



# OPERATOR

May 2005 Edition

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### Newsflash

#### WIOA GOES NATIONAL



*NSW Operators Workshop in Lismore. Details page 4."*



*2005 Weekend Seminar at Trawool. See Story page 6.*



# WIOA GOES NATIONAL



The 10th of February 2005 will be recorded in history as the ground-breaking day in the development of a truly National operators association. At a meeting in Melbourne between representatives of WIOA, AWA and WSAA, agreement was finally reached on a structure that will allow WIOA to assume the role of dedicated service provider to operators in each Australian State.

This agreement is the culmination of an idea that was first raised at a then AWWOA future directions forum held in 2000. It was recognised at this forum that in order to move forward and secure our own long-term viability, the Association needed to continue to develop its role and importance to the water industry. Additionally, we needed to generate additional income to be able to support at least a part time employee to relieve some of the growing workload from our voluntary Committee.

The agreement formulated between WIOA, AWA and we hope WSAA, has allowed us to go one step further than this and employ a full time person. We are excited to report to Members that our Secretary/Treasurer for the past 11 years and one of only 4 Life Members, Mr George Wall has accepted the important role of full time Executive Officer of WIOA. He commenced his duties on 5 April 2005.

From now on and with the full support of the other Associations, WIOA will be responsible for duplicating the quality services and events that we have enjoyed in Victoria for many years in all the other States. Apart from maintaining the existing services, the key priorities in the short term for the Executive Officer will be to develop an operator support network in each State; the development of operator focused events including conferences, trade exhibitions and seminars; the publication of newsletters and journals with truly national content; the further development and maintenance of our existing website; and a continued involvement in the development of water industry training resources to name just a few. No doubt over time there will be opportunities to diversify into other fields as well and this will bring additional benefits to all Members.

The formalisation of this agreement is the result of a lot of hard work over the past 5 years in particular and the WIOA Committee are sure that the provision of opportunities to ALL operators meets the vision of the original founders of our Association. To reach this point there has been numerous meetings, discussions and a myriad of correspondence. Our thanks for their patience, efforts and vision must be passed on to Rod Lehmann, Barry Norman, Chris Davis and Ian Jarman from AWA, Peter Donlon from both AWA and WSAA and our own Committee, in particular Ron Bergmeier and George Wall. Without their efforts this positive development for the water industry would not have been possible.

We look forward to working co-operatively in the future with AWA, hopefully WSAA and any others with an interest in water industry "Operators" in the delivery of services on a national basis.

**WIOA Committee**

What wonderful friends I have made since becoming a Member of the WIOA 8 years ago. This is the first edition of the 'Operator' in my new role as 'the Pres'. At the recent weekend seminar Peter Tolsher was elected to the position of Vice President (aka #1) and George Wall was returned as Secretary/Treasurer (aka 'The Wonder Twins'). I must thank all the previous committee for their support and camaraderie, especially to Roland Passello and Bruce Tyler who have decided not to continue on the committee and John Harris for being my supportive mentor. We welcome two new faces to the committee – Raymond Stephenson from Central Highlands Water and Mark McNeil from Glenelg Water. I look forward to the new experience they bring to the committee.

As noted in other sections of this edition, the big news of WIOA going National is very exciting and I look forward to working closely with our first ever Executive Officer, George Wall in delivering the required outcomes to our Members and the industry as a whole.

My vision as President is to continue the good work of my predecessors in their pursuit of co-operation between our network of Operators and the supporting industry. I thoroughly enjoy being part of the water industry and during my 12 years, from laboratory services to technical sales I have met a diversity of wonderful people. This has only increased my enjoyment of the water industry whilst improving my understanding of the issues faced by Operators. My experiences, so far, have been truly rewarding.

I have completed collating results from the recent survey sent to Members. A breakdown of the results will be available shortly. In a nutshell; demographically not much has changed, we have increased our overall membership numbers but unfortunately still only about 5% female Members. The website is quite under utilized, more technical papers and new technology information is sought, we received positive responses to a monthly e-mail newsletter and certification/registration of Operators. We will consider your responses in due course and take action where required and introduce new and improved services. Thank you for your responses.

