



OPERATOR



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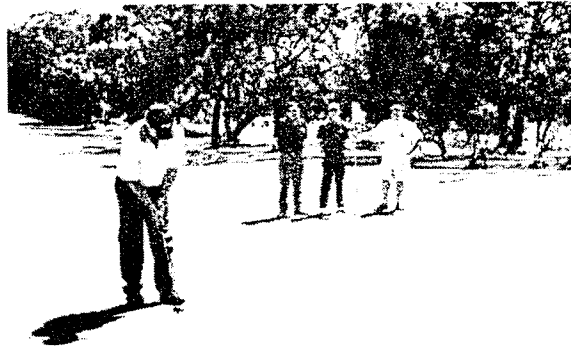
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Official Journal of the

**AUSTRALIAN WATER & WASTEWATER OPERATOR'S
ASSOCIATION INC. A12314**



Editorial

Another bumper edition along with a new look cover. Thank you to my daughter Melanie for some graphic design ideas and to Robert Turner Barwon Water for the final setout and printing.

Don't forget the contact in your area for 'Operator' articles. In this edition and the last there has been a good supply of articles from the 'North East', South East and Central areas but even within these areas there have been no response from some of the authorities. From the 'South West' and 'North West' there has been no response at all. All that is required is a few lines, read some of the articles in this and the last edition and see what you can come up with.

There have been a couple of changes due to retirements from committee so below is the list of contacts:

North East - North East Water, Goulburn Valley Water and Coliban Water

Peter Tolsher - fax/ph 02 6059 1596,
mobile 0419 337 151, email: wodwest@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

John Harris - Ph 5562 9275, fax 5562 9262,
mobile 0417 338 688, email: jhar@swwa.com.au

North West - Central Highlands Water, Grampians Water and Lower Murray Water

No Contact as yet – Articles 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 - ph 13 2991, fax 9548 7060,
mobile 0419 000300
email: cynthial@selbybiolab.com.au



**Next Edition
Article Contribution Deadline
For the February 2002 Edition
January 25**

Articles can be forwarded to the contact above or directly to The Editor Ph 2526 9236, fax 5226 9262, mobile 0418 569 183,
email: richard.greenhough@barwonwater.vic.gov.au

THE EDITOR

2001 Bendigo Conference Prize Winners

Congratulations to all the 2001 Conference prize winners:

Hepburn Prize

(for best Paper Presented overall)

Andrew Chapman -PPK Environment & Infrastructure

Actizyme Prize

(for best Paper by AWWOA Member -Plaque plus \$1,000 cash).

Wes Wittick – Western Water.

The paper presented by Wes is included as an insert to this edition of 'Operator'



Wes Wittick being presented with the Actizyme Plaque by Ian Smith

2nd Place

(\$450 cash)

Len Ablett – Gippsland Water

Encouragement Award

(\$250 cash)

Roland Passuello– North East Water

Water Industry Training Centre Poster Paper Prizes:



Part of the large crowd viewing the Poster Paper presentation

WITC Prize (for best Operator Poster Paper)
(Plaque plus \$ 500 cash).

Trevor Gordon – Goulburn Valley Water.

Poster Paper Prize Winners (Cont.):

2nd Place
(\$250 cash)

Neil Collins – Goulburn Valley Water

3rd Place
(\$100 cash)

Wayne Shaw – Gippsland Water

Operator of the Year

Congratulations to **Roland Passuello** from North East Water for being judged the winner of the AWA sponsored 'Water Industry Operator of the Year Wal Whiteside Award'. (refer to 'Around the Traps - North East' opposite)

President's Prattle

I would like to start by thanking you the members for entrusting me with this very important role as president of the AWWOA. My predecessor Barry Waddell has done a terrific job and I hope that I can continue to build on the great work that he has done. The committee are a dedicated group of people who are committed to the growth and success of the AWWOA.

I see the future of our association being very bright and exciting with the increase in quantity and quality of services provided, and the increase in membership.

I would like to congratulate Richard Greenhough on his efforts with editing this new look Newsletter, and to those who have contributed articles. As with most things in life you only get out what you put in!

The new National Operators Magazine will be out soon with the AWA journal, and as members of the AWWOA you will receive a free copy. This will give our association national exposure and hopefully set-up close relationships with other states.

