt delegates that the paper sessions were starting up or an announcement was about to be made. It worked extremely well and we must thank the creator of the music, Nick Bray, who has written, performed and gifted it to WIOA.

In response to past feedback and in order to provide more value to all attendees, some new initiatives were introduced this year. We offered some booths with extra open space to allow exhibitors wishing to display larger equipment to bring it along. This worked well with a huge area filled with trailers, pumps, cars and more – a very impressive sight. We are now working on how to make this area even larger for future shows.

Project Showcase was introduced to provide an opportunity for exhibitors to present case stories and hands-on presentations. This went reasonably well and we thank Activated Carbon Technologies, ATMR, Environmental and Process Technologies, Flowserve, Maric flow control, Anue Environmental, NHP and DCM Process Control for taking part in the inaugural session. We also worked with Vic Branch of AWA who organised and ran a Climate Change seminar on Thursday afternoon. We hope this will be the first many joint events.

We must congratulate all the delegates who participated in this year's conference competition. There were 22 teams registered and I am sure the winners of 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes are all grinning with the magnificent booties they took home. Our thanks go to the participating companies; Transpacific, Action Instrumentation & Controls, Barry Bros, CSE-Uniserve, Tyco, Underground Pump Supplies, Challenger Valves & Actuators, Maric Flow Control, Kazed Industrial Solutions and the competitions main sponsor, Royce Water Technologies.

We were also lucky enough to offer to conference attendees a tour of the new Bendigo reclaimed water factory. Thanks to Coliban Water /CAMS and Wayne Murdoch for organising not one, but two separate tours.

Finally here's cheers to our trusty band of volunteers who come along and give freely of their time to help out WIOA and the rest of the committee during the conference – Darren Sharman, Nick Bray, Anthony Rosado, Ashley Bergmeier, Steve Laird and Ian Bicknell.

WIOA thank the 2008 Victorian Conference Sponsors:

North East Water	Davey Water Products
Transpacific Industries Group	Environmental Group Limited
Acromet Australia	ITT Water and Wastewater
Bürkert Fluid Control Systems	Australian Water Association
Rad-tel Systems	Grundfos Alldos
SMEC Australia	DMI Australia
ABS Wastewater Technology	Peerless Industrial Systems
Merck	Earth Tech Water Infrastructure Group
Water Industry Training Centre	Iwaki Pumps Australia
Institute of Water Administration (Vic)	CIBA Specialty Chemicals
WME Media	Royce Water Technologies
Aqua Diagnostic	Centre for Groundwater Studies
Southern Cross Laboratories (Actizyme)	Pacific Hire
Environmental & Process Technologies (a Division of Biolab Aust.)	



President Peter Tolsher welcoming all attendees to the conference.



1. ABB Australia - Best overall trade site
2. WITC Prize - Trevor Hayes
3. Royce Comp 1st place winners
4. AWA Vic. Operator of the Year - Jeff Roscoe
5. IWA Vic. Operator of the Year - Adrian Rijnbeek
6. Royce comp 2nd place
7. Kwatyie Winners - Nick Bray and Paulus Des Anges

2008 Victorian Operator of the Year Award

The highly prestigious **AWA 'Wal Whiteside' Victorian Operator of the Year Award** has been presented to 29 outstanding Victorian water industry operators since the award's inauguration in 1980. 2008 was no different.

The award is presented to operators of water or wastewater treatment facilities in recognition of their continued high level of performance, initiative and all round attention to detail. The winner is presented with a perpetual shield, an individual plaque and an award of \$2,000.00 towards professional development.

In 2008, AWA Victorian Branch received several outstanding nominations, demonstrating the commitment and professionalism of operators in the Victorian water industry. Once again, the adjudicating committee was faced with a very difficult task in selecting the winner of the Operator of the Year Award. All nominations were excellent and any of them would have been a worthy winner.



