



# OPERATOR

February 2008 Edition

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Stephen Kerr from Wannon Water in Vic. being awarded his Certificate in Water Operations by Stephen Wilson. More training news on Page 6.

Sneaky Tricks Department  
 "What's going on here boys?"  
 Find out on Pages 5 & 7.



"Hope you fix it fast Margarita  
 We're dying of thirst!!!"  
 Learn more about the 2007  
 golf day on Page 4.

## Correction

All members who receive their information via hard copy, please note that there was a typo in the dates schedule at the bottom of the January edition of Words. The Qld Workshop will definitely be held between 3-5 June 2008 and not 23-25 June as listed.

## From the EO's Desk

I hope everyone enjoyed their Xmas break and that those who worked to keep all the systems running will manage to get in a good break a bit later in the year.

Our climate has proven just how fickle it can be recently. After being in the grip of one of the worst prolonged droughts ever, we now find two-thirds of Queensland flood declared and parts of NSW under water as well. As always, our thoughts are with our fellow operators whose role it is to protect public health. We hope that the floods recede quickly and you can get back to business as usual, as soon as possible.

We've certainly had a busy January in the WIOA office. The books have all been belted into shape for the auditor and the Annual Report and Members Information booklet has been completed. It will be distributed along with the Committee Nomination forms shortly. The program and rego forms for the Weekend Seminar and AGM have been distributed and remember to get in quick to pick up one of the fifty spots available.

Tax Invoices for 2008 membership fees have been sent out to everyone and we trust that you will pay your account promptly. We've also sent out the website listing details to all Corporate members for them to update. Please keep in mind that Corporate members can update their website listing at any time - just let us know what to change by fax or email.

The most frenetic activity has related to our NSW conference in Newcastle from 8-10 April. Hunter Water Corporation and their operational arm, Hunter Water Australia have signed on as Hosts and Major Sponsors and have been fantastic with their support thus far. We look forward to working with them to deliver what is shaping up to be a great event.

Ron Bergmeier has been very busy on the sponsorship side and we are pleased to report that Rad-Tel, ITT Water and Waste Water (formerly ITT Flygt), Acromet Australia and Transpacific Industries Group have signed on as Prime Sponsors for the 2008 events. There have been a number of other companies that have taken up options to sponsor all three events and a few have taken just one event. We really do appreciate the support and commitment of all these companies and trust that our members will consider these companies when undertaking works or purchasing products.

After a slow start abstract wise, we've managed to call in a heap of favours and the papers program for NSW has now taken shape. Thanks to all those people who chased up potential presenters or gave us tips on who we should talk to. We now have a good spread of papers from around the State and most importantly, there are nine papers by operators eligible for the Actizyme Awards. The registration forms are being distributed right now and more copies are available from WIOA or from the website. If any member, either Individual or Corporate, could help distribute them around NSW please let us

know and we'll send some copies out. The trade exhibition is also filling fast with well over 93 booths allocated in just the first week or so. There are 106 booths all up and it looks like the event will be a sell out again. There are heaps of other details on the conference on the WIOA website - [http://www.wioa.org.au/nsw\\_conference/index.htm](http://www.wioa.org.au/nsw_conference/index.htm)

No rest for the wicked I suppose - after squaring away a lot of the NSW details we now have to move our attention straight over to the Qld event at Carrara (Gold Coast) in June. The Call for Papers closes on 5 March and we need quite a few more operator abstracts yet. If people can find some paper that's not so soggy it can't be written on, we'd love to hear about issues in your area. Once again, if you know of someone or an organisation that has done some good work, let us know and we'll approach them as well. Whilst on the Qld event, we must thank the Gold Coast City Council and Gold Coast Water who will be Hosts and Major Sponsors in June.

This edition of Operator follows the trend set last November and contains twelve pages of interesting info. We have finally caught up with the Qld Operator of the Year - Paul Jensen, there is a write up on the Victorian Young Operator of the Year and a progress report from the Kwatye Prize winner. Also included is the quiz that B2P used at the Bendigo conference to test people's knowledge of things "bacterial". Have a go at doing the quiz (without cheating) and see how close to the mark you are. The results may surprise!!! Once again a fair bit of material has been contributed from outside and we hope that this trend will continue in the future.

I was a bit off the mark when announcing that the Coag/Flocc Practical Guide book would be launched in late November 2007. I can tell you that we now have a printers draft and it will be released in February 2008. It will be available for purchase at \$30 (+ GST) and keep in mind that the "Optimisation of Water Distribution Systems" and "Media Filters" books are still available at the same price. Order forms for all three books able to be downloaded from our website. The "Catchment" and "Disinfection" titles are progressing well and rather than get a specific date wrong, I'd prefer to say they will be out in early to mid 2008.

