

OPERATOR

May 2004 Edition

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Welcome to the second edition of Operator for 2004.

It is interesting to see what is coming out of the illustrious offices in Spring Street now that the State of Victoria, particularly the Melbourne area, continues to have below average rainfall (that's positive spin for a drought).

For example I recently saw an article where the Victorian Government is proposing a regulation to have special water pressure reducing valves fitted to homes. It is proposed that the pressure reducing valves be fitted to all new homes and those involving major renovations to bathrooms or laundries after July 2004. This suggestion has been announced with a warning that Melbourne's water supply will be stretched to its limits within 15 years unless measures are introduced to enhance the utilization of the limited and valuable water resource.

While applauding any measures aimed at reducing our water consumption the overall impact of this particular measure may be limited. In particular most modern household appliances and tasks, such as washing machines or doing the dishes in the sink etc, are based on a particular volume for correct operation, which means that it will just take a longer period to "fill" these items thus leading to minimum saving in consumption. There is also the human factor, which according to trials, indicated for example that they just took longer to have a "satisfactory shower".

The more positive aspects that I have read about is that there has been an increase in the implementation and acceptance of restrictions that are on an "all year" basis and the various promotions, including financial incentives, aimed at using water wisely in the Garden State. If the Victorian public and urban Australians in general can begin to accept these restrictions and begin to have an inbuilt understanding how "valuable" water is then it is considered a positive step forward.

THE EDITOR



WIOA Annual general meeting

The WIOA held its AGM at our recent weekend seminar in Ballarat. There was only one change to the Committee with David Tickner deciding not to nominate due to work and home commitments. Thanks for your efforts over the past few years David. Bruce Tyler was elected to take David's place and we're sure he will do a great job. I look forward to working with the new Committee to deliver even more benefits to our Members.

I understand the weekend seminar went off beautifully and the organisers - Tolsh and Cynthia deserve our congratulations. I would also like to thank Central Highlands Water for getting behind the event and hosting the tour at Ballarat South WMF, along with the Trade representatives who gave up their weekend at home to come along and do a presentation to the delegates. Whilst on congratulation, well done to our 4 Members who were inducted as the first IDIOTS. We already thought they were but now it's official. I understand an article on this appears later in this edition of Operator.

Our first Distribution seminar is coming up in May and Western Water has supported the day along with arranging the venue at Rockbank. This looks like being a very informative session with presentations from knowledgeable people in each of their fields. Get behind this event and make sure you get your registration in early.

Recently George Wall, Ron Bergmeier and myself met with Chris Davis, Rod Lehmann and Helen Stratton from AWA to discuss the various issues associated with the formation of a National operator's organisation. It is estimated that there may be as many as 30,000 people employed in the water industry with perhaps half of them employed in operational related fields as operators. This means there is a potentially huge group of people who haven't had access to the services offered by either WIOA or AWA. We discussed our plans for how we might service these people with AWA and the outcomes from the meeting were positive. George is currently working on a draft MoU with AWA to allow this to move forward and we intend to meet with the Queensland people soon. We'll keep you posted on further developments.

Another recent initiative has been the development of a draft MoU with the NZWWA (New Zealand Water and Wastes Association) following on from the visit to our conference by Rob Blakemore in 2002 and Murray Clayton in 2003. There has been some outstanding work done by Secretary George, and we look forward to the future benefits to both organisations from this initiative.

Keep you eye out for the registrations for the Victorian Operators conference in Wodonga to be held on the 1st and 2nd of September and the New South Wales Operator conference to be held at Penrith Panthers on 21st and 22nd of September. Remember, attendance and active participation at these types of events is crucial to allow you to keep abreast of changes in systems and technologies. Until next time.

"Happy Operating"

John Harris.
WIOA President.

Secretary's Scrawl

WIOA - Secretary's Scrawl - May 2004

Conference 2004

Organisation of this year's conference to be held in Wodonga on 1 & 2 September is proceeding on track with the platform papers already selected. Actizyme is again sponsoring the Best Operator Papers with \$1,000 and a plaque to the winner, and substantial second and third prizes as well.



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. Please note the closing date for submission of abstracts is 30 June and for the first time this year we will be attaching all the posters to the WIOA website after the conference. You can register your interest in submitting a poster with me at any time up to the closing date.

