



OPERATOR



May 2003 Edition

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Weekend Seminar set up prior to start of proceedings - see page 6 for report

Editorial



Welcome to another edition of the Operator. This time however there is a new editor, who I may add has had a lot of help from the previous editor. As mentioned in this edition Richard Greenhough has moved on and the task of getting the Operator together has been passed on.

Although learning all the tasks associated with a new computer program ("Quark" - now there's a name to remember) and putting together the Operator it is going to be a steep learning curve, now where I have I heard that before, for me I hope that with the help of members (contributing with articles etc) and lots of practice/patience I will give it my best. Many thanks to Richard for the time, training and help he provided me for this edition.

Although this edition is later than usual, refer above, we have articles on the happenings at the weekend seminar held at Rawson, info on an operator (Tim Vos) and some information about our upcoming conference.

Unfortunately though there has been no contribution for a few "around the traps" segments. I have put this down to the previous editors internet connection not working and members being unaware of my contact details (e-mail:- graham.thomson@barwonwater.vic.gov.au, phone 03 52269109).

So if there are events happening in your area, as I am sure there are (even the government and the 4th estate appear to be taking the effects of drought, water restrictions etc seriously), articles or events you wish to share with your fellow members please send them on.

THE EDITOR

President's Prattle

Well nearly half a year has gone already and I can hear people saying where has it gone, WIOA has recently had its annual general meeting and a change of office has taken place and I would like to congratulate the previous executive for their outstanding contribution and wish to congratulate the new executive and look forward to working with them.

Congratulations to Richard Greenhough and all concerned for their efforts in running another successful weekend seminar at the Rawson Retreat, everyone enjoyed the hospitality and friendship with fellow operators and trade presenters.

As we all know the fires in the North East of the State of Victoria have caused major problems with water treatment. After some heavy rains they are trying to cope with major increases in turbidity so its never ending for our fellow operators. New challenges that maybe around the corner for the Water Boards is the lack of rainfall in the burnt areas which will put more pressure on our water supplies.

Keep you eyes out for the registrations for Victorian Operators conference in Shepparton which will be on the 3rd and 4th of September and the New South Wales Operator conference to be held at Penrith Panthers on 16th and 17th of September, remember this is how we learn and keep abreast with modern technology so your attendance at theses conference is vital for the conferences to survive.

"Happy Operating"
John Harris.
WIOA President.

Have you ever Wondered ?

Why isn't phonetic spelled the way it sounds?

Why is a bra singular and panties plural?

Around the Traps South East



East Gippsland Water, Gippsland Water,
South Gippsland Water & Western Port
Water

No articles this edition

Have you ever Wondered (cont) ?

If the 7-11 is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, why does it have locks on the door?

If they squeeze olives to get olive oil, how do they get baby oil?

Why is it that when you transport something by car it is called shipment, but when you transport something by ship it's called cargo?

Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?

If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the terminal?

If you throw a cat out of the house, does it become kitty litter?

Is it OK to use the AM radio after noon?

What do you call a male ladybug?

Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?

Why do they sterilize the needle for lethal injections?

Have you ever imagined a world without hypothetical situations?

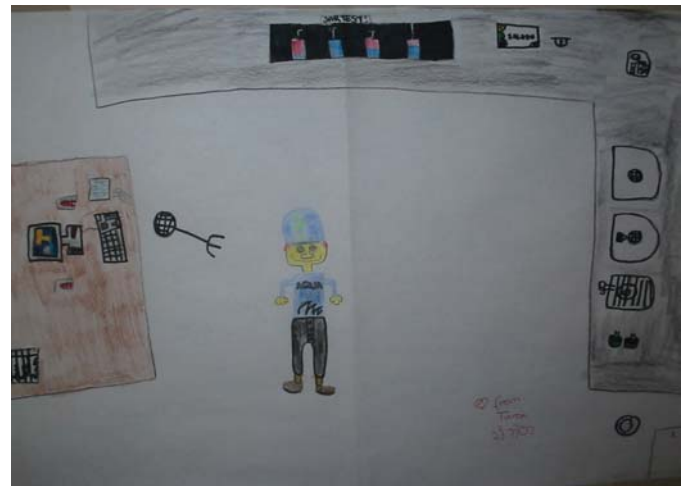
If you are driving at the speed of light and you turn your headlights on, what happens?