Finally, a few WIOA people recently met to workshop the redevelopment of some units and also to write some new units of competence at Certificate IV level for the Water Industry Training Package. We undertook this work on behalf of GSA with the assistance of a professional competency writer. We reckon we've come up with a pretty good mix of competencies for both water and wastewater treatment operators in particular and after appropriate consultation with the industry, we hope to see these units included in the Package by around mid 2008. The addition of these units will provide an avenue for operations staff to gain a purely "technical" qualification if they wish, or to undertake the existing management focussed qualification. We'd like to suggest that any water or wastewater operators looking at completing a "technically" based Certificate IV wait for the new material to be endorsed rather than undertaking the existing NWP 07 units. We believe the training and skills development outcome from doing the new units will be way ahead of what can be achieved doing the current units.

Until next time,

**George Wall** Executive Officer WIOA

## Profile of a Member

### Name.

John Cameron

### Position.

Headworks Supervisor East

### Employer & Location.

Southern Rural Water  
– Glenmaggie



**How long have you been a member of WIOA?** 2 years

### How long have you worked in the Water Industry and where?

35 years starting with State Rivers & Water Supply and moving through the various iterations of the rural water industry in Victoria since

### What fields of the water industry have you worked in?

I commenced with State Rivers as a Surveyors chainman (and yes, for you young blokes we really did pull a chain in those days. No electronic gizmos then) and was soon run out of town and had to join the Hydrographic branch where I spent 21 years at various locations around Victoria. I then left the industry for about 5 years and later returned to my current position

### How did you get into your current role?

I coerced the interview panel into thinking I was the most appropriate applicant. (That'll teach them to listen to me)

### What does your current job involve?

I manage the day to day operations and maintenance program of several high hazard dams (Lake Glenmaggie, Blue Rock Lake and Lake Narracan) and several diversion weirs in Gippsland (Victoria). I lead a group of 6 top operators and spend most of my time involved in paper warfare. Between times I manage the risk and safety issues at all sites, develop and monitor budgetary programs, control staffing issues, identify resourcing needs and attend many meetings. Concurrently the rest of the staff handle the releases and maintenance and occasionally allow me to come out to play during incidents like floods (We've had two in 2007), bushfires (One in 2007), Rivers collapsing into mines (one in 2007) and similar.

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

The most crucial change has been the arrival of a highly motivated and energetic manager who has introduced a myriad of changes targeted at implementing a structured program for continual improvement. This has added a new dimension of challenge to my role. The other big change is escalated accountability to customers, stakeholders and shareholders accompanied by an escalation in business processes.

### What do you think you will be doing in 5 years time?

Enjoying the recreational benefits of water and the water industry through boating, sailing, diving etc. (the short description is "retired")

Ok, a few quick questions to finish with.

**Age** ..... 55 (Or, as defined by the staff, bloody old)

**Nickname** ..... Cammo

**Family Status** ..... Happily married with 2 adult daughters

**Pets** ..... A couple of Dogs

**Favourite Food** ..... Pasta

**Least Fav Food** ..... McDonalds

**Favorite TV Show** ..... There's lots more to do than watch TV.

**Worst TV Show** ..... ?

**Favorite Movie** ..... Die hard

**Current C.D in stereo** ..... Country

**Ambition in Life** ..... Live life to the max

**Hobbies** ..... Classic and Vintage car restoration,

**Best Trait** ..... The staff tell me I don't have one

**Worst Trait** ..... Temper & intolerance

**Favourite Book** ..... Good to great

**Four People to invite to a BBQ** ..... Nathan Buckley,  
Eddie McGuire, Gough Whitlam & George Wall

## The next instalment from the David Barry CD of great ideas is as follows:

### Yass WTP

Yass Shire Council decided to upgrade the safety and access requirements at their WTP sedimentation tanks. Nextep was chosen to design and install FRP ladders, platforms and walkways around the sedimentation tank area. The FRP has a long proven life in chemical exposure areas and is quick and easy to work with.

Innovative design solutions were provided, including ladder extensions fitted to the underside of hatch covers to provide safe and ergonomic access onto the main entry ladders.

The Nextep team design, build and install their products to ensure that client specifications are fulfilled and high quality outcomes are achieved.



# 2007 Charity Golf Day

The ninth annual Victorian Water Industry Charity Golf Day was held at Kilmore Golf Club on Sunday 28 October 2007. In all 38 players tightened up the straps on their caps and teed off into the howling northerly wind. The condition of the course was great but the wind really tested everyone's skill and understandably, some had much worse days than others.

The generosity of many companies associated with the Water Industry is amazing. Thanks to the ongoing support of these companies, WIOA has distributed well over \$20,000 to worthwhile causes since our first event in 1998. We wish to recognise the support and generosity of the following organisations:

### Major Sponsors

Gippsland Water, Environmental & Process Technologies, ABS Wastewater Technology & ITT Water & Waste Water.

### Gold Sponsors

Bell Environmental, By-Jas Engineering, ProMinent Fluid Controls, Bergmeier Engineering, Grundfos Alldos, Acromet, Lisa Rawlinson & Associates, Omega Chemicals, Merck, United Water, Piping and Automation Systems, Utility Services, ATMR, Rad-tel Systems, WME Media and CSE-Semaphore.

