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# WIOA WORDS

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## AROUND THE TRAPS

Australian Industry Standards (AIS) is hosting **Industry Skills Forums** across the country to explore current and future skills needs in the age of digital transformation. The forums will be held in Canberra, Brisbane, Sydney, Hobart, Darwin, Melbourne, Perth and Adelaide between 11 September and 13 November. The sessions are open to anyone interested in participating. The forums will include industry-specific breakout sessions with an opportunity to discuss the challenges and possible solutions to skill shortages. To find out the dates, venues and to register online, please visit <https://www.futureskilling.org.au/register/>



The annual **qldwater Water Forum** will be held on 5 & 6 September on the Gold Coast. The event is a great opportunity to network with 80-100 water industry professionals from across 30 or more councils/utilities and to hear from regulators and decision makers. The forum will include a technical tour of key Commonwealth Games sites, the statewide Ixom Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test, a number of keynote and innovative presentations including a presentation by Associate Commissioner John Madden about the National Water Reform Inquiry Report. Register online now or contact Diana Kisilitsyna at [enquiry@qldwater.com.au](mailto:enquiry@qldwater.com.au). Discounts apply for bookings of three or more delegates from one organisation.



WIOA is assisting to provide input to a research project by **Water Research Australia** to better understand the value gained from Operator Certification and investment in programs to develop, support and continually grow operator competency. The outcomes of this study will provide useful input for the industry as a whole to explore how best to overcome challenges associated with investment in skilling and training of operators. The researchers are keen to gather broad input and invite you to complete a short survey (approximately 10 minutes): <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2JKVTR3> Please take the time to respond, or alternatively, please forward this email to a colleague who is involved with frontline operator training and competency. If any of your operational services are managed by a third party, it would be appreciated if you could forward this email with the link to the appropriate contact. WIOA will share the outcomes as the project progresses. Please contact Kathy Northcott at [kathy@wioa.org.au](mailto:kathy@wioa.org.au) if you have any queries about the research or survey.



The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) is seeking feedback on draft **Guidance on Per-fluoroalkyl and Poly-fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in Recreational Water** including health based guideline values for recreational water. The purpose of the draft guidance is to provide default health based guideline values for use by local authorities responsible for managing the safety of recreational water environments such as lakes, rivers and coastal water. The consultation is open until 4pm (AEST) on Thursday 27 September 2018, and you are invited under section 13(d) of the NHMRC Act 1992 to make a submission to NHMRC through the NHMRC public consultation website <http://consultations.nhmrc.gov.au/>

The WIOA State Based Advisory Committees have been in place for many years with some operating under formal and others informal structures. To improve the effectiveness of each Advisory Committee, the WIOA General Committee has determined that a new terms of reference will be developed and Members will be given the opportunity to nominate to be part of the Advisory Committee in their respective State. A link to all the information about the new structures and a nomination form will be provided to all members shortly. We encourage all interested Members to consider nominating for a position in order to help us identify and deliver programs, events and services that are tailored to the needs of Members in each individual State.



WIOA is aware that Members have been contacted by list data providers who claim to have access to our event attendee and membership lists. We want to assure our members, visitors, delegates and exhibitors that we take data protection seriously. We confirm that these companies are not given access to the data they are claiming to possess, and urge everyone to take extreme caution when dealing with them. For further details on how your personal data is processed, please visit our Privacy Policy at <https://wioa.org.au/privacy/>

## WIOA AWARDS 2018

Congratulations to the team from the **Bryn Estyn WTP** in Hobart for winning the **Ixom 2018 Tasmanian Best Tasting Tap Water Competition**. The Tasmanian Advisory Committee organised and conducted a great day in Launceston on 25 July that included a keynote presentation by Emeritus Professor Nigel Forteach AM from UTAS, along with numerous informative technical presentations by Ixom, Hach and TasWater staff.



Congratulations to the operators from the **Woolpunda WTP** for winning the **Ixom 2018 South Australian Best Tasting Tap Water Competition**. The South Australian Advisory Committee organised and conducted the taste test as part of the very successful inaugural South Australian Operations Conference and Expo in Murray Bridge on 1 & 2 August. Congratulations also to Mel Slimming from SA Water for presenting the Best Paper.