Why do they put Braille dots on the keypad of a drive-thru ATM?

Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?

If con is the opposite of pro, is Congress the opposite of progress?

Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?



This is a drawing that Tim Vos 10 year old daughter, Tieran did of him at work, see page 3 for more about Tim.

Secretary's Scrawl

2003 Conference

After a lengthy delay trying to sort out venues, we can finally confirm that the 66th Annual Engineers and Operators Conference will be held on the 3rd and 4th September, 2003 in Shepparton and hosted by Goulburn Valley Water.



The platform paper selection committee are currently sorting through the abstracts and as usual aim to deliver a well balanced and interesting program. Actizyme will again be generously providing cash Awards for the Best Operator Papers with \$1,000 and a plaque to the winner, and substantial second and third prizes as well. We appreciate this ongoing support and perhaps you could check out their products if you get the opportunity. This goes for all our sponsors and supporters!!!

The "Operator's Poster Paper" section is again being sponsored by the Water Industry Training Centre. A plaque and \$500 cash will go to the winner, \$200 for runner-up and \$100 for third. Information will be sent out soon for this category but you can register your interest in submitting a poster with me at any time.

Registration forms will be mailed out in July, once the program for the conference has been finalised.

Constitutional Amendment

For the second time in as many years, we were advised by the Department of Justice that they had reviewed our constitution and it did not comply with the Incorporations Act. The main issue this time is that they have legal opinion that constitutional changes cannot be made using postal votes - it can only be done with proxy votes. We've amended our Rules yet again, and added a couple of other minor points, to ensure our Constitution complies with the Model Rules.

The Committee discussed how best to distribute the Constitution given the cost to print and send them out to every Member. Members are advised that the Constitution is available for downloading from our website and we will be happy to forward a hard copy to any Member who requests one from me.

WaterWorks

The fourth edition of WaterWorks is due to be printed in June 2003 so look out for it in the mail.

As with this newsletter, we need your contributions for WaterWorks to be successful, so put pen to paper and fill us in on what you are doing in your area.

House of Reps Environment Committee

Some time ago the Association made a submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage - Inquiry into Employment in the Environment Sector. They received 35 submissions from various organisations. Around 10 of these, including WIOA, were invited to attend public sittings of the Committee to further elaborate on their submissions.

I attended along with Paul O'Brien, (training Manager with VicWater) and although it was a rather daunting experience for me, we were able to put the case for the need for affordable training and tabled some of the issues relating to working in the water industry, as we saw them.

Review of the Water Training Package

Both John Harris and myself have been invited onto the National Water Industry Training Package Review Steering Committee appointed by the Australian Local Government Training Board. Our role is to review the Training Package including its rules, its make up, and content to ensure that the best possible training outcomes can be provided to all staff within the water industry.

We would welcome any feedback or issues relating to the Training Package including any problems or suggestions to improve it. They can be sent to secretary@awwoa.org.au or mailed to me direct.

New Members

Welcome to the following people and companies who have recently joined our Association as a Member or Corporate Supporter :



Michael Murphy, Geoff Pohlner, Charlie Suggate, Heath Bennett, Jarrah Feather, Simon Rasmussen, Damien McMurrich, Rod Norman, David Greaves, Eddy Ostarcevic, Laszlo Erdei, Shane Bawdiera, Simon Aquilina.

New Corporate Supporters : Cooma-Monaro Shire Council, Waste to Water Technology, Murray Shire Council, Mornington Shire Council.

George Wall
WIOA Secretary



Around the Traps Private Industry

PROFILE OF AN OPERATOR

This is the sixth article in a series of interviews titled 'Profile of an operator' specifically dedicated to water and wastewater operators working in the private industry.