### Silver Sponsors

Unimin Australia, Nordical Diving Services, MJK Automation, East Coast UV, CSE-Uniserve and Haulton Construction Services



**Rod Norman must have been out of his mind. We've seen Barry play and he's not that good!!!!**

Special thanks to ABS Wastewater & ITT Flygt for sponsoring the BBQ before and after the golf, to Biolab who supplied the "booze buggy" and kept the players well lubricated on the way round and to Margarita and Cynthia for driving it around all day. It was quite notable that the buggy "stopped" for a lengthy period – was it out of petrol as claimed or was it really stuck in the drain??

As with last year, the format of the day was "ambrose" with the players in each team drawn out of a hat. To give all teams a

reasonable chance of winning, there was at least one player with a handicap placed in each group. Yet again, the scores were all reasonably close at the end of the day.

*To the results -*

**Overall Winners and Winners of the Tradies Cup** – The team representing 'us' - Utility Services comprising David Wigg, Tony Leslie and Rob Jones with the fantastic score of 68 less 8.3 – net 59.7

**Runners-up** - The team from Bell Environmental of Mike Bell, Brett Hare and Matt Collins with a score of 70 less 9.2 – net 60.8

**Nearest the pins** – John Arboit, Linda Vincent, Brad Cox, Rod Norman and Dale Campbell.

**Longest Drive** – Matt Collins.

The tenth annual golf day will most likely also be staged at Kilmore GC, we anticipate in early October 2008 and we look forward to the industry continuing its strong support of the event. Being the 10<sup>th</sup> staging – we would like everyone to try to get along and make it a really special day.



Winner are Grinners. The 'us' - Utility Services team of Leslie, Rob and David.

## Sneaky Tricks Department #2



**Any ideas as yet?**

## 2007 Qld Operator Of The Year

Congratulations are extended to Paul Jensen from Maroochy Water Services who was announced as the winner of the AWA's "2007 Leon Henry Memorial, Queensland Operator of the Year Award" at the Water Industry Operations Workshop in Rockhampton in July 2007.

Early in 2007, employers/employees were invited to nominate operators from their organisations to be considered for the award. Several nominations were received by the Queensland Branch of AWA and they were all of a very high standard. After much deliberation using the selection criteria of team work, initiative, attitude, reliability, environment and safety, Paul was chosen the winner. Unfortunately Paul was unable to attend the Workshop in Rockhampton and the presentation was made at the recent AWAQ Regional Conference held at Novotel Twin Waters Resort on the Sunshine Coast.

Paul has been involved in the wastewater industry for over 30 years. After completing a trade, he commenced his operational career as an operator with Brisbane City Council. He progressed from operator to the position of supervisor of sewage treatment operations, firstly at Toowoomba and for the past 15 years with Maroochy Water Services. He currently supervises the operations of four BNR plants and a small lagoon based system in the Sunshine Coast hinterland. Paul is extremely experienced in all facets of sewage treatment operations, but over the last 10 years he has developed exceptional skills in commissioning, operating and trouble-shooting complex BNR facilities.

During his time with Maroochy he has played a key role in the augmentation of Maroochy's four main treatment plants, but it was his detailed knowledge of plant and equipment arrangements, his understanding of the various treatment processes and his experience and common-sense approach that proved to be invaluable during the recently completed \$34M upgrade of the Maroochy STP.



**Paul Jensen proudly showing off his award**

There is no doubt that Paul's contributions, along with the many other talented people on the project, have lead to the success of the Maroochy Alliance and the plant's ability to quickly meet the

very stringent performance targets of 3 mg/L total nitrogen and 1 mg/L total phosphorus for the effluent discharged to the Maroochy River. His outstanding performance, along with some great ideas and suggested improvements, many of which were ultimately included in the final design, were recognised on a number of occasions by the Alliance and he was subsequently rewarded for his contributions at various Alliance celebrations.

Paul's other skills have lead to the development of the sewage treatment unit's monthly performance reports, EPA licence compliance reports and development of QA procedures, hazardous substances risk assessments and confined space entry procedures for the treatment plants.

He also has a long involvement with the AWA Operators' Interest Group and has been part of the core group responsible for organising the regular Interest Group meetings and field days. Paul is an outstanding operator who has provided exceptional service to the industry over a long period of time.

Information about the nomination process for the 2008 award will be available very soon and will be forwarded to everyone, but if you want to ensure that you receive the information please contact Kathy Bourbon by email [awaq@bigpond.net.au](mailto:awaq@bigpond.net.au).

## Goulburn Valley Water Signs up to Corporate EPA Licence

Goulburn Valley Water (GVW) has become the first Victorian company to negotiate a new corporate licence with the EPA.

The new corporate licence amalgamates Goulburn Valley Water's 26 existing licences into one, cutting the length of licensing documentation from 226 pages to eight.

The Victorian Environment Minister, Gavin Jennings, said the EPA is taking licensing in a new direction, with the aim of cutting red tape for industry while maintaining the existing level of environmental standards and monitoring.