Trafalgar Golf Course was in terrific condition for the Water Industry Golf day and "a great day was had by all".

A special thanks to those who sponsored the day, and to those who helped with making the day a success.

Keep Smiling

Russell Mack, AWWOA President.

Position Wanted

John Kliche is seeking employment back in the Water Industry. John worked for 10 years with Gippsland Water and has 5 years Water treatment experience along with 5

years water and wastewater reticulation systems experience. John can be contacted at 03 9435 8564.



Around the Traps North East

**North East Water, Goulburn
Valley Water & Coliban
Water**

AWA 'Water Industry Operator of the Year Wal Whiteside Award' winner Roland Passuello from North East Water



**Roland at work in the laboratory at the Mt Beauty Wastewater
Treatment Plant**

Roland has been an employee of North East Water for the past 12 years in the role of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator as well as working in the area of maintenance of both the water and wastewater reticulation systems (multi skilled).

Roland lives at Tawonga South and the area covered by the work group includes Porepunkah, Harrietville, Bright and Mt Beauty.



Roland catching up on some cleaning at the plant

I caught up with Roland at the Mt. Beauty Wastewater Treatment Plant. The plant commissioned in May of this year serves a population 3600 people (5000 winter) covering the areas of Mt. Beauty, Tawonga and Tawonga South.

The plant is designed for a peak flow of 1.2 ML/day, with winter flows of 700kl/day and summer flows of 400kl/day. Peak wet weather flows of 1 ML/day occur due to groundwater and stormwater infiltration. North East Water has a program of sewer rehabilitation in place to address this problem.

The AWWOA congratulates Roland on his award

Richard Greenhough

Secretary's Scrawl

2001 Conference



In the tradition set by Mr Samaranch, this years Annual Engineers and Operators Conference was decreed the "best ever" by outgoing President Barry Waddell. It was held on 5th and 6th September, 2001 in Bendigo, and jointly hosted by Coliban Water and Serco.

The attendance was outstanding with 199 delegates registering with the AWWOA Secretary and a further 90 Trade participants registered with Ron Bergmeier. There were over 300 active participants when the additional staff from Coliban Water, Serco and members of the public who visited the trade display were added. Thank you to all those who attended or helped organise or run the event in any way.

Committee 2001- 02

The Committee for the balance of 2000 and until our next AGM in April 2002, is as follows:

President

Russell Mack ph (03) 5177 4659

Secretary/Treasurer

George Wall ph (0407) 846 001
or (03) 5832 0718

Senior Vice President

John Harris ph (03) 5562 9275

Junior Vice President

Richard Greenhough ph (03) 5226 9236

Committee

Barry Waddell

Rex Foale

Graham Thomson

Cynthia Lim

ph (0419) 878 085

ph (03) 9278 2200

ph (03) 5226 9109

ph 13 2991

Water Training Centre Rep ph (03) 5244 0800

There is still one vacancy if you care to nominate.

In the corresponding newsletter from last year we went out of our way to farewell Leigh Strange as a Committee Member following his decision to retire from the water industry. After a retirement lasting at least 3 days, Leigh took on the role of Consultant Extraordinaire and returned to work in the industry via a role at Portland Coast Water.

Once we heard this, we tore up his resignation and duly informed him he was back on the Committee. At this years conference Leigh again informed us that he had retired, although this time he was more adamant that we replace him on the Committee.

We reluctantly accepted his resignation and offer Leigh and Lynette our best wishes yet again. It was great to have Leigh in the audience at this years conference as "a punter" and he made a cameo return to the stage he once called his own, as a joint winner in the Tradies Competition.



Left: One group of participants at the Selby Biolab 'Twister' Tradies Competition

This year we also had Chris Andrew and Tony Heagney leave the Committee due to work and other commitments and we will certainly miss their input. Thanks for your input and assistance over a number of years guys!

Arrangements are progressing well for the 2002 Conference to be hosted by Barwon Water in Geelong.

It is not too early to think about 2003. If you know of a suitable venue, or if you think your Authority would be interested in hosting the Conference, please give me a ring.

2002 Conference



Members Survey

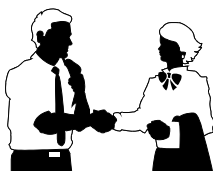
Included with this edition of Operator is a Members survey. Please take the time to fill it in and return it to us in the envelope provided. Any information or feedback you can provide us is important and may influence our decisions and future direction. You don't need to put your name on the form anywhere so the information you provide is not traceable and we will let you know of outcomes in the future.