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

National Group

We have been reporting our desire to make something happen in this regard for some time but with little real success made. The process has been given a kick along through a meeting of some Executive members of WIOA and AWA at the recent Enviro conference. We had an open and frank discussion about the potential for future expansion on a National front. In general, the AWA is supportive of our ideas and both organisations have a strong desire to offer something to the many water industry people in States not currently serviced by WIOA. We are now working on a Memorandum of Understanding with AWA which will lay the future ground rules for how both operate. Stay tuned for further progress.

Water Works

The sixth edition of *WaterWorks* is due to be printed in June 2004 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.

Distribution Seminar

A reminder to all Members that the Distribution System seminar will be held on 27th May in Rockbank (Sunbury) and Registrations close on 20th May. There has already been a significant amount of interest in this event and places are limited so get your Registration in early. If too many Registrations are received, we will consider running a second day very soon and limiting the numbers that can attend from each organisation. More registration forms are available from the WIOA website at www.wioa.org.au - just follow the link from the home page.

New Members

Welcome to the following people who have recently joined our Association :



Ray Archer , Scott Foster, Craig Griggs,
Ted Hallas , Dean Lehmann, Greg Miller, Maurice McMahon,
Ray Stephenson, Greg Wood.

And the following new Corporate members :

CDS, VOR Environmental, Jeem Services, Smartaflow,
CMW-BVA Valves, Flotech Controls.

George Wall WIOA Secretary

Who wants a Trip to New Zealand?

The WIOA is negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding with the New Zealand Water and Wastes Association and one of the proposed undertakings is to send an operator to each organisations conference annually.

At this stage, the selection criteria relating to who will attend and why is yet to be developed. We want some feedback from our Members outlining what you think the selection criteria should be.

Some suggestions already raised by the WIOA Committee include:

- A nomination system similar to that used by AWA to select the Operator of the Year but with the nomination form completed BY operators and with a WIOA sub-committee making the final selection;
- A system where operators submit a paper abstract and a selection panel from each country chooses which paper will be presented at their conference;
- A study tour system where operators nominate an area of interest or topic requiring investigation. The out comes of the investigation would then be submitted in a report.

In return for sending someone, the WIOA expects that a written report suitable for use in Operator and perhaps even in *WaterWorks* will be provided by the successful operator.

Please send your thoughts to Secretary George by 30 June. You can send them either by mail, e-mail or on the phone on **0407 846 001**.



Pat Davis always seem to come up with a special shirt to wear at the seminar and this one is no exception

Weekend Seminar 2004 Ballarat

Our weekend seminar was held in Ballarat on the 20th and 21st March. The sun was shining, the venue put on some amazing food and a bunch of operators got together to share ideas, network and learn about new products in the industry.

John Richards of Middendorp electrical and with the assistance of Nesco's Stuart Ord were first to present on a new range of electrical testing meters and tags.

After we finished 3pm smoko we all hopped on a bus courtesy of Central Highlands Water (CHW) and headed to the Ballarat South Waste Water Treatment Plant. Tony Heagney and David Reyne conducted tours of the plant.

Vincent Ho and his assistant Victoria drove their VoR Environmental van all the way from NSW to display their new robotic reservoir cleaner and also discuss products they supplied at the Ballarat South plant.

Dinner was a raucous affair and once complete the winners of the 'IDIOT' award were announced - Academy award style. The awardees were inducted then made to perform their initiations. It may come as a surprise to some but the Saturday night festivities kicked on till the early hours of the morning.

Sunday morning George Wall gave a presentation on team building being undertaken at Goulburn Valley Water. He outlined how they have arranged regular meetings for both water and wastewater operators so that they can get together to discuss common issues and work out solutions as a team. This is done at alternate locations throughout their region and has provided many benefits to both the staff and GVW.

Anthony Ohlsen of CHW discussed the process they went through in selecting a taste and odour panel. Anthony brought in six distinctive smells in a bottle and passed them around for us to rate. We were tested on our sense of smell, which after years working at a sewerage plant may have deteriorated, but most operators scored highly.

For those of you who may have attended weekend seminars before you may remember Richard' Greenhough's Sunday morning brainteasers. As Richard attended as a guest this year and became an 'IDIOT' we decided the IDIOTS could try a brainteaser. They were given the following: two balloons, two straws, two pieces of paper, an egg and sticky tape. The challenge was that the egg had to be dropped from a height and must not break. The aim is to protect the egg with the materials provided as best you can within a limited time. The successful winner of this brainteaser was none other than Richard ably supported by our Tasmanian guest Craig Griggs.