Jeff Roscoe

Having made a difficult choice, **Jeff Roscoe** of **North-East Water** was announced as the 2008 Victorian Operator of the Year Award with the official presentation ceremony being conducted during the WIOA Conference Dinner, Bendigo. The cheer from the floor as he was announced indicated Jeff's popularity amongst those present. Popularity is not one of the selection criteria and in announcing the award, Andrew Chapman AWA Victorian Branch President provided the following

overview of Jeff's achievements:

- Building on an outstanding record as a highly proficient plant operator, Jeff recently stepped up to a Team Leader role, responsible for a wider range of plants and the leadership of a team of operators
- Jeff has led his team to new levels of efficiency and is always available to provide assistance to colleagues in neighboring areas. This attitude exemplifies team spirit and cooperation, which are so much a part of the role of operators in the Victorian Water Industry.
- Jeff contributed to a number of major capital projects, which have been implemented in the context of severe drought conditions. This included the integration of three bores into the water supply system and the construction of two 10 ML storage tanks
- Jeff has demonstrated a proactive approach to OH&S and regulatory responsibilities at all times. An example was identifying potential risks associated with chemical deliveries and implementing steps to minimise them
- Jeff has shown an ongoing commitment to training and development, exemplified by his nomination for the 2006 WIOA Operator Tour of New Zealand. Jeff presenting his findings from the tour to North-East's indoor and outdoor staff and executive.

In conclusion, AWA is delighted by the response to the Award and the strength of the field of nominees – we hope this will be even stronger in 2009.

Young Victorian Operator of the Year Award 2008



Adrian Rijnbeek

It was with great enthusiasm that employers Environmental Group Limited (Operations) nominated Adrian Rijnbeek (aka Emu) based in Wodonga for the IWA (Vic) Young operator of the Year award. Adrian was presented his award at the recent Victorian Operators conference

Adrian has been employed with EGL for almost three years and holds a position of Plant Operator. He studied for a Bachelor of Applied Science in

Environmental Management at La Trobe University and joined EGL straight after uni.

In a short space of time Adrian was given the task of being the Supervising Operator during the 12 month Operations & Maintenance Period for two newly commissioned BNR plants. In this role he had three operators reporting directly to him.

In the past twelve months Adrian has completed an Advanced BNR course. From the knowledge gained in this course, Adrian is now in charge of process optimization and control of the West Wodonga wastewater treatment plant. This is a BNR plant with off-site reuse, made complex by the fact that a large component of the influent is from trade waste producers. Adrian makes changes to sludge age, anoxic recycle rates and RAS return rates after completing a thorough analysis of all the bioreactors.

Adrian has shown great interest in furthering his knowledge and skills and has enrolled in a four year Business Management course that he is undertaking on a part time basis. This involves classes after work and on weekends.

Adrian uses his initiative on a regular basis, and in particular, when it comes to problem solving. He is a great "sounding board", as we work together through a problem and through each scenario, to come up with the best way of achieving the desired solution. Adrian works well independently and has setup his own daily work routine, which involves everything from lab work right through to checking the optimization of the sand filters for the off-site reuse.

He is also responsible for routine plant maintenance, which involves using a maintenance system software program. This is program and database monitors plant safety issues and the condition of the mechanical and electrical plant. Adrian's adherence to this preventative maintenance regime has resulted in providing a safe working environment for all employees and visitors and a treatment plant running at its optimum efficiency.

Through a short time in the industry Adrian has shown that he has already become a competent operator with a great maturity to handle tasks and problems. At a ripe old age of 25 we are sure he will succeed in the water industry. Congratulations and enjoy your trip to New Zealand.

Peter Tolsher

EGL Operations Manager and proud co-worker of Emu!

Can I have a glass of TAP water?!

Lately I have uncontrollably laughed out loud when reading some advertisements for bottled water. I hope it's pretty obvious to most of you involved in producing safe, clean drinking water that the bottled water market is for the gullible. I can't resist sharing some of the marketing strategies I have come across.

Narmada Water



Pure Lombok Mountain Water

Australia's only 100% certified Halal and organic spring water!

Now available in Australia, Narmada water is a gift from nature, sourced near the age old temple high in the mountains called Narmada. Rated as one of the earth's most pure streams, Narmada water flows from the crater lake of volcanic Mount Rinjani into the tropical springs below.

Narmada water has almost 50% less sodium content, and 30% more calcium content than Mount Franklin water, as well as significantly more magnesium and potassium - making it the number one choice for people looking for a natural and macrobiotic water - that re-hydrates, and refreshes like no other water on earth!

Source: <http://www.narmadawater.com.au/>

Penta is Purest on the Market, Top Seller in Health Food Stores

Penta, manufactured by Bio-Hydration Research Lab, Inc., is the purest-known bottled drinking water on the market. In fact, Penta is regarded by many as having set the standard for purity among bottled waters. Penta is created using a rigorous 13-step purification process.