Electronic Communications



Some time ago we mailed out a form to be completed and returned by anyone wishing to receive correspondence from AWWOA in the electronic form rather than via post. To this date we have received very few replies, so if you wish to take up this opportunity please send a short note to secretary@awwoa.org.au and you'll be added to the list.

For those who have replied, we intend to commence using the system in the very near future.



New Members

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

Keven Ward, Bruno Sauer, Jeremy Bell, Gerald Connor, Tim East, Therese Flapper, Fred Gardiner, James Harrison, Stuart Hampshire, Ravi Raveendran, Jim Ridding, Robert Shaw, James Thomson, Peter Gebbie, Jim Peek.

New Corporate Members include Fisher Stewart, CMG, Vivendi Water, Iwaki Pumps, Aluminates, and Cleanaway.

George Wall - AWWOA Secretary

AWWOA

All correspondence should be addressed to:

The Secretary
5440 Barmah – Shepparton Road,
TALLYGAROPNA, VIC. 3634

Website: www.awwoa.org.au
Email: info@awwoa.org.au

New South Wales Operator's Conference - Wollongong.

AWWOA was well represented at the Conference with the following attending: Immediate Past President Barry Waddell, Senior Vice President John Harris and Wes

Wittick – Western Water Actizyme Prize winner at the Bendigo Conference.

The NSW Conference was a lot smaller than the Victorian Water Industry Conference but was equal in quality of papers, with 16 paper presenters. They had a good variety of papers and a workshop on the second day of the conference with a site visit to BHP Recycling plant and Kembla Grange water filtration plant.

Wes Wittick presented the paper he presented at Bendigo and did a very good job. I am sure that if he had been eligible he would have won the best paper at the NSW conference. The best paper by an operator at the conference was won by Peter Shanahan from Griffith Council with his paper "Installation of Step Screens at Griffith W.W.T.P".

The dinner and entertainment was excellent, a good night was had by all. Overall we enjoyed the company of our Interstate brother's and were happy to assist them in making their conference a success and help them improve the running of their association.

John Harris



Around the Traps South East

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

Gippsland Water

Willow Grove WWTP - Lagoon Reconstruction

Project Officer: Charlie Medhurst

This project achieved 'Practical Completion' on 14th June 2001. The project cost approximately \$220,000 and the contractor was Civil Construction Corporation from Hobart/Melbourne. The reason for reconstructing the existing lagoons was to provide additional wastewater storage during the winter months to achieve the following aim.



Compaction testing on clay embankment

By 1st January 2002, cease discharges to the Latrobe River as per the Memorandum of Understanding between Gippsland Water and the Minister for Agriculture and Resources, 1998.

Such discharges to be replaced entirely by pasture irrigation.

The completed works consist of:

- A new Primary Lagoon which will operate as a facultative lagoon to store sludges and stabilize putrescible matter.
- A Maturation Lagoon converted from the existing Primary Lagoon. The Maturation Lagoon will store the stabilised effluent from the facultative lagoon for a minimum of 30 days to destroy pathogenic bacteria.
- A new Winter Storage Lagoon formed by enlarging the existing storage to incorporate the old Storage and Nutrient Lagoons. To enable the Storage Lagoon to be completely drained at the end of each irrigation season, an outlet pipe was placed by boring through the existing bank and a VAPI hut and flowmeter installed to measure irrigation quantities.



Boring through embankment for irrigation outlet pipe

In addition to providing additional storage, other advantages included in the new works include.

- Removal of the reed bed Nutrient Lagoon and replacement with the Maturation Lagoon should improve the quality of waste.



- Inclusion of aluminum stop logs in the by pass structures will allow improved control of lagoon levels

Left:

**Aluminum stop logs
control lagoon
water levels**

Winter Storage capacity will be as follows:-

Winter Storage Lagoon	11 ML
Maturation Lagoon	5 ML
New Primary Lagoon	<u>5 ML</u>
Total	<u>21 ML</u>

Gippsland Water Gossip

Lining and covering of all Clearwater Storages is progressing with the completion of the Neerim Sth and Warragul WTP storages. Tyers WTP is about 60% completed, with Moe WTP storage just starting.