Stuart Ord demonstrating the use of the electrical tool testing units

A new segment entitled "What do we get up to outside of our normal working life?" was added this year. Barry Waddell was the first to have a go and let us know about his cattle raising expertise. Barry brought in a hide from a Scottish Barry brought in a hide from a Scottish Highland cow and some of his prize ribbons his girls had won. He also shared his experiences of being a judge at various cattle and horse shows.



Our last presentation for the weekend was from CMG. Dorian Turner and Darren Besanko attended and went through a few products CMG offer - high efficiency motors and Vacon VSD's. CMG generously gave out prizes for those who were attentive during their presentation. They gave out 22ct gold in a bottle!

The organizing committee for the weekend seminar would like to thank our presenters, Central Highlands Water and the Sovereign Park Motor Inn for their hospitality.

The fantastic location for the next weekend Seminar has nearly been finalized. This will be announced as soon as we confirm the date and we hope you can join us. You will have to be early to register as we have limited numbers available and these will fill up quickly.

Around the Traps South East Region



WARRAGUL SOUTH WATER STORAGE BASIN COVERING

As a result of an extensive project undertaken by Gippsland Water, residents of Warragul and Drouin will now enjoy an improved drinking water quality.

Recent major works that involved lining the Warragul South Basin have helped to improve drinking water quality due to the water no longer being exposed to external elements.

John Mitchell, Chief Executive Officer said; "The purpose of the new water storage cover is to prevent water, dust, debris, and other foreign objects and elements from entering the water system at the storage stage. These covers help ensure a much cleaner supply to people in the Warragul/Drouin region. It is a continuation of a the basin cover lining program that has been running over the past three years to further improve the quality of water for customers in our entire region."

The cover is a polyethylene liner and floats on the water surface of the Basin. The approximate size of the lining and cover of the basin is 104 metres by 110 metres. The cost of this project was \$742,000 and forms part of a \$5.2 million investment by Gippsland Water on improving treated water storages over the past three years.

Mr. Mitchell concluded by saying; "As we prepare to enter a new regulatory regime in which water quality standards will again be lifted, Gippsland Water will continue to look at our infrastructure performance and continue to significantly invest to ensure we can meet the standards required by our regulators and our customers. The lining of basins is just one way in which we ensure our customers are receiving the best possible product from Gippsland Water."

**Media Release
Gippsland Water**

Inducted as Delegates of the Inextricably Obstructed Tap Society - what is it?

The Committee of the WIOA has introduced an award, which recognises the services of individuals to the Association. This new award was launched at the recent weekend seminar in Ballarat.

This service award is to be conferred to an individual in recognition of their commitment to the vision and philosophies of the Association and the active promotion of the Association.

This award is designed to complement the existing Life Membership, which is the Association's most prestigious award that is given for distinguished service to the Association over many years.

The task of organizing the first IDIOTS was given to Cynthia Lim, Steve Wilson and Anthony Evans. As well as deciding on the recipients, it was up to this team to arrange a symbol that would stand out and be easily recognized throughout the water industry.

After much discussion it was decided that to be eligible as a prospective IDIOTS member must have provided a minimum of five years of service to the Association, either as an individual member or as an employee of a corporate supporter.

Every award needs to have a symbol so that awardees are easily recognisable. The symbol for this award is a twisted tap, in fact an inextricably obstructed tap.



The tie pin

The selected individuals will be Inducted as Delegates of the Inextricably Obstructed Tap Society. (**IDIOTS** -Yes that's right yet another water industry acronym to remember.)

Roles and Responsibilities of the IDIOTS:

- To ensure the on-going future of the society.
- To select a sub-committee of three IDIOTS.
- This IDIOT sub-committee has the responsibility of selecting future inductees.
- A two-thirds majority of this sub-committee is required for acceptance of an inductee.
- There is to be a minimum of one inductee per year but no more than three.