Don't forget the Kwatye (Water) Prize, this is your opportunity to share your ideas with the wider industry and receive funding to further your idea. Application forms and information can be downloaded from our web site [www.wioa.org.au](http://www.wioa.org.au). The closing date for applications is May 15.

So what's my new Pres' Prattle catch cry? Send your suggestions to [cynthia.lim@itt.com](mailto:cynthia.lim@itt.com) or take your pick -

- ❖ One small step for an Operator, one giant step for Operations
- ❖ Keep on operatin'....
- ❖ 'May the water be with you'

**Cynthia Lim**  
WIOA President

# From the EO's Desk

This is my first opportunity to pen something as the inaugural Executive Officer of WIOA. It is indeed an honour that the Committee considered me appropriate to take on this important role as we move forward on a National basis. I thank the Committee for their show of faith in me and look forward to meeting the challenges ahead so that our Association can continue to grow and deliver nationally the range and type of services we've become accustomed to over the years.



I will need lots of help in this role and will be reliant on the contributions of the Committee and our Members in each State. If you are interested in helping out in any way at all, please let me know. I would like to encourage all members to feel free to contact me at any time and I'm definitely prepared to listen to ideas and discuss any issues that you may have.

## Change of Association Contact Details

Could all members please note that I am now working from a home based office and am in the process of installing new telephone and fax lines. The action from Telstra has been a little slower than anticipated so I will have to advise the new numbers in due course. In the meantime, please do not use any of the old fax or telephone numbers on pre 2005 letterheads. I can be contacted by e-mail on [george@wioa.org.au](mailto:george@wioa.org.au) or by phone on 0407 846 001.

## Conference 2005

The venue for the 2005 Victorian conference has been confirmed as the Schweppes Centre in Bendigo with the dates of 7 & 8 September. Coliban Water and Campaspe Asset Management Services (CAMS) will act as joint host and major sponsors.

The call for platform abstracts has now closed but we are still accepting abstracts for poster papers. The closing date for posters has been extended to 26 May so get your ideas down and send them in for consideration. In response to requests from Members we will have an additional poster section this year which is open to all. However, to be eligible to be considered for the Water Industry Training Centre sponsored "Operator Poster Paper" prizes, the previous rule that the principle author must be non-tertiary qualified still applies. Only those poster presenters eligible for the WITC prize will be required to speak to their paper at the time of judging. For the remainder of the posters, some time will be allocated in the program for the inspection of the posters and the authors should be present at this time to answer any questions.

If you are interested in either of the poster or platform paper categories, please return your abstract to me ASAP.

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

The interest in the trade exhibition is continuing to grow and all indications are that the record of last year of 110 trade sites occupied will be broken again this year. Please note that entry to the trade exhibition is free and to enable the tradies to get maximum value for their efforts, we must all encourage as many people as possible to attend as either a delegate or visitor.

## Kwatye prize

Applications for the inaugural Kwatye prize close on 15 May 2005 so if you haven't done so, please get your entries in ASAP. Application forms and more information on the Prize can be downloaded from our website at [www.wioa.org.au](http://www.wioa.org.au)



## Correspondence via E-mail

Just a reminder that it is possible to receive all Association correspondence via e-mail instead of hard copy. This saves the Association quite a lot in postage costs, time and effort. If you would like to take advantage of this service and be added to the e-mail list please send me a note to [info@wioa.org.au](mailto:info@wioa.org.au). Occasionally the newsletter or other documents exceed 1MB or the recipients e-mail account is full. This causes difficulties when trying to get files through to some Members due to limits on file sizes or the amount of inbox storage they have. In these cases, I get a non-deliverable message back and will send a hard copy out by normal mail. Don't worry - you won't miss out on anything.

## Subscriptions Owing

We still have a number of people who owe Membership fees and we request anyone who has not yet paid their fees to make an effort to pay. Alternatively, if you don't wish to remain a Member, please let me know.

**George Wall**  
Executive Officer - WIOA

## "NZ Operators to invade Oz"

We have received word from our friends across the ditch that a number (maybe as many as 20) of Kiwi Operators intend to invade Oz and attend our conference in September. Part of the deal is that they will stay on for a week or so after the conference and would like to visit some innovative or unusual water and wastewater treatment plants as part of an operations based study tour.