Transfield, who have done a fantastic job, has refurbished Traralgon Water Treatment Plant No1 Primary upflow filter. The total task had to be carried out under confined space conditions, which added to the difficulty of the job. It is hoped that this refurbishment will give us years of trouble free service.

Chas Bagguley has been given a promotion with his appointment as Relief Operator/Technical Officer with Water Treatment Group. Peter Marshall has moved into the Maffra WTP as the Plant Operator. Congratulations to you both.

Hair Tube Fauna Survey Results – Tyers River Catchment

Gippsland Water has involved in a project with looking for tiger quolls around Moondarra Reservoir, with the cooperation of Friends of Baw Baw National Park.

This survey was completed using hair tubes; basically just a piece of down pipe baited with sardines or red meat bones and lined with sticky tape. The idea is the animal has a sniff in the tube and leaves some hair, which is then analysed.

This was the third year the survey was undertaken, in year one the Baw Baw Plateau was surveyed and last year the South Face of the Baw Baw massif. In both these years no evidence of the tiger quolls presence was found.

This year we surveyed a couple of creeks just north of Moondarra Reservoir, two on Gippsland Water's property and another in the adjoining Moondarra State Park. I am happy to report that a confirmed tiger quoll hair has been recorded in the State Park, and almost guarantees the species presence in the Moondarra Reservoir area.

This is a major find for the previous record in West Gippsland north of the Strezlecki's was in 1986, and before that 1961.

Indeed a major DNRE fauna survey in 1995/96 set 285 hair tubes in the Tyers River Catchment and no quoll hairs were found. What a great result for Gippsland and the particularly the volunteers who have put in so many hours (until now) in vain!

South Gippsland Water

After heavy rains in August our storages are now the fullest they have been since 1996. Another 50 mm of rain and we may be completely full.

We are currently setting up trials of Geotubes, and Geobags (Supplied by Maccaferri) for sludge dewatering. A geotube tube will be used at Korumburra WWTP to de-water digested sewage sludge. A small geobag will be used at Foster WTP to dewater alum sludge. These systems if successful will be useful at many of our sites where sites suitable for drying beds are difficult to find.

Nutrients are again a problem at our storages. A recent calculation on the levels at our Lance Creek Reservoir indicated that the 4300ML storage had the equivalent of \$25,000 of Super dissolved in it. If only we could extract it we could make a nice little business selling the farmers their own fertiliser.

As a low cost bund for chemical storage tanks we are now using stock troughs. These are available in capacities of up to 5000L (from ARI plastanks) which are quite adequate for smaller WTP's. The cost is generally under \$600 including delivery.

Brian Ashworth.



Conferences And Seminars

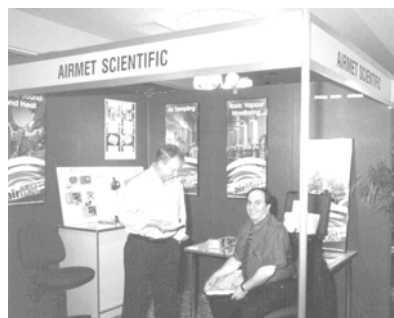
La Trobe University in Bendigo are staging a "Residential Course in Microscopic Identification of Filamentous Bacteria in Activated Sludge". The course runs from Monday 26th to Friday 30th November. Telephone 03 5444 7512 for more information or bookings.

2002 Weekend Seminar Swan Hill

Don't forget the date for next years Weekend Seminar at Swan Hill

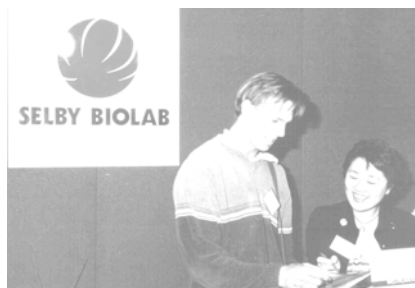
Saturday and Sunday, April 27 & 28.

The following companies have been approached and have indicated interest in being presenters at the weekend.



AIRMET SCIENTIFIC

BERMAD WATER TECHNOLOGIES



SELBY BIOLAB

There will also be a presentation by Rodney Wubbin, materials and coating corrosion consultant CorrCon Pty Ltd. I require one further presenter and will be making contact with some companies shortly.