"The EPA worked closely with GVW to develop this new licence that fully maintains regulatory requirements but also supports GVW investigating options for reducing water, energy and materials use - beyond the minimum standards required by law."

Mr Jennings said recent changes to the Environment Protection Act (1970), enabled companies holding two or more EPA licences to voluntarily amalgamate these into a single corporate licence.

"These new corporate licences are expected to save Victorian business \$3 million annually through administrative savings and at least \$12 million through compliance savings. They are also expected to reduce the number of EPA licences by 30 per cent."

Mr Jennings said the Victorian Government announced its Reducing the Regulatory Burden initiative in the 2006 State Budget.

There are approximately 1,000 EPA licensed sites in Victoria. More than 100 businesses hold more than one EPA licence. Water corporations, milk processing factories and food and beverage plants represent a large portion of these multiple licence holders.

### Certificates in Water Industry Operations – Victoria 2007

Representatives from the Water Industry Training Centre, Goulburn-Murray Water Training Services and Ballarat Uni TAFE all attended the Victorian conference to announce those who had completed all the requirements to be awarded a Certificate in Water Industry Operations during the past year. A number of awardees were present to receive their Certificates. To them, the recipients listed below and any others who completed their training this year, we extend our heart felt congratulations for your achievements.

#### Certificate II.

Stephen Blum, Paul Clancey, Barry Dare, Sean Doyle, Anthony Evans, Stephen Flack, Mathew Grove, John Hanrahan, John Harris, Gerard Kavenagh, Stephen Kerr, Damien Lavelle, William Mackrell, Nick McKinley, John McLeod, Steven Newham, Mark Oliver, Heath Vine, Tim Vos, Darren Winter, Mark Law, Gino Russo, Dean Briggs, Bayden Wright, Larry Penno, Jason Guthrie, Jason Connor, Shane Robson, Dean Rochow, Raymond Borg, Justin Brown, Robert Dunbar, Daniel Visser-Baxter, Don Hood, Norman "Frank" Pendergast, Ashley Turner.

#### Certificate III.

Gary Brumby, Paul Clancey, Barry Dare, Anthony Evans, Mathew Grove, John Harris, Gerard Kavenagh, Stephen Kerr, William Mackrell, John McLeod, Megan Rees, Jeff Campbell, Dale Osborne, Ross Broadway, Gareth Ryan, Grant Powell, James Stalker, Danny Martin, Simon Payne, Ron Mundy, John Jowett, Wayne Baker, Warren Grubb, Ray Anderson, Lynne Mason, Richard Borg, Ross Gundry, Neil Waters, Darren Renooy, Justin Brown, Warren Santurini, Michael Moore, Stephen Morgan, Rick Ziarkowski, Anthony Sanders, Darren Renooy, Peter Mcevoy, Paul Moloney, Grant Donnelly, Gavin Overy, Steven Brodribb, Dale Yeates, Dean De Menech, Paul McClure.

### Training at Goulburn Valley Water

On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November, Goulburn Valley Water held a special presentation ceremony for 35 employees who had completed Certificate 2 and/or 3 in Water Industry Operations during 2007.

The undertaking and completion of Certificate 2 & 3 in Water Industry Operations ensures that Goulburn Valley Water's operators can meet the Corporation's service requirements throughout our region at the highest standard. Goulburn Valley Water is now one of the leading organisations within the industry in this respect.

The varied method Goulburn Valley Water uses to deliver the training is one of the best in the Victorian Water Industry. Through a joint program developed with our training providers, employees now receive quality training and appropriate skills development.

Goulburn Valley Water now has 84% (61/73) of its current operations employees that have completed Certificate 2, and 47% (34/73) that have completed Certificate 3.

Congratulations must also go to the Corporation's Northern district who are the first to have all employees finished Certificate 3.



GVW Certificate Awardees

### Government Skills Australia News

**GSA** is working closely with water employers, peak national bodies such as WIOA and the Australian Services Union on projects aimed at tackling the predicted skills shortages facing the water industry. Current activities and project include:

**Collaborating with other water agencies in advocating for more research and more training places in skills identified as shortages**, and on projects to develop the skills of existing employees to replace the large numbers of retirees expected to leave the water industry in the next ten years. The National Water Commissioner has funded a number of research projects to pinpoint the nature of the shortages and their potential impact on the delivery of modern services. In March the Water Commissioner will host a forum of high level decision makers and leaders in the water industry and in training to get agreement for action on the ways of increasing access to training and for swifter and more accurate means of connecting skills development resources with high priority areas of skills needs.

**Managing the National Skills Resources Project**, funded by the National Water Commissioner in the water industry capacity building program. This project will, by the end of 2009, have developed a broad set of learning and skills development resources, readily available to all workplaces, which will deliver learning experiences to expand and complement current training providers. In this early stage of the project, the steering committee is gathering a range of existing resources, provided by training organisations which support the project and its aim in establishing high standard, nationally consistent training and assessment across the whole water industry.