Profile: Tim Vos

- > Works for AquaTower.
- > Job title - Plant Controller/Electrician.
- > Main role - Operation of Halls Gap and Stawell water treatment plants.
- > Lives in - Stawell, Victoria.
- > Hobbies - fishing, motorbike riding and enjoying time with his kids.

AquaTower
Commitment in Water Quality

Describe AquaTower's main business activities?

AquaTower is employed to provide world health standard, high quality water to five towns in the western district of Victoria. It is a 25 year BOOT scheme, we operate four plants in Stawell, Halls Gap, Ararat and Great Western and also supply water to Pomonal. AquaTower operate and maintain the plants independently. We work closely with the local water authority - Grampians Water who distribute the water we produce. The plants we run in Victoria are the only plants AquaTower are involved in, so far.

Can you tell me a little about the AquaTower Treatment Plants?

Three of the plants are DAFF plants which means Dissolved Air Flotation Filtration and the other plant is a CMF (Continuous Micro Filtration). There are only three of us employed by AquaTower to operate and maintain the four plants. There are two Plant Controllers, myself and Gary Brumby and the Operations Manager - Allen Slocombe.

What are the major challenges you face in your role?

We have tight compliance parameters which involves constant monitoring and 100% accuracy of all apparatus and diagnostic metering. We are a small team and have to work closely together to ensure the plants are running optimally. We are multi-skilled and are able to work on most things ourselves. Between the three of us we are required 24hrs a day, seven days a week. If the team did not get along together then that would become the greatest challenge but luckily things have worked out well. We have been attending classes at the WITC to attain certification and have almost completed level 2.

**Cynthia Lim and WIOA would like to thank
Tim Vos and AquaTower.**

The Lighter Side.

A wily old farmer decided to take a break from the drought stricken Goulburn Valley area to visit a seaside resort town. He had not seen the sea since he was a little boy. He arrived at the beach wearing his straw hat, checked flannelette shirt, overalls and gumboots. He observed a bronzed Aussie with a red and yellow skull cap tied to his head, half dragging and half carrying an unconscious man to shore. The bronzed Aussie lays the unconscious man down and starts pounding on his chest and giving him mouth to mouth.

Water starts coming out of the unconscious mans mouth and this invigorates the bronzed Aussie to pound on the man's chest even more.

The wily farmer walks up to the bronzed Aussie and says "Son, I don't know much about what you're doing, but I do know a lot about pumps. If you don't get that blokes bum out of the water, you'll be there all day"



NEXT EDITION

**Article Contribution Deadline
For the August Edition
July 11, 2003**

North East - North East Water, Goulburn Valley Water and Coliban Water
Roland Passuello - Ph 03 5754 4117 fax 03 5754 4290,
mobile 0417 368029, email: rpassuello@nerwa.vic.gov.au

South East - East Gippsland Water, Gippsland Water, South Gippsland Water and Westernport Water
Russell Mack - Ph 5177 4659, fax 5177 4690,
mobile 0427 331 586, email: mackr@gippswater.com.au

South West - Glenelg Water, South West Water and Portland Coast Water
Anthony Evans - Ph 5562 9275, fax 5562 9262,
mobile 0419 103 885, email: aeva@swwa.com.au

North West - Central Highlands Water, Grampians Water and Lower Murray Water
To be advised article to The Editor

Central - Barwon Water, Western Water and Metropolitan Water Companies
Graham Thomson - ph 5226 9109, fax 5226 9140
mobile 0408 993 756,
email: graham.thomson@barwonwater.vic.gov.au

Private Industry
Cynthia Lim - fax 9548 7060,
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Articles can be forwarded to area contacts or directly to The Editor Ph 2526 9109, fax 5226 9140, mobile 0408 993 756, email: graham.thomson@barwonwater.vic.gov.au



Around the Traps Central

Barwon Water, Western Water & Metropolitan Water Companies

Barwon Water

BIOSOLIDS A VALUABLE RESOURCE

Nutrient-rich organic fertiliser from the region's sewage treatment plants will be used to fertilise farming land at Balliang under a plan released by Barwon Water today.