Penta also undergoes a patented physics process using high-energy sound waves that gives Penta many unique properties. This proprietary technology, known as the "Penta Process," actually changes the structure of the water. Penta is the only bottled water that uses physics, not chemicals, to restructure its water. The water is cycled through the Penta Process until a specific set point of thermal energy is released for approximately 7-8 hours.

Proof that Penta is restructured water: Penta has been shown through highly technical scientific testing (Raman spectroscopy) to have 30 percent smaller molecular water clusters. It has also been observed that Penta has a higher boiling point and higher viscosity than normal water. Penta's unique structure is also patented and has been verified in a published, peer-reviewed study conducted by scientists at Moscow's General Physics Institute.

Research has shown that Penta water's unique properties provide the following benefits:

- In-vitro studies show an increase in cell survivability by 266%.

- In-vitro studies show that Penta water dissolves calcium oxalate monohydrate (the main substance in 85% of kidney stones) three times faster than normal water.
- In-vitro studies on human cells reveal that lab distilled water DNA chromosomal mutation rates were 271% greater than Penta water. In addition, countless Penta drinkers have told us that, by effectively hydrating, they look and feel more youthful, energetic and all around better.

Source: <http://bottledwaterstore.com/penta.htm>

Of course utilising fossil fuels and freighting heavy bottles of water around the world, in bottles manufactured using petrochemicals, which then become waste is ludicrous. Sometimes it's not easy and WIOA are culprits ourselves of this, offering bottled water at conferences and seminars, there must be a solution and I will try to find one.

Cynthia Lim

New Release

Practical Guide to Understanding and Managing Surface Water Catchments

WIOA are proud to announce the recent release of the fourth book in the series of Practical Guides. If you are yet to take a look go to our website www.wioa.org.au and the contents page can be viewed or an order form downloaded. For only \$33 inclusive of GST it is money well spent for yourself or your organisation.

Practical Guide to Understanding and Managing Surface Water Catchments



Annette Davison, Dan Deere and Peter Mosse



Vale – Tony McLeod

Tony McLeod was a WIOA member for many years. We take time to remember him here.

Tony Started work with the Leongatha Water Board in 1987 as a young 26 year old. He was initially employed as a Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, to be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Leongatha Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Tony had brought many work skills with him from his previous jobs at Murray Goulburn and the Wooryal Golf Club.

However at the time of his employment he expressed a keenness to start on “A new journey” and wanted to learn as quickly as possible about various processes - to get the best results possible from his treatment plant.

This drive led Tony to attend every possible training course over several years. Tony was always heading off to the Water Industry Training Centre, initially at Werribee, and in later years he continued on with further training at the Deakin University Campus.

Not only had Tony met all the requirements needed to obtain his qualifications as a Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, he had successfully completed certificates in every other area possible from OH&S, Algae Identification, Environment Management – the list goes on.

Tony had not only completed all these courses, but he had every certificate that he had achieved appropriately framed and placed on the wall at the Leongatha Treatment Plant for all to see.

When Tony joined Leongatha Water Board in 1987, the Wastewater Treatment Plant was in the final stages of a complete upgrade. Tony found himself involved in the start up and commissioning of this new, highly technical Treatment Plant and was also charged with a ‘tidy up’ of the plant surroundings. This is where the organisation first saw Tony’s previous curator skills and experience come into play. Tony was quoted as saying; “Just because it’s a shit farm doesn’t mean it can’t look nice”.

In the following months retaining walls were built, garden beds set up, lawn areas levelled and trees and shrubs planted. It wasn’t long before Tony had the buildings and surrounds looking a ‘million dollars’ or as some had noted – similar to a golf course!

In the pursuing years many visitors to the plant remarked on how their thoughts / impressions of what a Waste Water Treatment Plant would look like were completely turned around after their visit to Tony’s plant.

Tony not only continued to develop his skills as a competent Treatment Plant Operator, he also obtained excellent operational and communication skills, having to deal with many contractors, the public and staff.

In the early 90’s, with the amalgamation of the smaller Water Boards in the region to form the South Gippsland Regional Water Authority, Tony was promoted to Team Leader in the larger organisation.

Tony’s extensive operational experience and organising skills were further recognised in 2002 when Tony applied for and was given the position of operations supervisor for the Corporations Western Area, controlling the day to day operations of more than 50% of the organisations customer base including Wonthaggi, Inverloch and Cape Paterson.

In applying for the position, I can remember Tony’s application including his resume and listed under Qualifications were more than 25 certificates that he had obtained and for good measure he had added his ‘Gaming Supervisor Licence’.