More details and a registration form will be included with the February 2002 edition of 'Operator'.

Richard Greenhough Weekend Seminar Organiser



Around the Traps Private Industry

Welcome to the first in a series of interviews titled 'Profile of an Operator' specifically dedicated to Water and Wastewater Operators in private industry.

Profile: John Martin



- ◆ Works for Cleanaway (Wangaratta)
- ◆ Job title - Plant Supervisor
- ◆ Main role – Trade Waste Treatment
- ◆ Born in Deniliquin, NSW
- ◆ Now lives in Wangaratta, VIC

How did you become an operator?

I have been interested in waste treatment since 1985 when I was working in the construction industry as an apprentice boiler maker/steel fabricator. I got the chance to build a liquid waste treatment plant and have been interested in the area ever since. I joined Brambles in 1991 and moved to the Wangaratta plant in 1996.

Describe Cleanaway's main business activities?

Total Waste Management. At the Wangaratta plant we also offer: General waste removal, Prescribed waste removal, Liquid waste removal and Secure chemical waste removal

Can you tell me a little about the Wangaratta Trade Waste Treatment Plant?

The plant is the only one of its type in Australia, specifically treating textile effluent waste streams using biological and chemical treatment techniques.

It is located just outside Wangaratta city centre (NE Victoria) on approximately 9 hectares. It has been in operation since the mid seventies, although only operated by Cleanaway since August 1995. Our clients are: Bruck Textiles, Australian Country Spinners and APS Valchem.

What are the major challenges you face in your role?

Essentially the plant is a solo operation requiring a large degree of flexibility and range of skills; although I do have assistance from technical and administrative personnel on an as-needs basis. Personally, I am very proud of the operation we run at Wangaratta.



We have recently gained ISO14001 and SafetyMap accreditation. The plant is unique, generally operates very smoothly in treating industrial waste and removing toxins and chemicals before releasing the water used back into the environment, I believe that we are providing a valuable service.

Cynthia Lim and AWWOA would like to thank John Martin and Cleanaway.



SELBY BIOLAB



Be Right™



Around the Traps Central

Barwon Water, Western Water & Metropolitan Water Companies

Treatment plant trailed

Barwon Water, in conjunction with Australian company CDS Technologies, recently trailed an innovative local sewage treatment process to help reduce the load on the system during peak periods.

An experimental system was operated at the Bonnyvale Road pump station, east of Collendina, in June and July.

The treatment process used chemical flocculation and a non-clogging screen to clarify raw sewage within a few minutes. The separated sludge was pumped to Black Rock sewage treatment plant with the treated effluent stored at a nearby basin.

In future, the small, fully enclosed system could enable the pump station to be taken off-line during peak-flow periods in summer and wet weather, thereby reducing the load on the transfer system by up to 20 per cent.

The new process is being commercially developed and may provide a cost-effective alternative to upgrading expensive sewerage infrastructure.

Any new treatment process will produce odour-free effluent that meets Environment Protection Authority regulations. The effluent would be returned to the sewerage system during low flow periods or, in the longer-term, may be treated to a sufficient standard to be used as reclaimed water suitable for irrigation.

Barwon Water will continue to investigate the feasibility of this groundbreaking technology and keep the community informed on the latest developments.

Premier opens education centre

Victorian Premier Steve Bracks opened the Barwon Water and Rex Hunt Futurefish Foundation Environment and Fishing Education Centre at Stony Creek Reservoir, north of Geelong on October 24.

The centre has been established to promote environmental studies and sustainable fishing practices and features an outdoor classroom, fishing and water testing platforms and picnic facilities on the banks of Geelong's oldest reservoir.

The Barwon Water and Rex Hunt Futurefish Foundation Environment and Fishing Education Centre will focus on school children, people with disabilities and disadvantaged youth.

Under the direction of an experienced environmental teacher, fishing instructors and Waterwatch personnel, participants will engage in a range of hands-on activities, including fishing clinics and water quality testing.

The centre also will be open to angling clubs conducting activities involving children, and periodically for adults to promote sustainable fishing practices to children in their care.

Barwon Water Chairman Stephen Vaughan said the centre represented a unique partnership between the authority and the Rex Hunt Futurefish Foundation.