Ripley Bio-Products has been awarded a three-year contract to process and market the 57,000 tonnes of biosolids produced by Barwon Water each year.

Biosolids, a by-product of the natural biological processes used at modern sewage treatment plants, will be transported from treatment plants across Barwon Water's service area to a proposed processing site at Balliang, 25 kilometres North West of Geelong.

At the processing site, biosolids will be dried and composted in specially constructed clay-lined drying bays then transported to neighbouring farming properties for use as a fertiliser.

Barwon Water Chief Executive Dennis Brockenshire said "the disposal of biosolids was one of the greatest challenges facing the water industry".

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"In Victoria most biosolids are stored or sent to landfill," Mr Brockenshire said. "This is not desirable or environmentally, socially or economically sustainable."

"This has been recognised by regulatory authorities which require water authorities to maximise the use of biosolids and phase out storage and landfills.

"Barwon Water envisages that this project will become a model for similar projects across Victoria."

Mr Brockenshire said the proposal would help dispose of biosolids and provide environmental and economic benefits to the local community.

"Agricultural land with biosolids applied correctly, will have improved properties which will enhance farm productivity," he said.

Mr Brockenshire said that Barwon Water's biosolids would be applied to land in accordance with EPA environmental guidelines and an environmental management plan.

Barwon Water currently transports its biosolids to Werribee for storage, as on-site lagoons at the Black Rock sewage treatment plant are full.

Editor's Note. In the "Geelong News" when the above news was mentioned on May 21 the article was accompanied with a photograph of Ron Bergmeier with a "hands on" approach.

President, 1997 to 99. A Vice President from 1994 to 97 and from 1999 to 2003

From March 1994 to October 1997 was Editor of our newsletter. (Stepped down during terms as president but helped Leigh Strange with formatting and printing during this period). Resumed as Editor of newsletter from January 2001 to February 2003

Richard also undertook the role of photographer for the Association at the annual conference and at the weekend seminars from 1994 to 2003.

Richard assisted with the organisation of the 1996 & 2002 conferences in Geelong and performed various tasks at other conferences including program and event MC.

Coordinated and chaired the weekend seminar from their inception in 1997 to 2003.

A member of the constitutional review team and undertook the significant task of updating our constitution in 1999. He was also part of the team that followed-up with appropriate amendments in 2001 and 2002.



Richard Greenhough - Evans Eathmoving (I) accepting the plaque from outgoing WIOA President, Russell Mack, at the 2003 weekend seminar

DISPLAYS AND PRESENTATIONS AT 2003 WEEKEND SEMINAR See Page 8 for details

TRAINING NEWS

Australian Local Government Training (ALGT) has commenced a six-month process designed to build an improved national response to meet the skill development needs of the Water Industry.

The Water Industry Training Package must be monitored and enhanced to retain its relevance and reflect the current and future needs of the Water Industry. The review process can be seen as an opportunity to refine and extend the Training Package in light of developments within the industry. The lead times for Training Package reviews and any subsequent redevelopment are necessarily lengthy and, as a result, there need be no real concern that the review should cause industry to delay implementing the current Training Package. Any "flow through" from the review in terms of changes to the Training Package would not be seen until late 2004 or 2005.



Around the Traps North East

North East Water, Goulburn Valley Water, & Coliban Water

No articles this edition

Around the Traps South West

Glenelg Water, South West Water & Portland Coast Water

No articles this edition

New Products

No products featured this edition



Around the Traps North West

Central Highlands Water, Grampians Water, and Lower Murray Water

No articles this edition

Special Presentation

At the weekend seminar Richard Greenhough was presented with a Distinguished Service Award to acknowledge the contributions he has made over the years to our organisation. In brief the service Richard has given to AWWOA / WIOA is as follows:-

Elected to Committee at AGM Sept 1993 - has been on committee 9.5 years

The Review Process

The Training Package review has two phases. Phase 1 is a scoping exercise to ensure that the Training Package meets the needs of the Industry. The output from this national consultation process will be either a recommendation for re-endorsement of the Training Package as it exists or strategies for redevelopment and enhancement in Phase 2.