Tony excelled in every position he took on at South Gippsland Water, he was a rock solid performer who managed to keep things in perspective from Industry reform through to equipment failure or drought and water shortages – Tony took it all in his stride.

I know I speak on behalf of all Tony’s work colleagues, past and present when I say that it has been an honour to work with him.

He will be greatly missed as an employee, a workmate and a friend.

Steve Evans

Managing Director, South Gippsland Water



Greetings from the Western side of Cape York

Greetings from the western side of Cape York, FNQ. We are a small aboriginal community of roughly seven hundred people known as Pormpuraaw.



Surf's up!

The reason for writing to you is to share with you what the operators here have to deal with. Our operators are called essential services officers and are totally responsible for the water, sewerage and refuse within the dogit. This dogit covers an area of roughly 450,000 hectares in some of the most isolated areas of Queensland (but the barra fishing makes up for that). The ESO team is made up of four indigenous staff and myself as manager, we average a six day week plus call outs at weird and wonderful hours of the night.

We operate a small water plant that supplies over half a million litres of treated water a day, with our raw source being bores and our waste water system consists of two pump wells and five lagoons (were not big).



Water Park Pormpuraaw style

Some of our special talents or challenges are avoiding taipans and king browns that take up residents on a regular basis wherever they feel like and trying to avoid being eaten by the flat dogs (crocs). If the wildlife isn't bad enough we have the added bonus of being isolated during the big wet every year for up to seven months, which means lots of preplanning and self reliance. Because of these challenges we are presently having our local staff trained to certificate two and three level by Simmonds and Bristow.



Hogey the smiling assassin

So if you're ever up this way stop in and say hi.

And remember when you are having a bad day at least you don't have to worry about being eaten by a croc.

Peter Broxham

ESO Manager

The Lighter side – Water to wine

An oldie but a goodie!

To my friends who enjoy a glass of wine ... and those who don't:

Ben Franklin said, "In wine there is wisdom, in beer there is freedom, in water there is bacteria."

In a number of carefully controlled trials, scientists have demonstrated that if we drink 1 litre of water each day, at the end of the year we would have absorbed more than 1 kilo of Escherichia coli, (E. coli) - bacteria found in faeces. In other words, we are consuming 1 kilo of poop.

However, we do NOT run that risk when drinking wine & beer (or tequila, rum, whiskey or other liquor) because alcohol has to go through a purification process of boiling, filtering and/or fermenting.

Remember: Water = Poop, Wine = Health

Therefore, it's better to drink wine and talk stupid, than to drink water and be full of shit.

There is no need to thank me for this valuable information. I'm doing it as a public service.

Travel Notes

Dear WIOA,

I was unable to attend this year's Bendigo WIOA conference as I was travelling in the USA. Drove west from San Francisco across through Nevada, Utah and Wyoming, to Rapid City South Dakota. Returned west through Montana, Idaho and Oregon where we stumbled upon this place, John Day is a real township in the east of Oregon.

Seems there's no escaping this bloke!

Regards
Mark Younger



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

Steve Weatherstone, Phil Spittle, Lee Taylor, Matthew Huston, David Green, Mike Oakey, Richard Cairns, Scott McCarthy, Kate Ward, Vincent O'Neil, Adrian Harper, Brad Bourne, Chris Bland, Neil Redwood, Shaun Clews, Maurice Green, Michael Burns, Paul Creegan, Tim Keegel and Greg Whorlow.

New Corporate Members include

Vertex Water Treatment, Nextep Miyama, Caps Australia, Mid-Western Regional Council, Tricomm Construction, Hardman Australia, Deps Pty Ltd, AWIS, Sykes Group, Dermody Diving & Marine Services, Linatex Australia, Armidale Dumaresq Council, Arch International and Wide Bay Water Corporation.

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Next Edition

Article Contribution Deadline for the February 2009 Edition 16th January 2009.

Coming Events - 2008/2009

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 17 - 18 Nov | Excellence in Industrial Water, Luna Park, Sydney |
| 31 March to 2 April | 3rd Annual NSW Water Industry Engineers & Operators Conference
Tamworth Regional Entertainment Centre |
| 16 to 18 June | 34th Qld Water Industry Operations Workshop
Rockhampton Entertainment Centre (TBC) |
| 1 to 3 Sept | 72nd Annual Victorian Engineers and Operators Conference
Bendigo Exhibition Centre |

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