## EVENTS

The next **WIOA Talks webinar**, covering issues on **Working Safely with Telcos** will be held online at 11:30am (AEST) on Tuesday 21 August 2018. The webinar will run for around 1 hour and will put a spotlight on the issue of Telecommunications infrastructure on water assets, and the challenges faced by water utilities to manage water supply integrity. There is a growing need for water utilities to understand and exercise their legislative rights in order to; meet water supply and governance requirements, protect employee safety, reduce their business costs imposed by Telcos facilities, and to highlight any legislative deficiencies so things can be fixed. Register for the webinar at <https://wioa.org.au/nevent/wioatalkstelcos/>



The program and delegate registration form for the **81st Victorian Water Industry Operations Conference and Exhibition** is available from the WIOA website <http://wioaconferences.org.au/vic/vic-delegates/> There will be a host of important and informative platform and poster papers presented. Staff from the Victorian Department of Health will present information on fluoride, operator certification followed by an interactive workshop on the Thursday afternoon, a session not to be missed by WTP operators.



Victorian Water Corporations are invited to enter teams of 2 competitors into the **2nd Victorian Main Tapping Competition** (supported by Coliban Water, Lend Lease and Reece Civil) to be conducted at the Victorian conference in Bendigo. This is a great way for operators in the networks management field to demonstrate their skills in a competitive environment. The fastest team will have \$1,000 donated to a charity of their choice, as well as having their names engraved onto the specially constructed perpetual trophy. Check out the WIOA website for more information - <http://wioaconferences.org.au/vic/vic-main-tapping/>

The program and delegate registration form for the **Water Industry Safety Event (WISE)** to be held in Coburg (Melbourne) on 24 October is now available. The event is aimed at all water industry personnel involved in safety in the operation and maintenance of urban, rural and industrial water related infrastructure. There will be targeted presentations from many Victorian Corporations, as well as a panel discussion on a hypothetical safety scenario. There is also an expo comprising companies that supply products or services related to safety in the water industry. To see the program or to register, visit <http://wioaconferences.org.au/wise2018/>



WIOA will be hosting a group of Kiwi operators for a tour of various water and wastewater facilities before and after the Bendigo conference. There is an opportunity for up to 10 members to join the group and **tour of the Melbourne Water Hoppers Crossing Pump Station** on Friday 7 September at 12 noon. To reserve a space please contact Sherryn in the office by email – [sherryn@wioa.org.au](mailto:sherryn@wioa.org.au)



The WIOA Victorian Advisory Committee is providing everyone a heads up that the **20<sup>th</sup> WIOA Victorian Charity Golf Day** will be held at the Garfield Golf Club, on Sunday 21 October. We are looking for a strong turnout of operational people to help make the day a success and sponsorship opportunities exist for companies that would like a chance to win the Tradies Cup. Please place the date into your diary now.



WIOA invites all Victorian Water Corporations to participate in the **Ixom 2018 Victorian Best Tasting Tap Water competition**. The heats, grand final judging and announcement of the winner will be undertaken at the Victorian conference. We know many organisations are keen to knock off the reigning champions in Goulburn Valley Water. More information is available on the WIOA website <http://wioaconferences.org.au/vic/vic-water-taste-test/>



The **Ixom 2018 Best Tasting Tap Water in Australia Competition** will be held in Toowoomba on 17 October during National Water Week. The winners from each of the state based taste test competitions are invited to enter the National competition, where we will determine who has the **Best Tasting Tap Water in Australia**. More information is available on the WIOA website: <https://wioa.org.au/nevent/national-water-taste-test/>



The **Membrane Operators Association (MOA)** of Australia and New Zealand is holding its second national membranes conference at the Wauchope Water Treatment Plant, Port Macquarie, NSW from 22-24 October 2018. The conference includes multiple site visits, networking drinks and conference dinner with a corporate rate secured at Sails Port Macquarie by Rydges Resort. For more information on MOA and the conference program, visit their website at <http://www.moa.org.au/>



The WIOA Advisory Committees are currently planning the programs for a number of **Interest Days** later in the year in Victoria, Tasmania, NSW and South Australia. Look out for details in future editions of Words.