Expanding its role into **working directly with training providers to increase the level and locations of training** to meet specific skills needs areas, especially for existing staff who can advance their skills to take on higher responsibilities and to extend their career opportunities. Under the new federal government, the policy of Skilling Australian includes an expanded role for industry skills councils such as GSA to take a very proactive responsibility for influencing training providers to deliver specific training to address skills shortages. The details have not been fully developed, but it is likely that GSA will play a brokering role, with increase funding for training places to encourage the expansion of training delivery.

For more information on any of these projects, check the GSA Website: [www.governmentskills.com.au](http://www.governmentskills.com.au)

# IWA Young Victorian Operator of the Year Award

Since 2005, the Victorian Institute of Water Administration (IWA Vic) has awarded a Prize to the operator presenting the best platform paper at the WIOA Victorian conference. This prize has been in the form of a fully subsidised trip to attend an overseas water conference – typically in New Zealand.

In early 2007, WIOA approached IWA with a suggestion to amend the Prize to that of “Young Operator of the Year”. This new award is designed to provide encouragement to young water industry employees and to recognise excellent performance, initiative and all round attention to detail. Unlike the AWA Operator of the Year, this award is open to all water industry employees and not just the “treatment” people.

To be eligible for consideration nominees:

- Must be employed in the Victorian water industry and be aged under 30 yrs at 31 December in the year of nomination;
- Must have been employed in the water industry for less than 4 full years.
- Nominees are judged on the basis of submissions from employers covering:
  1. Commitment to and demonstrating a strong OHS ethic in all work performed;
  2. Commitment to undertaking training and then implementation of skills learned into the workplace;
  3. Commitment to team work and following enterprise SOP's etc;
  4. Commitment to meeting Corporation and regulatory requirements in the course of all work;
  5. Demonstrated use of initiative or suggestions leading to efficiency or safety improvements;
  6. Any other relevant industry based achievements.

The winner of the Inaugural IWA Vic, “2007 Young Victorian Operator of the Year” was Craig Atwell from Wannon Water in Victoria.



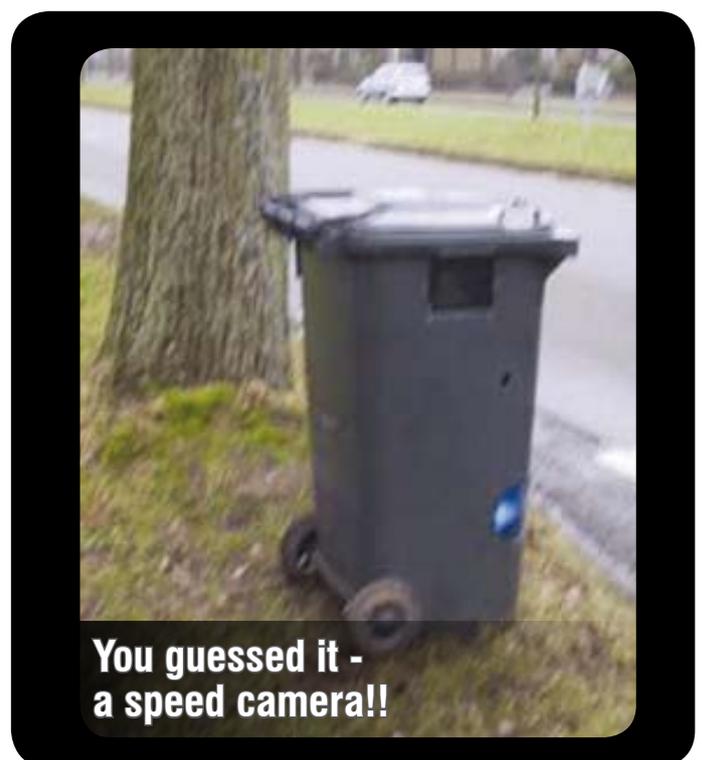
Craig has been employed by Wannon Water for just on two years as a Treatment Operation Officer in Portland. The presentation of the Award to Craig recognises the exceptional initiative and flexibility he has displayed in areas such as:

- Being well on the way to achieving a Certificate III in Water Operations as well as undertaking a Program Logic Control course for Water Treatment Systems through TAFE.
- Playing a key role in developing safe work practices and introducing better systems associated with maintenance of aerators and other equipment at the Warrnambool STP.
- Development of SOP's for maintenance on various other Treatment assets including being on the steering group committee for the generic development of Job Safety Analysis's.
- Being commended by management for his Safe working procedures.
- Being an excellent team player and he has effectively worked in with staff from other Districts to complete projects and assisted to implement new systems.
- His input to the recording of plant and other operational data has helped ensure compliance with QMS procedures and the meeting of regulatory requirements.

Craig will join a number of WIOA Committee members and other operators who will be attending the WIOG NZ conference in May 2008.

Our congratulations, and those of the IWA Vic, are extended to Craig Owen and thanks to Wannon Water for submitting his nomination.