There were four inaugural recipients inducted at our recent weekend seminar and they are George Wall, Barry Waddell, Richard Greenhough, and Tony Hourigan. Each inductee was presented with a trophy and a 24ct-twisted tap tiepin. It was also decided that each inductee must wear their pin at all WIOA events. If you catch any IDIOTS without this pin at any official function, they must hand over \$5 each time which will go to our charity fund.

On the Saturday evening, each inductee was required to undertake an individual initiation ritual dreamt up just for them."

George Wall - we set up a golfers practice putting kit. Most of us know that George is a pretty good golfer. Under the pressure of 30+ operators staring, George had to putt to the machine, with a #1 wood. It took a few tries but George likes to think he got a ball in there. For some reason they kept popping out!

Barry Waddell and Richard Greenhough were given the ultimate red wine taste off. Five select wines were chosen from the bar and glasses set up for each to sample. Bottles were displayed to make it a little easier. After some deliberation the boys were not fooled and realised they were given a house red instead of any of the wine bottles laid before them. Not all talk after all.

Richard is also a keen jazz fan. We brought in a box which contained the pieces of clarinet. Richard's task was to assemble and to try to get a sound out of the instrument. Richard did a fine job in joining the pieces together of the instrument in record time and did manage quite a notable middle C. Well done.



The first four inductees (Left to Right) Richard Greenhough, Barry Waddell, George Wall and Tony Hourigan

An Acromet catch cry is: 'Acromet chlorinators are so simple you can pull them apart and put them together blind folded.' Well what do you think Tony Hourigan task was? Yep, he was blindfolded, given a screwdriver and one of his chlorine meters. Did he pass the test? The tools were blamed for his failure to deliver, so this was noted and after an investigation was carried out, a pass was awarded. If anybody would like to see this feat being performed, Tony is only too happy to do it for you, with his own tools.

As with most societies there is a special greeting and here it is.

What do you do when you meet an **IDIOT**? The appropriate salutation to WIOA **IDIOTS** is: "You idiot" Whilst the appropriate response would be: "Get knotted"

Congratulations to our IDIOTS.

Around the Traps Central Region

Colac water reclamation plant upgrade enters final stages of construction.



Construction of the 11 million dollar upgrade at the Colac water reclamation plant has entered a new and exciting phase.

At the beginning of March, Barwon Water began testing equipment at the facility and once this is completed, flows into the old plant will cease. 'Cut-over' to the new facility is scheduled for June 2004.

Civil works including the tanks, pipelines, pumping stations, buildings and roads are almost complete.

Mechanical and process equipment such as air blowers, pipe work, pumps; screens, grit and ultraviolet (UV) equipment have been installed.

Electrical works including cabling have been completed and the new main switchboard was recently connected to mains power.

The new facility will use a natural biological process and ultraviolet disinfection to treat six megalitres of sewage a day.

The plant will be able to treat up to 19 megalitres a day for short periods during wet weather.

Barwon Water Executive Manager Water Systems Carl Bicknell said the plant would not only cater for industrial development and growth in the city, but would improve the quality of water leaving the plant.

The new treatment plant will provide additional capacity to treat recently increased industrial discharges, and will provide for future growth in Colac. Mr. Bicknell stated, "It is vital for the region's future prosperity that essential services such as sewage treatment keep pace with industrial growth and population increases,"

Mr. Bicknell also advised "The upgrade will provide Colac with a first-class sewage treatment facility meeting strict environmental standards and safeguards set by EPA Victoria, and "the project demonstrates the authority's commitment to Colac and the environment."

Barwon Water Media Release



Colac wastewater reclamation plant

The Lighter side



These questions about Australia were posted on an Australian Tourism Website and obviously the answers came from a fellow Aussie.

1. Q: Does it ever get windy in Australia? I have never seen it rain on TV, so how do the plants grow? (UK)

A: We import all plants fully grown and then just sit around watching them die.

2. Q: Will I be able to see kangaroos in the street? (USA)

A: Depends how much you've been drinking.

3. Q: I want to walk from Perth to Sydney - can I follow the railroad tracks? (Sweden)

A: Sure, it's only three thousand miles, take lots of water...

4. Q: Is it safe to run around in the bushes in Australia? (Sweden)

A: So its true what they say about Swedes.

5. Q: Can you tell me the regions in Tasmania where the female population is smaller than the male population? (Italy)

A: Yes, gay nightclubs.

6. Q: Do you celebrate Christmas in Australia? (France)

A: Only at Christmas.