This is where we need your help. If you or your employer/Authority would be interested in hosting the Group (and a couple of appropriate WIOA chaperones), we would be pleased to hear from you. We are looking for ideas on technology/plants that we could show the Kiwis and it would also be nice if your Authority could supply a lunch or dinner to help keep the costs to our visitors as low as possible. If you are interested, can you please contact EO George ASAP by e-mail or on 0407 846 001 as we have to try to make up an itinerary and potential costs to send to NZ prior to the end of May 2005.



## NSW - Report on Lismore workshop

Craig Zerk the President of the AWA/Engineers Australia, Far North Coast Branch opened the proceedings and chaired the first session. Approximately 50 delegates attended and there was plenty of interaction between the delegates and presenters.



The breaks during the day provided the opportunity for further discussions with the presenters and also gave the delegates the opportunity to view the products and services on display by the various Trade Exhibitors.



*Byron Bay Shire Operators talking with Wayne Watson from Tweed Shire Council.*

With papers covering such diverse topics as Sludge handling, dewatering and use, the satellite tracking of trade waste including the technology and software used, to the challenges provided by the new Country Energy – close approach rules for construction and the solutions used to achieve successful outcomes in difficult conditions, Wayne Watson from Tweed Shire Council showed us how we should be doing our water sampling and the productivity and OH&S gains to be achieved, etc, we had it all.

The most pleasing aspect was the opportunity to ask the presenters specific questions and get a more in depth appreciation of the issues that they talked on and how it might relate to our particular situation or how an outcome was achieved.

The Prize for best Presentation was awarded by Bruce Dyne from Georg Fischer Piping Systems to Paul Cooper from Clarence Valley Council for his presentation on Construction dewatering issues. The choice was not easy for the judges due to the high quality of all the speakers and presentations.



Many thanks to our impartial judges for the day, Terry Call from DUES and Dan O'Connor from TAFE New England.

Also a big THANKS to our sponsor GEORG FISCHER Piping Systems for funding the day and also for sponsoring the winner of the best presentation to attend the NSW Operators in Tamworth later this year.

The funding provided by Georg Fischer for this event allows us to attract the widest audience possible for the day with no costs for delegates to attend and also allows the best presentation to be showcased to a wider audience.



*Bruce Dyne (r) and Paul Cooper, winner of the award for the best presentation.*

The day concluded with a site visit to the East Lismore STP where Mark Attwater from Lismore City Council showed the delegates around his plant and explained its various workings.

The NSW Operators Group are happy to assist in organising similar events in other areas throughout the State and the first step is only a phone call. We would like to thank the following organisations for their assistance in kind to the event AWA NSW, WIOA, DUES & TAFE, Geolink, Ballina Shire Council, Lismore City Council, Clarence Valley Council, Tweed Shire Council and also the delegates for attending.

*Contributed by Peter Shanahan*

## Around the Traps Central Region

### *A new use for recycled water.*

Following the signing of an agreement between Barwon Water, Peerless Holdings and the Department of Primary Industries (DPI), a feasibility study into aquaculture in recycled water at Black Rock water reclamation plant will commence in March 2005.

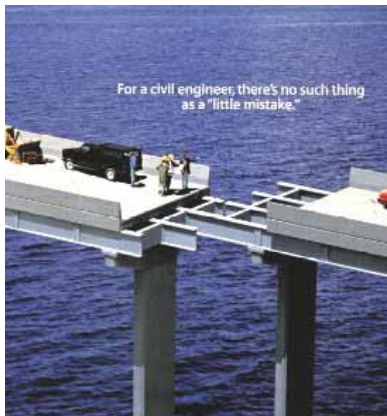
Barwon Water will host the study using recycled water ponds to grow small fish for a variety of markets. The fish are not for human consumption, but may be used as ingredients in pet food, stock feed, and even to feed larger commercially farmed fish.

The research will be conducted by Primary Industries Research Victoria, DPI's Research and Development division, and funded by Peerless Aqua, the research arm of Peerless Holdings. Barwon Water will provide the ponds, water and associated infrastructure at the Black Rock water reclamation plant.