## Sneaky Tricks Department #3



# Bacterially Speaking

The following quiz was organised by one of our Corporate members – B2P and was used as part of the conference competition for operators at the Bendigo event in 2007. We thought it was very well done and informative and may be worth getting all our members to have a go at it.

Many of us know oh-too-well the nasty implications of a hundred or so *E. coli*, whether from shutting off town water, or from a personal white-bowled experience. Can you guess the level of contamination of the different sites? Here are a few clues to put you on track:

**Site 1: V-Notch Weir, Sewage Treatment Plant**

Tertiary pond, not chlorinated, before disinfection (comes out of clarifier)

**Site 2: Kitchen Sponge**

Out of the packet and in use for 3 days

**Site 3: Toilet Seat**

Sampled mid-week (toilet cleaned at weekends)

**Site 4: Stream to Hobson Bay**

Stream runs through residential area, no recent rainfall event

**Site 5: Recycled Water for Golf Course**

Class B licence

**Site 6: Wetland**

Water flows from treated effluent to storage pond for re-use

**Site 7: Kitchen Sink**

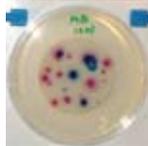
Sampled mid-week (wiped down daily)

Good luck!



V-Notch STP

130 Coliforms



including 44 *E. Coli*  
Plate Count A



Kitchen Sponge

2700 Coliforms

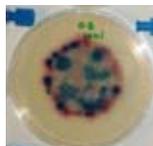


including 945 *E. Coli*  
Plate Count B



Toilet Seat

6000 Coliforms

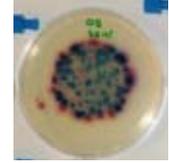


including 4500 *E. Coli*  
Plate Count C



Stream to Hobson Bay  
Auckland, NZ

14 000 Coliforms

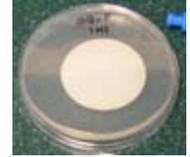


including 11 000 *E. Coli*  
Plate Count D



Recycled water for  
Golf Course

0 Coliforms

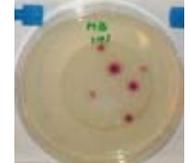


including 0 *E. Coli*  
Plate Count E



Wetland

6 Coliforms



including 0 *E. Coli*  
Plate Count F



Kitchen Sink

590 Coliforms



including 200 *E. Coli*  
Plate Count G

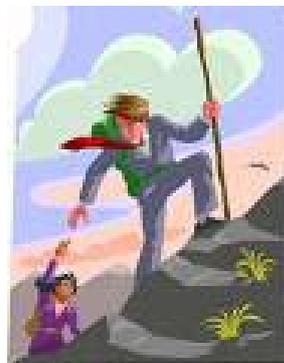
**Your Answers**

Site No.	Location	Plate Count Letter
1	V-Notch STP	
2	Kitchen Sponge	
3	Toilet Seat	
4	Stream, NZ	
5	Recycled Water, Golf Course	
6	Wetland	
7	Kitchen Sink	

# How to help WIOA.....



Over the years I have had many very keen people approach me to find out how they can help WIOA. Most Members are aware that up until recently WIOA was a voluntary Association. Now there are 2.25 paid employees however looking at what is accomplished from year to year, we still do rely heavily on our volunteers. So if you are an individual Member or a Corporate Supporter, following are some tips on assisting WIOA. The more help everyone puts in, the greater we grow together and can be proud of what is accomplished.



	INDIVIDUAL MEMBER	CORPORATE SUPPORTER
CONSTANTLY TALK TO WATER INDUSTRY PEOPLE ABOUT WIOA	✓	✓
VISIT THE WEBSITE; <a href="http://www.wioa.org.au">www.wioa.org.au</a> There is a resources page, handy industry links and more. Place the website in your favourites and visit it frequently.	✓	✓
ATTEND EVENTS; Includes conferences, technical seminars, charity events, weekend seminar.	✓	✓
PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCES; submit paper and poster presentations to share your problems and solutions.	✓	
CONTRIBUTE ARTICLES & 'NEWS' WORTHY STORIES: WIOA publishes the Operator Newsletter, WaterWorks Journal and Words monthly enews. You don't have to write it; contact WIOA and we will help develop the story.	✓	✓
WIOA IS A NATIONAL ORGANISATION; Contributions outside of VIC for the above newsletters are always being sought.	✓	✓
OFFER YOUR SERVICES TO ASSIST SETTING UP CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS	✓	✓
TALK TO WIOA COMMITTEE MEMBERS	✓	✓
TELL YOUR COLLEAGUES & MANAGERS ABOUT EVENTS AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO JOIN IN	✓	✓
TELL YOUR CUSTOMERS ABOUT WIOA EVENTS & HANDOUT YOUR FREE WIOA LEAFLETS		✓
ENCOURAGE YOUR COLLEAGUES IN OTHER STATES TO ATTEND AND SUPPORT WIOA EVENTS	✓	✓
ADVERTISE IN THE WATERWORKS JOURNAL TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT OF WIOA		✓
CONTACT WIOA WITH TECHNICAL QUERIES; WIOA can put you in touch with technical experts & companies if you are looking for a solution to a problem	✓	✓
USE OUR FREE POSITION VACANT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM	✓	✓
JOIN YOUR COMPANY AS A CORPORATE SUPPORTER		✓

Still want to do more? If you are able to check all the boxes above and agree that you do everything possible to promote and encourage water industry people, then it is time for you to sign up for a committee position (if available) or as an inter-state champion. Keep in mind that WIOA is a National Association and needs allies and helpers everywhere.