"Using structured hands-on activities, the centre is designed to educate young people in water conservation, environmental awareness and sustainable fishing," Mr. Vaughan said.

"The centre will complement Barwon Water's comprehensive and ongoing education program which educates students and the general community about the value of water as a precious resource and the importance of protecting and preserving the environment."

Futurefish Foundation founder Rex Hunt said the foundation would stock the reservoir annually with brown and rainbow trout. Nearly 50,000 fish would be released by December 2001. Users of the facility can look forward to catching their first fish early in 2002.

Premier Steve Bracks and Rex Hunt unveiling the plaque with Barwon Water's Chairman Stephen Vaughan looking on



Following the official opening students from Belmont High School and Nelson Park School joined the Premier and Rex Hunt to release 1,000 Rainbow Trout into the waterway. Representatives from the Futurefish Foundation and Fishcare provided fishing lessons to the students.

Landscaping and construction of the water testing and fishing platforms was carried out by the Barwon Water's Lower East Moorabool Headworks work force; John McKeown (Acting Headworks Operator), Danny Crumpton and Mark Rochow. Supply and construction of the classroom and Hybrid Toilet System was by James Wilson Marketing Pty Ltd (Moodie Marketing Australia). Richard Greenhough, Coordinator Headworks was responsible for design and layout of the facility and supervised all aspects of the project with assistance from Graeme Saddington, Catchment Officer.

New Zealand Water and Wastes Association Conference Report – by George Wall

The NZWWA, through the Chairman of their Operators Group Murray Clayton, extended an invitation to the AWWOA to present the keynote address at their Operators conference held in September 2001. I was fortunate enough to get the nod from our Committee to perform this address and duly made plans to attend.

The opportunity of a bit of a holiday in NZ before the conference was too good to miss out on. We scraped up a few extra pennies so my wife could come as well, and departed for the airport. We had some second thoughts about flying only 3 days after the World Trade Centre incident. Thoughts of a well earned break overrode any fears, and we arrived at the airport on Friday morning the customary 2 hours prior to departure for an International flight. This was the start of a series of unforgettable events - our flight was cancelled. The plane we were supposed to be on was a United Airlines jumbo and it was still on the ground in the USA.

Our flight was rescheduled to Air New Zealand later in the arvo. We sat around a while killing time, then you guessed it, all hell broke loose due to the closure of Ansett. After queuing for hours and checking our luggage in a couple of times, all Air New Zealand flights were finally cancelled around 11pm. We were put up in a motel in Melbourne for the night and, after another long day in a queue at the airport, flew out Saturday evening. We finally got to Auckland at 1.00am on Sunday with 2 days of our short holiday lost in Tullamarine airport.

We hired a car and traveled south to Rotorua and did the usual touristy stuff. It really is an amazing place with steam and mud boiling out of the ground, right in the middle of the city. The smell of sulfur in the air was overpowering for a start but, like working at a wastewater plant, you quickly get used to it. We traveled around the east coast through the Bay of Plenty region and some of the scenery was just breathtaking. We returned to Auckland Tuesday, the wife flew home, and I went on to Wellington for the conference.

The conference was held at the Wellington football stadium, a lot like Colonial Stadium in Melbourne, a very impressive venue. The operator's conference was staged in conjunction with the NZWWA conference (the same as our AWA Federal convention) although the conferences were separate events. Both groups had the same recesses and joined up regularly for meals and to look over the trade exhibition. It was surprising how many companies who had exhibited at the Victorian conference were also represented in NZ.

As part of my keynote address, I touched on how the AWWOA was formed, what we do and how we do it, and showed a number of photos. I also talked about the Victorian water industry, restructuring in general, and what it's like to work as an operator in Victoria and in particular for Goulburn Valley Water. There was a lot of interest in what we do and there were heaps of questions. The NZWWA very generously presented me with a carved timber jewelry box as a memento of the occasion.

The operator papers were interesting and a very high quality. I learned a great deal and was surprised at the differences in management of the water cycle between NZ and Oz. A number of the operators have their own companies and act as sub-contractors to the Councils in the operation of the plants - very different to here.

