



# TASSIE NEWS



Newsletter of the WIOA Tasmanian Advisory Committee

JULY 2013

## WIOA - Tasmanian Advisory Committee

Hi all, my name is Darren Lord. I have recently been elected as the Chairman of the WIOA Tasmanian Advisory Committee. I was employed by Cradle Mountain Water, and like the rest of us moved over to TasWater on 1st July. With yet another change hitting the Tasmanian water industry, as you read this "project one" is here - hop on and enjoy the ride!

Although I may have been "setup" in the Advisory Committee nomination process, I am happy to take on the Chairman role and I have also accepted a position on the WIOA National Committee to fill a casual vacancy as a Tasmanian representative.

I would like to thank the outgoing Chairman, Damien Lavelle for the efforts he put in since taking on the Chairman role at the very first meeting in July 2010. Thanks again Damien. We have achieved a lot in this first three years.

I wanted to share a couple of thoughts of myself and the Committee and outline some things we hope to achieve.

Once the Taswater management positions have been filled and things have settled down a bit, we would like to have some discussions with the appropriate people to get an indication of the support and commitment Taswater is willing to give WIOA to allow us to continue going forward within the Tasmanian Water Industry.

Ideally, this could allow the Advisory Committee to have a bit more input and discretion with influencing the decision making on what we can achieve locally with seminars, training days, plant tours and networking opportunities within the State, in addition to opportunities to attend conferences and events outside of Tasmanian. I feel this will be a positive step for the Committee and all Tasmanian operations staff in general, not having 3 separate commitments across the state. At the end of the day, everything we try to do is to improve the skills and knowledge of individuals which will eventually benefit TasWater.

A quote to use when considering how you interact with WIOA as an Individual or a Utility member would be "You only get out of something what you are willing to put in to it". We'd like to think all Taswater staff would want to be involved.

In the past we ran a few distribution system seminars and the committee would like to run similar training days but with various topics which could possibly be incorporated into plant tours or run on their own. We would like to get the distribution/retic teams involved more. The perception is still it is only for operators. We need your input about the types of things you would be interested in.

We will be trying to use WIOA's Corporate members more in the way of specific product training and there is the option to run a small multi-product Tassie trade show.

Please don't hesitate to pass on any ideas to any of the members on the WIOA Tasmanian Advisory Committee so we can take for further discussion.

Darren Lord - Chairman TAS Advisory Committee Chair



## Royce Members Prize

For the second year in a row a Tasmanian member has won the WIOA Lucky members Draw.

The lucky winner of the 2013 WIOA members draw (sponsored by Royce Water Technologies) was Darrin Lawler from Cradle Mountain Water.

Darrin has won a \$1,000 travel voucher that we are sure will be put to good use.

Last year it was Craig Griggs from Southern Water who won the prize.



## Program of Events

Date	Event	Location
4 & 5 September 2013	76th Annual Victorian Water Industry Operations Conference and Exhibition	Bendigo, Victoria
9 November 2013	Water Interest Day - Huon WTP with presentations and a site tour	Huon

# Charity Golf Day & Water Taste Test

Mother nature provided sunny skies for the very first social networking day organised by the Tasmanian Advisory committee on 22 February 2013. Around 20 WIOA members and supporters got together to contest a round of golf at the Campbell Town Golf Club with a view to grabbing hold of some of the fantastic prizes on offer from the events sponsors.

The day also saw the running of the inaugural Orica Tasmanian Water Taste Test. Each water corporation supplied a number of water samples from different sites to be included in the Orica Tasmanian Water Taste Test. Everyone present was allocated a table and helped judge the water samples in the heats of the taste test. The field of 13 was eventually narrowed down to a winner from each of the three tables with these going through to the final taste test held later in the day.

Then everyone was allocated into a golfing team and we headed out to play 9 holes. On the first hole everyone had to tee off standing on the sides of a car tyre just to make things a bit more interesting.

The overall winner of the “Tasmanian Tradies Cup” was the team representing Piping and Automation Systems (PAAS), captained by PAAS Director Nigel Langridge and included Shane Lee and WIOA Tasmanian Advisory Committee Chairperson Darren Lord.

Darren also collected the prize for the longest drive off the tyre. Nearest the pins were won by Cameron Stevenson who was representing sponsor Royce Water Technologies and Mike Schmidt from SNF, while Craig from WIOA took out the traditional longest drive competition.

After golf, we all enjoyed a BBQ lunch and then the final of the water taste test was conducted. The winner was the sample from the Chimney Saddle plant in Launceston (Ben Lomond Water) who now have “bragging rights” of the best tasting water in the State for the next twelve months.

Money raised on the day through entry fees, sponsorship and the numerous raffles saw a \$1000 cheque donated to the Campbell Town Volunteer Fire Brigade for the bush fires appeal, a much needed cause. WIOA has donated over \$50K to charities around Australia through charity fundraising efforts over the years, which is a fantastic effort in providing valuable funds to the community.

Thanks to WIOA for arranging such a great day, all the sponsors Orica, SNF (Australia) Pty Ltd, PAAS, Grundfos, Automation Group, Royce Water Technologies and ProMinent, and to all those who attended this event. I hope there will be many more events like this in the Tassie water industry in the future and encourage other members to get involved in the next one.