7. Q: Can you give me some information about hippo racing in Australia? (USA)

A: A-fri-ca is the big triangle shaped continent south of Europe. Aus-tra-lia is that big island in the middle of the pacific which does not.. oh forget it. Sure, the hippo racing is every Tuesday night in Kings Cross. Come naked.

8. Q: Which direction is North in Australia? (USA)

A: Face south and then turn 90 degrees. Contact us when you get here and we'll send the rest of the directions.

9. Q: Can I bring cutlery into Australia? (UK)

A: Why? Just use your fingers like we do.

10. Q: Can you send me the Vienna Boys' Choir schedule? (USA)

A: Aus-tri-a is that quaint little country bordering Ger-man-y, which is.. oh forget it. Sure, the Vienna Boys Choir plays every Tuesday night in Kings Cross, straight after the hippo races. Come naked.

11. Q: Do you have perfume in Australia? (France)

A: No, WE don't stink.

12. Q: I have developed a new product that is the fountain of youth. Can you tell me where I can sell it in Australia? (USA)

A: Anywhere significant numbers of Americans gather.

13. Q: Can I wear high heels in Australia? (UK)

A: You are a British politician, right?

The Lighter side 2

1. A guy walks into the psychiatrist wearing only gladwrap for shorts. The shrink says, "Well, I can clearly see your nuts."
2. My friend drowned in a bowl of muesli.
A strong currant pulled him in.
3. I went to a seafood disco last week...and pulled a muscle.
4. Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly. They lit a fire in the craft, it sank, proving once and for all that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.



Tony Heagney explaining the layout of the Ballarat South wastewater plant during the weekend seminar tour.

5. Our ice cream man was found lying on the floor of his van covered with hundreds and thousands. Police say that he topped himself.
6. A man goes to the doctor, with a strawberry growing out of his head.
The doc says, "I'll give you some cream to put on that."
7. "Doc I can't stop singing The Green, Green Grass of Home."
"That sounds like Tom Jones syndrome." "Is it common?" "It's not unusual."
8. A man takes his Rottweiler to the vet. "My dog's cross-eyed, is there anything you can do for him?" "Well," says the vet, "let's have a look at him" So he picks the dog up and examines his eyes, then checks his teeth.
Finally, he says, "I'm going to have to put him down." "What? Because he's cross-eyed?" "No, because he's really heavy"



'OPERATOR' is printed by Barwon Region Water Authority. The WIOA gratefully acknowledges the support provided by Barwon Water in producing 'Operator'

Private Industries

The answer to the question posed in the February edition is the "VoR Weda Reservoir Cleaner". This product has the following features and advantages when used in cleaning a reservoir or tank.

- No divers required.
- Quick process.
- No water distribution shut down or interruption.
- Economy.
- Remote Operation.
- Self-sufficient power supply.
- Video and Sonar monitoring provide real-time viewing of cleaning and inspection.
- Video documentation.
- Locating leaks and structural problems.
- Waste can be appropriately discharged to known location.

The underwater cleaner has two models VR-600 and VR-800 and both are fully equipped with a pump, brushes, a video camera, underwater spotlights and "Sonar" (radar). The radar is used for hydro-acoustic navigation and positioning. The camera and the spotlights are used for control and for documentation.

The submerged machines are remotely controlled by an operator with a joystick from outside the reservoir. The unit undertakes the cleaning without interrupting the water distribution meaning the use of divers or draining the tank are not required.

The VR-600 unit pump evacuates sediments at rate of 92.9 meters²/hr and particles via a 75 mm diameter hose and can handle solids up to 12.7 mm in diameter. The larger VR-800 unit pump evacuates sediments at rate of 139 meters²/hr and can handle solids up to 38.1mm in diameter. The vehicles can be manoeuvred with great precision and creates minimal turbidity.

For further information please contact:
VoR ENVIRONMENTAL Australia Pty Ltd, 10 Rochester St.
Botany NSW 2019
Phone 02 96951911 Fax. 02 96951933

The photo below appeared in the February edition of Operator. What is it you ask? It is the "VoR Weda".



NEXT EDITION

Article Contribution Deadline
For the August Edition
July 9th, 2004



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Above Anthony Olsen at weekend seminar

Below Tony Hourigan going about his job blindfolded.



Surfs up

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WANTED

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