ALGT is keen to ensure the process used to conduct the review is sound, defensible and efficient. ALGT will be conducting a national survey of the training needs of the Water Industry. In case you have not already received a copy of this survey, you can download your copy from the ALGT web site at www.algt.com. The ALGT ask that you take ten minutes to complete and return this to ALGT.

Utilising the skills and reach of the State ITAB network (with Water coverage) to facilitate group 'workshop' sessions over the coming 4-6 weeks. These workshops will be an opportunity for you our 'industry experts' to have an influence on the final recommendations that will be put forward to redevelop and enhance the Water Industry Training Package. This in turn, will enhance the value of the Training Package to industry, facilitating the building of career pathways as well as stimulating the use of the Training Package by Registered Training Organisations (RTOs).

For times and venues of workshops being conducted in your State and Territory, contact your State ITAB.

For those members with access to the internet you can stay in touch with the project through the ALGT website at www.algt.com or email your comments or queries to joan@algt.com.au. Alternatively contact your committee representative and they will follow up accordingly.

John Whelan, Project Manager, ALGT.

Rawson Weekend Seminar Report

The 7th weekend was held on March 28th and 29th with 36 delegates in attendance.

This for me was my last Weekend Seminar as organizer as I had decided not to stand for committee this year. The committee started the seminars in 1997 the first being at the Pinnacle Valley Resort. We have moved around the state with weekends held at Halls Gap 1998, Cowes 1999, Daylesford 2000, Mt Buffalo Chalet 2001 and Swan Hill last year. There have been many members attend the weekends over that time and of course we have many regulars, but at each of the weekends we have always attracted new faces.

I would take this opportunity to thank all the members who have supported the weekends over the 7 years and of course the Trade Exhibitors who have also given their time in support of our association. The weekends are a great forum for gaining knowledge and new ideas, networking and meeting fellow workers from the Water Industry.

Next years venue has not been decided as yet but Peter Tolsher who has taken over the reins as organizer has this in hand and an announcement will be made prior to the conference in September.

In a bit of a change in the program this year the weekend commenced after lunch with the WIOA Annual General Meeting. This has been reported elsewhere in the 'Operator' along with the new committee list.

The Trade participants this year were: Lewis Seychell - Iwaki Pumps Australia Pty Ltd, Peter Lowe - MSA Australia Pty Ltd, Ken Steel and Chris Pendergast - Aluminates (Morwell) Pty Ltd and Tim Rounds and Rodney Norman - Acromet (Australia) Pty

Ltd. To all these people thank you for your participation and to your organization for supporting the WIOA. Plastic Plumbing and Irrigation Supplies were unable to attend but our thanks go to Tony Noyce for supplying buckets for delegates.

Once again this year we had the 'Operator 5 minutes of Fame' giving those who were 'pulled out of a hat' an opportunity to tell a little about themselves and their roll in the Water Industry.

The Saturday session commenced with a presentation by Lewis Seychell - Iwaki Pumps Australia Pty Ltd. The Association thanks Lewis and Iwaki Pumps Australia Pty Ltd for their continuing support of our Association. Lewis attended last year at Swan Hill as a delegate and stepped forward then to be a Trade Exhibitor this year. Lewis gave a run down on the company product and as can be seen from the following photo delegates had the opportunity to see a set up of the pumps on the company's demonstration trailer. Thank you once again to Lewis and Iwaki Pumps.



The next session after a break for a cupper was presented by Ken Steel and Chris Pendergast from Aluminates (Morwell) Pty Ltd. Ken gave a run down on Aluminates as well as giving a basic chemistry session. Chris then followed on with a jar test session and this gave delegates the opportunity to have some hands on experience. Thanks to Ken and Chris and Aluminates (Morwell).