## Lester Little Southern Water



*The Tasmanian Golf Day participants*



*Darren, Nigel and Terry, winners of the Tradies Cup – team PAAS*



*Gordon Macfield from Campbell Town Fire Brigade (r) accepting the charity cheque*

There is a lot more information on WIOA and our main roles in the water industry on our website.

[www.wioa.org.au](http://www.wioa.org.au)

# Chimney Saddle WTP Wins Taste Test

The winning entry in Orica Tasmanian Water Taste Test was sourced from the North Esk River at Watery Plains where up to 32ML per day can be diverted into the North Esk supply system.

This flows through a gravity pipeline to Chimney Saddle Treatment Plant. Treated water is stored in a 5ML concrete reservoir adjacent to the plant and distributed to southern, eastern and northern suburbs of Launceston, and to George Town via the 65km North Esk Trunk Pipeline. The sample was taken at Rocherlea, one of the northern suburbs of Launceston Chimney Saddle Treatment Plant was supplied by Degremont M.I.S., a French firm which has installed works in many countries around the world.

A notable feature of the plant is the Pulsator, in which flocculation of the chemically treated water is carried out by applying a periodic impulse to the water in the concrete structure. Periodic impulses are thought to promote a better build-up of floc than in the common method of stirring which is a feature of most other treatment plants.

Flocculated water rises very slowly in the pulsator, towards the draw-off channels at the top. Floc would settle to the bottom in still water, but because the water rises in the pulsator, the floc reaches a relatively stable level and forms a blanket. As more and more water passes through the pulsator, most of the floc is trapped in this blanket. Periodically some is drawn off to waste.

Settled water flows from the pulsator to the three sand filters. During backwashing of one filter there is no build-up of water in the others as settled water continues to flow into the filter which is being washed, and sweeps across the surface of the sand, to remove the waste. Air can be admitted at the same time as backwash water, to scour the sand and remove all waste.

The filter outlet controls are particularly simple, being siphons with regulated air admission. There are virtually no moving parts and no metal components under water in the pulsator and filters so that maintenance costs are minimal. After filtration lime is added for PH correction and fluoride is added for dental protection.

Chlorine is added between the clear water tank and the 5ML reservoir.

**Chris Hall** Ben Lomond Water



*Lester Little takes part in the Masterchef style blind taste test.*



*Matt Carr from Orica congratulates Garry Lanham on the day.*



*Winners are grinners - Glen Rowlands, Chris Hall and Garry Landham with WIOA EO George Wall.*



**TASMANIAN  
WATER  
TASTE  
TEST**



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## Tassie Tour

A nice sunny morning was put on by the Ben Lomond Crew. It was a top morning to have a look around the new Distillery Creek WTP, with a good roll up especially from our Southern counter parts and it was great to see some corporate members come along for the day as well.

We were put in the hands of Chris to guide us around the plant. He was very informative on the history and the running of the old plant with a lot of the structures still on site but not in use. It was interesting seeing the old then the new, with some background information on some of the discussions with operators in the design of some areas of the new plant. Some points were taken on board and some major points were not (what's new).

Quite a few of the operators run similar plants to Distillery Creek and there was a lot of discussions between the group on different aspects of the plant, regarding the philosophies in design with the pipe work layout and control systems.

We then headed back to the meeting room where we had a discussion on what we would like to see from WIOA and listened to some of the ideas from the Corporate members in what they could offer in the form training days etc. Lunch arrived and everyone had a nice feed of sandwiches and party pies.

We headed to Ti Tree Bend WWTP to have a look around. I must point out at this time even though we followed each other there, Craig managed to get lost for the second time in the day. The nice day the crew had put on decided it would turn to crap, the beannies and the caps that were handed out earlier in the day by Owen & Jessie from Thermo Fisher Scientific came in handy.

We were then handed over to Mark who led us on a very informative tour of the plant. With a lot of the operators coming from a water background, it was interesting listening to some of the comments when walking around the plant. One point that raised the eyebrows was the amount of flow that comes through the plant in a storm event and how the crew manage these events.

The re-use facilities with the effluent for wash down and the burning off of the methane gas through the boiler system was also of interest.

A big thank you to Chris & Mark for being our guides for the tours and for the passing on their knowledge and history on the plants.

Also a thank you to the Corporate members - Grant and Tommy from Pumptec Tasmania as well as Owen and Jessie from Thermo Fisher Scientific who came along for the day and for passing on their expertise in their related fields.

**Contributed by** Tasmanian Advisory Committee



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## A minute with Darren Lord

### Position

Technical Officer Engineering Services

### Employer

TasWater as of 1st July  
- formerly Cradle Mountain Water

### Nickname

Lordly / Childhood nickname Frog

### Favourite food

Roast Pork cooked on a spit

### Favourite team

Mighty MAGPIES

### Who do you admire

Anyone willing to have a go

### 3 people you would invite to dinner

Jennifer Hawkins, Bruce Willis & Nathan Buckley

### Thoughts on the water industry

I think the water industry is very interesting and can lead to a lot of different opportunities to further your careers or knowledge due to its diverse range of areas involved.