## TRAINING COURSES

The International WaterCentre (IWC) in collaboration with water industry partners (Melbourne Water, Clearwater and Stormwater NSW) is currently offering a range of **full and half scholarships** for emerging water leaders interested in joining the **Water Leadership Program** in December 2018. Scholarships for the **IWC Master of Integrated Water Management** to commence studying in 2019 are also available for Australian and New Zealand citizens. Dr Andre Taylor, Leadership Specialist at IWC will be presenting a free webinar on Tuesday 21 August 2018 at 10am to introduce the Water Leadership Program and scholarships. Register for the 45 minute webinar at <https://watercentre.wufoo.com/forms/m1amjo360b8w5vp/>

AMS Training & Solutions is offering **David H Paul RO Specialist** hands-on training in TAS, WA and NSW, during October. A new collaboration with Evoqua sees an intensive hands-on UF/MF training at their Windsor (NSW) facility. For more information visit – <http://www.amsts.com.au/> Email them to [training@amsts.com.au](mailto:training@amsts.com.au) to be waitlisted for future events near you or to begin a discussion about hosting an event at your site.



The CRC CARE is staging a Workshop on the **Technical and Regulatory issues resulting from the use of PFAS** at contaminated sites. The Workshops will be held in Sydney on 27 August and Melbourne on 30 August and are aimed at people with or without prior experience of PFAS. It will be of interest to regulators, local government officers, industry professionals and consultants. Presenters will draw on a new evidence base that provides insights into how PFAS are released into the environment at many government and commercial facilities. For more information or to register visit <https://tinyurl.com/yckh5jdl>

## PEOPLE & CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

ALVI Technologies supplies **H2S Gas Detection Tubes** which provide an easy, quick and accurate method for a direct on the spot measurement of H2S gases in Sewage treatment plants. They are the only supplier that offers both the industry standard tubes – KwikDraw tubes (compatible to Draeger) with 7 mm and Uniphos Tubes with 5mm (compatible to Gastec). Please e-mail [tubes@gasalarm.com.au](mailto:tubes@gasalarm.com.au) to find out more.



Burjen Pty Ltd is making the **H2Optimiser** water treatment plant optimisation tool available for the water industry to use. This is a free program and includes an assessment tool for Health Based Targets. The tool can be accessed via <https://www.h2operator.com.au/> The Health Based Target page can be accessed through the 'disinfection' section of the H2Optimiser tool.

**POSITIONS VACANT** - For information on these positions visit <https://wioa.org.au/positions-vacant/>

**Current positions vacant** include 15 positions in SA, NSW, Qld and Victoria including a number of Water and Wastewater Treatment Operators, Engineering as well as various Manager roles. To utilise this FREE job placement service, email your job ad to [sherryn@wioa.org.au](mailto:sherryn@wioa.org.au)

## COMING EVENTS

- 21 August - **WIOA Talks Webinar - Working Safely with Telcos**, Online
- 5 & 6 September - **81st WIOA Victorian Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Bendigo
- 5 September - **Ixom 2018 Best Tasting Tap Water in Victoria competition**, Bendigo
- 5 & 6 September - **qldwater Annual Forum**, Gold Coast
- 17 September - **WIOA Talks Webinar – War on Waste: Biosolids and residuals beneficial use**, Online
- 12 October - **FNQ Operations Interest Day and optional Barefoot Bowls**, Cairns
- 17 October - **Grand Final - Ixom 2018 Best Tasting Tap Water in Australia competition**, Toowoomba
- 21 October - **20<sup>th</sup> Annual Victorian Charity Golf Day**, Garfield Golf Club
- 24 October - **Water Industry Safety Event (WISE)**, Coburg
- 30 October - **Water Interest Day in conjunction with CENTROC**, Parkes, NSW
- 14 November - **Wastewater Interest Day**, Ti Tree WWTP, Launceston, Tas (TBC)
- 21 November - **Wastewater Interest Day**, Western Treatment Plant, Werribee, Vic (TBC)
- 22 November - **Wastewater Interest Day**, Mount Barker, SA (TBC)



Become a friend of WIOA on **FACEBOOK** follow us on **TWITTER** or join us in **LinkedIn**

**KEEP YOUR CONTACT DETAILS UP TO DATE.** If your phone number, mailing address or email address has changed please email Ann your new details ([ann@wioa.org.au](mailto:ann@wioa.org.au)) or call the office on 03 5821 6744.