Contributed by **Cynthia Lim**

## Lighter Side



**Ingenuity at its best**



**Who said septic pumpers don't have a sense of humour?**

## Profile of a Committee Member

### Name

John Harris

### Position

Treatment Operations Coordinator

### Employer & Location

Wannon Water, Warrnambool

### What is your involvement with the water industry (brief job history)?

Have worked in the Water Industry for 34 years, been involved in treatment both water and wastewater for 25 years the other 9 years I was foreman of works overseeing construction staff laying of water and sewer mains from 80mm to 1200mm. I have been representing water employees on training committees since 1986 and in recent years became a Director on the Water Industry training board of Government Skills Australia

### What made you consider becoming a committee member?

After presenting a paper at a conference in Warrnambool in the late 80's I was approached to be the O55 rep for the South West, and then became a full time committee member in the early 1990's. There was a need to bring operators together to share ideas and network together. The main reason for joining the committee was because it was a very progressive group and I felt I could contribute to making it a successful organisation.

### What are your expectations as a committee member?

Same as it is for everyone - to contribute and keep the success of a wonderful organisation and to see it prosper.

### Where do you see yourself in the coming years on the WIOA committee?

With my age now it is nearly time to step down and give someone else a go

### Personal:

Age ..... 60

Spouse ..... Sue

Children ..... 3, two boys 1 girl and 6 Grandchildren

Book currently reading ..... Steve Waugh

Favourite band or music style ..... Beatles

Worst band or music style ..... N/A

Favourite film ..... Happy Gilmore

Worst film ..... Flaming Star

Favourite food ..... Steak

Worst food ..... Japanese food

Favourite meal you can cook ..... Roast or steak

Favourite town in Vic ..... Warrnambool

Why ? ..... Beach and fresh air

Worst Trait ..... Talk too much

Best advice you can offer anyone Learn as much as you can and listen to any advice from other people

Four people to invite to dinner .. Ron Barrassi, Steve Waugh, Kevin Sheedy and Craig Parry



Circa  
1993



2007

Hasn't changed a bit

## Life in the Fast Lane

Ash Bergmeier will be more familiar to many as one of the friendly volunteer forklift drivers at the WIOA conferences than a hardened racer competing throughout Australia in the National Super Sedan Series. Ash has just completed his second full season in the National Super Sedan Series recording a 6<sup>th</sup> place in the overall points score and taking out the prestigious Best and Fairest award.

The national series consists of 8 race meetings and 30 contracted drivers competing against the best local drivers at each event. The meetings this year were held in Rockhampton, Brisbane, Toowoomba, Mildura, Avalon, Hamilton, Mt Gambier, and Murray Bridge. The black tie awards night was held in Adelaide. Competitors travelled from as far as Perth to compete in the Series.



Ash Bergmeier in his 700hp racer.

Ash has taken over the driving duties in the Bergmeier Engineering race team from his father Ron. Ron now concentrates on crew chief duties at the race track and drives the semi trailer with all the gear and race cars all over Australia (as well as performing his duties as Chairman of the WIOA). Ash's mum, Cheryl and sister, Danielle attend as many meetings as they can. Danielle also races a car in the Street Stock division when time permits. The racing provides an opportunity for the Bergmeier family to travel extensively and see many parts of Australia. Ron and Cheryl spent Christmas day in outback Queensland on their way to Rockhampton for the start of the series.

In addition to the National Super Sedan Series, there are State based racing series, Blue Ribbon events and State Titles to compete in. Ash travelled to Perth last year for the Australian Titles and then to Queensland to compete in arguably the toughest state based series as preparation for the National Series. In addition to his results in the National Series, Ash was also the 5<sup>th</sup> placegetter at both the Victorian and New South Wales state title meetings. A considerable achievement given that he has just turned 22 and is competing against many drivers over twice his age with many years of experience. Watch out for the speedy forklift driver at the next WIOA Conference.



At the racetrack. Note spare car and truck in background.

# Kwatye 2007 - Interim Report

It's been just over 4 months since I started on my project and I thought that an update was in order.

I have visited Hunter Water and met with Jeremy Silk, Kevin Wilson and Debbie Seldon who were very helpful in discussing issues associated with my project and providing an insight into what Hunter Water are doing to combat their sewer blockage problem. At this stage I plan on a return visit in April, to coincide with the WIOA NSW conference, to undertake some site inspections and meet some more operational employees.