### Your involvement with WIOA

Currently I am chairperson of the Tasmanian advisory committee and also on the General committee for WIOA as the Tasmanian representative. I felt that it was a great opportunity to meet a lot of different people working in the industry and also a lot of corporate people involved with the industry.

## 2012 Kwatye Prize

WIOA's prestigious national Kwatye Prize, sponsored by Thermo Fisher Scientific was awarded to Southern Water's Regional Water and Wastewater Manager, Mark McConnon, at the 75th Annual Victorian Water Industry Operators Association's (WIOA) conference in Bendigo.

Mark was awarded the prize for his application to investigate and develop a code of practice covering the disinfection of water reticulation systems, an outcome that was identified as a need for his Tasmanian water corporation. This project is designed to gain knowledge on the disinfection practice of reticulation systems after maintenance, the equipment used and its cost and then development of a comprehensive working document (Code of Practice) for the Tasmania water corporations to utilise.

Southern Water recognised the risk to customers from mains breaks and provided training to all of its operators through the WIOA Distribution Seminar designed to raise awareness of the risk to customers through work practices when undertaking repairs of water infrastructure. These sessions allowed the staff to provide feedback about work practices and the requirement for equipment and a procedure to ensure that reticulation systems are disinfected adequately therefore ensuring a safe drinking supply for our customers.

"I am passionate about improving the knowledge in our industry and ensuring that we do everything within our power to ensure that we continue to provide safe drinking water to our customers," Mark said after accepting his prize.

"To be announced the winner of the Kwatye Prize in front of over 500 water industry professionals was overwhelming and completely unexpected as this project started off as a work related interest that has escalated into national recognition."

The \$6000 award funding for the project will enable Mark to further research current disinfection practices used by other water corporations both nationally and internationally. It is the eighth occasion the Kwatye Prize has been presented through the generous support of Thermo Fisher Scientific and Mark's research will be presented at a joint WIOA and Thermo Fisher Scientific event in the future.

The Kwatye Prize (Kwatye meaning 'water' to the Arrente aboriginal people of the Northern Territory) is open to all WIOA members across Australia. Mark was a worthy winner in 2012, and his project would continue on the success achieved by past winners of the award. We encourage members to consider applying for this award in 2013.

**ThermoFisher**  
SCIENTIFIC



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# TASMANIA



Members of the WIOA Tasmanian Advisory Committee JULY 2013

## Northern



**Chris Hall**

**Position** Water Works Operator  
**Location** Launceston  
**Mobile** 0457 930 524  
**Employed in the Industry** 36 years  
**How do you relax?** Sit back watching a good TV show.



**Mark Woods**

**Position** Water Treatment Operator  
**Location** Ti Tree Bend, Launceston  
**Mobile** 0407 158 102  
**Employed in the Industry** 14 years  
**How do you relax?** Camping, with family, fishing, boating & water sports.



**Mathew Layton**

**Position** Regional Manager Bulk Water  
**Location** Rochlea  
**Mobile** 0418 313 699  
**How do you relax?** With family & kids.

## Southern



**Mark McConnon**

**Position** Manager - Regional Water & Wastewater Services  
**Location** Hobart  
**Mobile** 0427 545 130  
**Employed in the Industry** 15 years  
**How do you relax?** Football, cricket, hiking, camping, greyhound racing.



**Phil Tuck**

**Position** Water Treatment Plant Operator  
**Location** Glamorgan Spring Bay, Hobart  
**Mobile** 0407 680 651  
**Employed in the Industry** 6 years  
**How do you relax?** Fishing, triathlons, mountain biking, running, making floral arrangements from my garden.



**Lester Little**

**Position** Coordinator Wastewater  
**Location** Hobart  
**Mobile** 0418 373 656  
**Employed in the Industry** 38 years  
**How do you relax?** Watching the V8s.

## North West



**Darren Lord - Chairman**

**Position** Technical Officer - Engineering Services  
**Location** Based at Knights Road, Ulverstone  
**Mobile** 0417 506 480  
**Employed in the Industry** Plumber since 1986. Joined Council for couple of years to lay 4.5km pipe line. Treatment and pumps crew in Water and Waste Water in 2006-07  
**How do you relax?** Caravan & heading off with the family, parked on river bank with rod in one hand beer in the other watching the kids kayak.



**Geoff Hyland**

**Position** Manager Treatment and Technical Services Operations  
**Mobile** 0418 388 186  
**Employed in the Industry** Completed plumbing apprenticeship. Became involved in a local council working in water and wastewater treatment 21 years ago.  
**How do you relax?** Fishing and diving on the West Coast of Tasmania.



**Shane Lee**

**Position** Coordinator - Treatment and Pumps  
**Location** Forth  
**Mobile** 0448 911 905  
**Employed in the Industry** Traineeship with the Central Coast Council in 1989 in wastewater before coming over to Cradle Mountain Water.  
**How do you relax?** Watching the North Melbourne Kangaroos and spending time with my children.