Barwon Water Chief Executive Dennis Brockenshire said that the project would explore exciting new uses for recycled water. "This research has the potential to open new doors for water recycling. We look forward to pioneering the field in Australia," Mr Brockenshire said. Peerless Holdings Director, Julius Rath, said that Australia currently uses thousands of tonnes of fin-fish for non-human markets, much of which is imported. If the aquaculture trial proves successful, it could result in using sustainable, locally grown fish rather than imported ones.

Currently, Barwon Water commits more than 14 per cent of recycled water to a variety of users, including local vineyards, golf courses, and primary producers. Candidate species for the first stage of the project include carp, mullet, goldfish and black bream. If the results of the pilot trail are promising, research will be expanded to include more ponds and more species of fish.

## THE LIGHTER SIDE



*The lighter side of  
Civil Engineering*

## The Chemistry of Water - Units"

The introduction of metric units to laboratory analyses saw the replacement of ppm (parts per million) with mg/L (milligrams per litre). They are numerically equal but old-timers will remember ppm – it was easy to say but harder to explain, eg when dosing with chlorine, the concept of "parts of chlorine into a million parts of water" required some basic maths. It went like this: -You had to see ppm as lbs/100,000 gallons – given that one gallon of water weighed 10 lb. Most large capacities were in gallons (even petrol), and all weights of significance were in lbs, so 1 ppm was best seen as 1 lb of constituent in 100,000 gallons of water. Sharp maths was required to calculate water main or tank volumes in cubic feet – before converting that figure to gallons. (1 cubic ft was equal to 6¼ gallons).

Sodium hypochlorite (12½ % chlorine) was available in 5 gallon (50 lb) carboys, so each drum contained 6¼ lb of chlorine. It was an era of fractions not decimals.

If you were slug dosing a new water main with 30 ppm chlorine before commissioning, the engineer would have calculated the main's capacity, and the required drums of hypochlorite (5 drums per 100,000 gallons) were steadily pumped in while the main charged.

Metric units eg mg/L for most analyses today are easier to grasp because we use litres daily, but the thought of "thousandths of one gram" can still be a struggle when it shouldn't – even for chemists. Always remember that: -

mg/L = grams / Kilolitre = Kilograms / Megalitre

grams / Kilolitre is very adaptable to the practical field situation.

If farmer Brown's house tank needs a 5 mg/L decent shot of chlorine following discovery of drowned animals or birds. What to use? How much? He will know the capacity – say 20,000 litres (20 KL) 5 mg/L is 5 gm / Kilolitre so he needs 100 grams chlorine. White King Bleach (sodium hypochlorite variety) is 4% chlorine, so 4 grams per hundred mL the requirement is 2.5 litres – easy! If any solid pool chlorine is available (85% chlorine) – 120 grams or about ½ a cup will do the job.

As our storage reservoir capacities and daily water consumption is readily available in Megalitres, we can gain a better appreciation of the massive quantities of dissolved salt or solids that are moved by our water supply and effluents given that 1000 kilograms is one tonne..

**Owen Calvert**  
**Ecowise Environmental**

### Coming Events

Qld operators conference	<b>Stanthorpe</b>	26-29 July 2005
Distribution seminar	<b>Victoria</b>	TBA
Vic operators conference	<b>Bendigo</b>	7-8 Sep 2005
NSW operators conf	<b>Tamworth</b>	21-22 Sep 2005
NZWWA conference	<b>Auckland</b>	28-30 Sep 2005

# 2005 Weekend Seminar

## Great Time had by All

The 9th weekend seminar the WIOA have hosted in Victoria was on April 2 & 3 at the Trawool Valley Resort, between Seymour and Yea. Without our enthusiastic Members' support we could not host such an event. This year we had close to a full house and lots of new faces (to be known as the virgins from here on). The venue was picturesque and relaxing and the Trawool Valley Resort staff were a fantastic help.