Whilst in Newcastle I caught up with Evelyn (Eve) Rodrigues from Water Services Association of Australia (WSAA) and Sydney Water. It was suggested during the initial "networking" phase of my project that I catch up with Eve as WSAA are undertaking a project that in part appeared to overlap my project and I wanted to discuss this further. Eve travelled up from Sydney to discuss our respective projects in detail and as a result of this meeting, several e-mails and phone calls, I participated in the WSAA Asset Management Forum in Melbourne on 26 to 27 November. Although my main purpose was to meet and discuss matters relating to blockages in sewers, I also presented a paper regarding Manhole Rehabilitation. This presentation was an updated version of the paper that I presented at the 2000 WIOA Victorian conference.



I have developed and distributed a survey to a number of contacts and following the WSAA Forum, the survey has now been circulated to all those who attended. This has greatly broadened my information network and I am expecting lots of feedback by the end of January.

I have also been busily undertaking research, mainly on the Internet, of publications regarding sewer blockages and various methods to tackle the tree root problem. I will be giving a visual presentation at the upcoming WIOA AGM & Weekend Seminar.

Contributed by **Graham Thomson**

# Corporate Member News - Retrofitted upgrades for NSW State Water

AWMA was commissioned by NSW's State Water to design, manufacture and install regulators at Waddi Cutting (off the Murray River) and Forest Creek (off Billabong Creek) in the south of the state.

Nick Cartledge, Mechanical Engineer at State Water Corporation advised "AWMA's reinforced aluminium undershot gates are a fraction of the weight of the old steel structures which were struggling to operate under the extreme friction loads. With consideration to the high levels of debris experienced at the sites, the gates have been designed to reduce lifetime maintenance on the structure. AWMA were awarded the contract for their ability to provide retrofitted gates that incorporated the existing actuation system".



New gates and guides were designed by AWMA to ensure acceptable actuator operation and reduced maintenance. The new gates consist of aluminium reinforced plate undershots with aluminium guides. The reinforced gates are a fraction of the weight of the existing mild steel gates and run in low friction HDPE (high density polyethylene) guides.

Waddi Cutting required two reinforced TopSeal UnderShot Gates measuring 2500mm x 1200mm, whilst Forest Creek gained two Plate UnderShot Gates measuring 2500mm x 2100mm. Both regulators are operated via automated Rotork actuation, networked into the State Water SCADA system.

More information on these projects can be obtained by contacting Anthony Burrell, AWMA's Commercial Sales Manager, phone 1800 664 852 or email [anthony@awma.au.com](mailto:anthony@awma.au.com).



## B2P Quiz Answers

**Answers from biggest to smallest stomach grumble:**

**1. Site 1: V-Notch Weir, Sewage Treatment Plant**

D) 14 000 Coliforms, 11 000 *E. coli*

*B2P final count 5.8 hours from sampling*

**2. Site 6: Wetland**

C) 6000 Coliforms, 4500 *E. coli*

*B2P final count 6.3 hours from sampling*

**3. Site 2: Kitchen sponge** – these are always disastrous

B) 2700 Coliforms, 945 *E. coli*

*B2P final count 6.7 hours from sampling*

**4. Site 4: Stream, to Hobson Bay**

G) 590 Coliforms, 200 *E. coli*

*B2P final count 7.3 hours from sampling*

**5. Site 7: Kitchen Sink**

A) 130 Coliforms, 44 *E. coli*

*B2P final count 7.8 hours from sampling*

**6. Site 5: Recycled Water for Golf course** – Licenced at B

grade but run at A grade

F) 6 Coliforms, 0 *E. coli*

*B2P final count 9.2 hours from sampling*

**7-and-clean-enough-to-eat-off. Site 3: Toilet seat**

E) 0 Coliforms, 0 *E. coli*

*B2P final count 10 hours from sampling*

Faster times with new software releases!

Further information on B2P the company or their rapid field test-kits, Watercheck™ used to obtain quantification for total coliforms and *E. coli* on site in a day can be obtained from Stephanie or Gordon at

[www.b2ptesting.com.au](http://www.b2ptesting.com.au)

## Award Winning Photo

Congratulations to the photographic team of Cynthia and her dad Eddie Lim who were awarded First Prize in the Nature Category of the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority's, National Water Week photographic competition.



The photo is of the Wetlands at Tahbilk (near Seymour in Victoria)

## 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

Jenny Byrne, Ken Prain, Andrew Ng, Conal O'Donoghue, Ian Soutar, Scott Lane, Tim Holmes, Craig Woods, Matthew Sinnott, Peter Umland, Cameron Tunstall, Richard Matley, Greg Piergrosse, Greg Sargeant, Ashley Sinnott, Wayne Holland, Chris Buck, Chris Jeffree, Peter Turner, Heinz Schluter.

### New Corporate Members include

Richmond Valley Council, European Building Innovations, Endress +Hauser Australia, Simmonds & Bristow, HyrdoChem, East Coast Ultra Violet, Gutermann.

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## Next Edition

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