The NZ operator training system is also quite different to Australia. I understand our new NQF system is loosely based on the NZ's modular, competency based system. In NZ, before any training is done a contract is signed by the employer, operator and the training body and the operator is given two years to complete the course. A large amount of the course is done "on the job" through worksheets and diaries, and this system encourages the operators to complete some study regularly. At the end of the course, the operator must sit a series of exams and be able to demonstrate a satisfactory level of competence over many fields. I understand there are hefty subsidies provided for the course, but it seems a good way to ensure that operators are adequately trained in a reasonably tight time frame. Sounds a lot like the old apprenticeship but without a lot of the red tape.

The conference had an "operators challenge" which was staged at a designated time and the whole crowd of around 400 people came to watch. As custom has it, any visitors or guests (me) must be compulsorily put into a team. I think this is so that everyone not involved in the competition has someone they can safely rubbish in the knowledge that they'll probably never see them again. Coming from a wastewater treatment background, I was pretty useless helping to do a water main tapping and changing "o" rings under pressure on a large valve assembly. I was able to help with calibration of some lab gear and sorted out some calculation problems, meaning that I wasn't a total liability to our team. Although we didn't win, we did earn a consolation prize for our efforts.

The operators dinner on the Thursday was a top night with some very funny, interactive entertainers. It's common practice that someone has to get the "Mickey" taken out of them on stage and this privilege was once again reserved for yours truly. At least a few of the Kiwis copped it as well. We had a great night but Murphy stepped in to make sure I didn't get home too late.

The ATM I used to get some "nightcap" funds confiscated my credit card for security reasons. Just another way of getting even with us Aussies over Ansett I think.

I sat in the bank foyer on Friday morning trying to get my card back all the while wondering what type of threat to National security my credit card posed. After an hour or more waiting, I thanked the girl for giving me such a comfortable chair to sit on and headed for the airport to get home, still minus the credit card.

As usual, some boofhead decided to do some last minute shopping and held the plane up for what seemed like about an hour. The wooden jewellery box presented as a thankyou came back to haunt me when I touched down in Melbourne. Being a timber product, it had to be declared to customs and I spent what seemed an eternity whilst some trainee AQIS person had a field day rummaging around in my luggage for other hidden objects. I eventually got home well after midnight and totally worn after my NZ adventure.

The big plus from the trip is that we have now forged some truly "International" alliances and there may be some opportunities to return the favor and invite some of the NZ guys to our conference. You never know what might happen in the future but hopefully the bond between our groups will strengthen as a result of this conference.

I would like to sincerely thank the AWWOA for this opportunity and I enjoyed every minute of it.

George Wall

3rd Annual Charity Golf Day



The Third Annual Water Industry Charity Golf Day was held at Trafalgar Golf Club on Sunday October 21st 2001. Proceeds raised from the day will be presented to charity at the 2002 conference in Geelong.

← President Russell Mack

Participation in the golf day has grown each year and in 2001, 50 players teed off and numerous Trade Organisations sponsored the day. We thank all the players and the following companies for their support and generosity in supplying cash and/or prizes :

Major Sponsors

Gippsland Water Selby Biolab

Gold Sponsors

Australian Pollution Engineering
Aluminates By-Jas Engineering
Bell Environmental Merck
Action Controls Acromet
Complete Tapping Service Tyco Flow Control

Silver Sponsors

Jetstream Drain Cleaning
ITT Flygt Prominent

The weather was superb, the course was in great condition, and the tricky greens really sorted the players out.

THE RESULTS

Handicap Winner - Ross Anderson from Gippsland Water 81 - 12 - 69 net



'Lost Ball'

Runner up -

Kevin Freeman from NERWA
82 - 12 - 70 net

Tradies Cup -

Aaron Jewitt from Mono Pumps
87 - 15 - 72 net

Aaron Jewitt being
presented with the
'Tradies Cup' by
AWWOA President
Russell Mack



Best Callaway -

Mal Stevenson from South East Water
111 - 65 net

Runner up -

Stewart Cluning from Gippsland Water
75 - 71 ½

Third -

Peter Tolsher from North East Water 97 - 72

Nearest the pins

Mark Dunbar, George Wall, Mark
Samblebe, Brian Lloyd, Stewart Cluning



Immediate Past
President Barry Waddell
under pressure from
Nick Bray, John
Whitewood
and John Harris
with this putt

Longest Drives

Ivan Carroll & George Wall

Next year we will again stage the golf day in Trafalgar and look forward to continued support for the event.

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