The trade companies that came along and enlightened us with new technology, exciting ideas, demonstrations, give-aways and much much more, were Sitest Pty Ltd, Alldos Oceania, ITT Flygt, Rad-Tel, Peerless and Merck. Also in attendance from the corporate supporters and who generously chipped in for sponsorship of Saturday nights activities were Environmental and Process Technologies (a division of Biolab) and Acromet. A very special thank you goes to Margarita Grozdanoski of Sitest, Tony Hourigan of Alldos, Jon Coghill of Flygt, Adrian Nisbet and Robert Westlake (side-show Bob) of Rad-Tel, Phil Edwards of Merck and Nick Subotsch of Peerless – it's not easy to give up time from our precious weekends for work related events.

The official weekend began on Saturday with a buffet lunch and then a brief discussion on the National association. Our AGM followed. Amongst plenty of eating, drinking and networking Members also learnt a thing or two.

- ◆ Margarita presented on problems encountered during pH testing and brought along some Eutech pH meters to play with.
- ◆ Tony discussed the various types of pumps and systems the company manufactures. He explained the TrueDos digital dosing pump and even brought along some ants for the demo.
- ◆ Cynthia and Jon discussed sensors found in submersible pumps and involved the Members in a group activity of pin-the-tail-on-the-donkey.
- ◆ Adrian and Robert went through the operator friendly SCADA systems they have developed from his family owned business.
- ◆ Phil brought along the WTW Sensor Net system and the brand new pHotoflex hand held combined photometer, pH meter and true turbidity meter.
- ◆ Nick ended off the technical sessions with a discussion on coatings and linings and how to determine the best system for your asset.



*President Cynthia explaining pumps*

Last year we introduced a section for Members to share their interests outside the water industry, we invited Russell Mack to talk about Dry Lakes Racers Australia. I think all those who heard about and saw the magnificent machine he helped build can understand how passionate he is about this hobby. Russell's take home message was '...it's worthwhile to give something new a go – you never know – you might actually like it.' Who will regal us next year with their passion?



*The Russell Mack machine*

We had three interstaters join us this year – Pat Davis from Wagga (well done Pat for joining us again, it certainly would be a less colourful event without you there), Peter Shanahan from Ballina Shire Council in NSW and Neil Crossing of United Water in SA. Hope we Victorians showed you guys a good time. Look forward to meeting more interstaters next year.

We inducted three more IDIOTS to the select society. You can read about them on page 7, congratulations to Mal Farnham, Neil Healey and Russell Mack.

We offered yoga at 7am on Sunday morning – why didn't anyone join me? Thanks to Omega Chemicals for the DVD brain teaser, this got a few brains ticking on Sunday also to Acromet and ITT Flygt for their sponsorship.

### *Contributed Peter Tolsher*



*Some committed operators discussing water related issues well into the night*

## IDIOTS:

At the 2004 weekend seminar, the WIOA launched a new award. The recipients of this award are known as IDIOTS which stands for them having been "Inducted as a Delegate of the Inextricably Obstructed Tap Society". To be fair to the recipients, the award is designed to recognise service to WIOA over a number of years and is designed to compliment the Life Membership award. The title in no way reflects the personality of the recipient (unless they specifically wish it to).

The 2004 inductees were Barry Waddell, Ron Bergmeier, George Wall, Richard Greenhough and Tony Hourigan. They received a twisted tap stick pin which must be worn to all official WIOA events and a trophy. Should the pin not be worn, the offending IDIOTS member must contribute \$5 to the charity fund. The fund collected \$25 in the first year!!!



In accordance with the rules, these 5 had the job of selecting and arranging a suitable task for the next group of inductees.

The 2005 inductees were Neil Healey, Mal Farnham and Russell Mack and they were presented the award at the Weekend Seminar. Many hours of painstaking research was undertaken on each of their interests and involvement with WIOA.

**Neil Healey** – joined WIOA in 1996 and has been a very active Member. He has performed numerous conference papers over the years and won the Actizyme Prize in 1997 and came third in 2003. He was awarded Operator of the Year by the AWA in 2000. Neil also contributed as a presenter at the 2004 distribution seminar. Neil rarely misses a WIOA event and provides input whenever he can.



Neil has built a reputation for moulding an effective work team in his job with Goulburn Valley Water. For his challenge, he was required to use these well honed skills to mould a heap of play dough into the twisted tap logo. The task was successfully completed and the result adorned pride of place for the majority of the night.