The Saturday session ended and after an offer from Mal Farnham, Gippsland Water to do a bit of 'bush bashing' to visit some of Gippsland Water's Headworks areas many took up the offer and headed out prior to the evening R&R session. Thanks to Mal for taking the large number of delegates out and from the feedback received the excursions was well received. The evening R&R sessions was as always well received; great meal, good wines and good company and for some a long night but as Daylight Saving ended that night we all had an extra hour to enjoy and for some recover.

As with Saturday the 'Operator 5 minutes of Fame' continued as the start to the day on Sunday and throughout the morning in-between the Trade presentations. As the last '5 minute' presentation for the weekend I pulled myself 'out of the hat' which gave me the opportunity to tell those present that I have now left the Water Industry after 33 years. I am now employed as the Business Manager at Deja Eight Pty Ltd (Evans Earthmoving) located at Forrest in the Otways. So now rather than wanting rain, I am happy with the dry spell which is enjoyed by most earthmoving contractors. I haven't actually totally cut my ties with the Water Industry as Evans Earthmoving is a preferred Plant Hire company for Barwon Water. I hope to still keep in touch with WIOA members through the newsletter, Conferences and Weekend Seminars.

The Sunday trade session commenced with Peter Lowe from MSA Australia Pty Ltd a safety equipment supply company. After a rundown on the company and their product Peter

demonstrated some of their products with delegates able to gain first hand knowledge of these. Thank you to Peter (below) and MSA (Australia) Pty Ltd.



Rodney Norman with assistance from Tim Rounds both from Acromet (Australia) Pty Ltd rounded off the weekend with a presentation of the company products in particular their vacuum chlorination systems. Thanks to both Tim and Rodney and Acromet (Australia) Pty Ltd a continuing supporter of the Association.

I once again thank all participants at the weekend and I look forward to next year's seminar where I hope to come along as a delegate.

The Lighter Side - Job Interview

Reaching the end of a job interview, the human resources person asked a young male engineer fresh out of university, "And what starting salary were you looking for?"

The engineer said, "In the neighborhood of \$125,000 a year, depending on the benefits package."

The interviewer said, "Well, what would you say to a five-week vacation, 14 paid holidays, full medical and dental, company matching your retirement fund to 50% of your salary, and a new company car leased every two years, say, a red sports car?"

The young engineer sat up straight and said, "Wow! Are you kidding?"

The interviewer replied, "Yeah, but you started it."

Lost and Found.

Suprise suprise - a still photograph from a close circuit television (CCTV) survey undertaken somewhere within the Barwon Water's reticulation system. Yes it is a frog one of the many mysteries that have been know to be found within the pipes that provide that vital service.



WIOA 2003 - 04 OFFICE BEARERS & COMMITTEE

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Wanted.

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



Water Theft Convictions.

It has been interesting to note that various water authorities have been prosecuting people and organizations for the "theft" of water.

For example Barwon Water successfully prosecuted two cases of water theft in the Geelong Magistrates' Court in March.

In the first case, a Lara commercial nurseryman pleaded guilty to illegally taking water from a fire hydrant plug to irrigate plants at his Bacchus Marsh Road nursery.

The magistrate imposed a fine of \$750, saying the offence was theft and anyone who stole water could expect to pay double. The nurseryman had already paid Barwon Water an estimated account for \$763 for the stolen water.

In the second case, a Lara householder pleaded guilty to interfering with the water meter at their property to take water to irrigate an extensive lawn and rose garden.

In this case the householder was fined \$400.

Following the introduction of stage 1 restrictions alert neighbours have been reporting in illegal sprinklers that have resulted in a surge of illegal water connections being discovered in Melbourne.

At least 10 householders from the city's south eastern suburbs are facing charges after being caught with illegal water connections.

South East Water has uncovered the illegal water connections in Dandenong North, Rowville, Cranbourne, Rosebud, Ferntree Gully, Frankston, Chelsea, Bentleigh East, Bayswater and Blind Bight.

South East Water said 10 cases had been uncovered since May, compared with the same number of cases for all of 2002.

Presenters

Acromet. (Aust) Pty. Limited
Rodney Norman (below)



Iwaki Pumps
Lewis Seychell (below & left)



Aluminates
Chris Pendergast (below)