**Malcolm Farnham** – joined WIOA in around 1990 although it is hard to confirm the exact date due to our incomplete records. Mal has been a quiet achiever over the years and rarely if ever misses out on attending WIOA events. He is a quiet type of person but is not backward in providing his thoughts when requested and is the epitome of a supportive WIOA Member.

Mal has an interest in 4 wheel driving and took a number of us on a tour at the weekend seminar held at Rawson a few years ago. For his challenge, Mal was required to drive a high tech replica of a 4 wheel drive vehicle over an obstacle course constructed of fallen chairs and tables. Integral to the task was the addition of the appropriate engine noises. When his car noise level dropped too low, Mal was encouraged by all present to increase the output and did a fine job.



**Russell Mack** – also joined WIOA in around 1990 although we have the same issue of not being able to confirm the date. Russ was elected to the Committee in 1997, took on the role of Vice President from 1999 to mid 2001 and was then elected President for the rest of 2001 and 2002. Russ won the Actizyme Prize in 1998 and was Operator of the Year in 1999 and has made a significant contribution to the Association over the past decade.

Russ has a passion for fast cars and did a great presentation on his land speed car – but he was quick to inform us that his skills are limited to driving cars rather than making them go or fixing them. For his challenge, Russ was asked to put together a pretty simple carby that had been disassembled earlier in the day. As it was getting a bit late and there were a heap of Crownies waiting in the downstairs fridge, the task was deemed completed once Russ managed to get one screw into place.



With a total of 8 IDIOTS now inducted into the fold, we look forward to more fines for the charity fund and wait with baited breath for the next recipient/s of the award in 2006.

## NEXT EDITION

**Article Contribution Deadline  
For the August 2005 Edition  
8th July, 2005**



**North East** - North East Water,  
Goulburn Valley Water, Coliban Water and Mt. Buller Resort  
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**South East** - East Gippsland Water, Gippsland Water,  
South Gippsland Water and Western Port Water  
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mobile 0427 331 586, email: [MackR@gippswater.com.au](mailto: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](mailto:aeva@swwa.com.au)

**North West** - Central Highlands Water, Grampians Water  
and Lower Murray Water  
*Expression of interest required*

**Central** - Barwon Water, Western Water and Metropolitan  
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Articles can be forwarded to area contacts or directly to  
The Editor email: [graham.thomson@barwonwater.vic.gov.au](mailto:graham.thomson@barwonwater.vic.gov.au)

### 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 Ricky Maffescioni, Tony Gustus, Nick Hewer-Hewitt, Brady Bullion, Murray Baillie, Gary Hammond, Ben Attwater, Adrian Rijnbeek, Matthew O'Sullivan, Jon Coghill, Ronald Davidson, Bill Mackrell, Jack Frankel, Paul Clancey, Damian Smith, Laurie Telford, Neil Paton, Brad Colgate, Darryl Edwards, Peter Ingham, Wez Knights, Gordon Fleuchar, Leon Clark, Scott McKenzie, Simon Tolland, Toby O'Brien, Emma Parker, Paul English, Imants Didrichsons, Darren Sea, Allan Robbins, Cheryl Marvell.

**New Corporate Supporters** include - Southern Rural Water, Activated Carbon Technologies & Labtek



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



## "Who wants to go to NZ??"

As part of the MoU that WIOA has signed with NZWWA, we have committed to annually sending a couple of operators to each others respective conference. The NZ conference will be staged in Auckland on 28-30 September 2005.

At our recent Committee meeting, it was determined that at least one of the participants would be a Committee Member whose role will be to discuss and resolve any issues to ensure the continuation of the MoU. It was determined that the other person would be chosen based on applications to the Committee although no specific criteria have been set. If you would like an all expenses paid trip to NZ, just drop a note to the EO explaining why you want to go and you will be in the running. All applications will be considered seriously and the Committee reserve the right to make the final decision with no correspondence entered into etc etc.

*Contributed by George Wall*

### WIOA 2005 OFFICE BEARERS & COMMITTEE

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### WANTED

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

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