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WIOA WORDS

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AROUND THE TRAPS

A series of **National Industry Skills Forums** are being staged by **Australian Industry Standards (AIS)** between September and November to give all stakeholders the opportunity to have a say on the skills and workforce priorities for our industry. Attendees will be able to discuss some of the barriers to recruiting skilled employees and explore emerging skill needs. The Skills Forums seek to bring our industry together in a series of panel and industry specific break-out sessions to discuss and debate the challenges and possible solutions to skills shortages. The Forums will provide a real opportunity for our stakeholders to examine the issues and inform thinking and policy to ensure the workforce of the future is ready for the challenges ahead. Venues and speakers will be announced soon on the dedicated Skills Forums website www.futureskilling.org.au For further information, please contact enquiries@australianindustrystandards.org.au



The **Victorian Department of Health and Human Services** confirmed in its July newsletter **Upstream** that the review of the '*Victorian framework for water treatment operator competencies – Best practice guidelines*' is nearing completion. VicWater, WIOA and members of the original implementation committee were consulted during the review process. It is proposed that the *National Certification Framework for Operators within Drinking Water Treatment Systems 2017* will be adopted in Victoria with some amendments. The operator competency framework proposal for Victoria will be provided to the wider Victorian water industry for consultation in the near future.



The Supreme Court of New Zealand ruled on 27 June 2018 that New Zealand Councils do have a legal authority to fluoridate water supplies, dismissing the appeal by New Health that Fluoride be declared a medicine under the Medicines Act 1981. Further information is available via the media release at <https://tinyurl.com/ycu3y9l7> and details of the Supreme Court decision is at <https://tinyurl.com/ycbdujxu>



We congratulate the numerous water industry organisations, just like North East Water in Victoria, who are actively undertaking **fundraising activities on behalf of WaterAid**. Participating in initiatives such as the 2018 WaterAid Winnovator's employee development program can make a difference. For example, \$170 could supply water testing kits so that 50 sources can be tested twice a year, benefitting 5,000 people; \$255 could pay for a pit latrine serving a household of 5; and \$340 could pay for a handwashing block for 100 children in a community. More information on the Winnovator program is available at <https://tinyurl.com/y87vjcjj>



Thank you to everyone who attended the **3rd Biggest Ever Laurie Gleeson Dinner** at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) on Thursday 5 July 2018 in support of the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia. Around 300 water industry representatives attended and had a great night. More than \$60,000 was raised from the night and takes the tally donated to prostate cancer research from the 3 events to over \$160,000. Well done all!

We have been made aware recently that a number of WIOA Corporate Members have been contacted by email and offered an attendees list for Multi-Channel Marketing. We wish to assure all our Members and industry stakeholders that in accordance with our Privacy Policy, we do not release any personal details. Any organisation purporting to have contact information and direct phone numbers will definitely not have received this information from WIOA.

WIOA AWARDS 2018

The Victorian Branch of AWA is calling for nominations for the **Wal Whiteside Memorial, Victorian Operator of the Year Award**. The Institute of Water Administration (Victoria) is also calling for nominations for the **Young Victorian Operator of the Year Award**.

We encourage all organisations to nominate their operational staff for consideration for these prestigious awards. Nominations for both awards close on 3 August 2018. More information and an application form can be downloaded from the WIOA website at wioa.org.au/awards/state-awards/victorian-awards/

EVENTS

An **Operations Interest Day** including the **2018 Ixom Best Tasting Tap Water in Tasmania** competition will be conducted at the Mowbray Race Club in Launceston on Wednesday 25 July for Tasmanian members and guests. The program includes the Keynote Address by Professor Nigel Forteith on Nature in Water, an interview with the 2017 Tasmanian Young Operator of the Year outlining the highlights of his recent trip to New Zealand, along with a number of other interesting presentations. For catering purposes, registrations close at COB on Friday 20 July 2018 and should be emailed to the Ann in the WIOA office – Ann@wioa.org.au



Last Chance to Register for the first ever WIOA **South Australian Operations Conference and Expo** which is being held on 1 & 2 August 2018 in Murray Bridge. The conference runs from lunch time Wednesday until lunch time Thursday including a dinner on the Wednesday evening. The technical program has been finalised and will include a Keynote Address each day, as well as 10 operationally focussed papers. The event will also include the **Ixom 2018 Best Tasting Tap Water in South Australia** competition on the Wednesday. We invite all our South Australian members and supporters to come along as either a delegate or visitor and bring along a sample of your water for the Taste Test. The full program and further information is available at: wioaconferences.org.au/sa/



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 at wioa.org.au/nevent/wioatalkstelcos/



All Victorian Water Corporations are invited to enter the **Ixom 2018 Victorian Best Tasting Tap Water** competition to be held as part of the Victorian conference in Bendigo in September. We know many organisations will be keen to knock off the reigning title holder Goulburn Valley Water, allowing them to boast that they have the best tasting water in Victoria. Check out the WIOA website for more information.

The program and delegate registration form for the **81st Victorian Water Industry Operations Conference and Exhibition** is available from the WIOA website wioaconferences.org.au/vic/vic-delegates/ The conference Keynote presentations will be provided by Mr Klausch Schmidt from Australian Industry Standards and Mr John Pfalhert, CEO of Water New Zealand. There is a high quality technical program which includes 6 Operator papers eligible for the Actizyme Awards and 8 poster papers. The program also includes the annual workshop arranged in conjunction with the Water Unit staff from the Victorian Department of Health & Human Services.



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) that will be conducted as part of the Victorian conference in Bendigo. This is a great way for operators in the distribution 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 into the perpetual trophy. Check out the WIOA website for more information - wioaconferences.org.au/vic/vic-main-tapping/



The WIOA Victorian Advisory Committee is providing everyone a heads up that the **20th 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.

TRAINING COURSES

The **6th Australian and New Zealand Cyanobacteria Workshop** will be held at the UNSW Kensington Campus, Sydney, on 25-26 September 2018. The workshop will explore the latest findings in cyanobacterial research and their potential applications to ensure the ongoing health of ecosystems and communities. Early bird registration and the closing date for abstracts has been extended to 31 July 2018. To register, submit an abstract, or for more information visit <http://www.algae.unsw.edu.au/cyanobacteria-workshop-2018>



The Cooperative Research Centre for Contamination Assessment and Remediation of the Environment (**CRC Care**) is staging a number of training courses and seminars in the coming months. Of potential interest to members is a Workshop in Sydney on 27 August covering the technical and regulatory issues resulting from the use of PFAS. More information on all the courses is available at <https://tinyurl.com/y85nxk7k>



The National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training (NCGRT) is staging their **Australian Groundwater School 2018** in Melbourne from 20-23 August and Brisbane from 5-8 November. The schools provide participants with a broad but rigorous introduction to groundwater. Introducing hydrogeology, assessment methods, modelling, managed aquifer recharge, management, governance and more, it covers the fundamentals of groundwater. More details at www.groundwater.com.au/events/1



The **International Water Centre** (IWC) has two online training courses coming up: Water Reforms and Governance (commencing 13 August) and WASH and Behaviour Change (commencing 24 September). Further information is available on their website: www.watercentre.org or contact the IWC on 07 3028 7600.

PEOPLE & CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to WIOA President **Adrian Rijnbeek** who has recently been appointed to the role of Victorian Sales Manager for Xylem. Adrian can be contacted on 0419 698 367 or email Adrian.rijnbeek@xyleminc.com

Aerofloat has launched a wastewater treatment chemical supply and plant servicing business. The service provides a simple and cost-effective way for businesses to maintain and optimise their wastewater treatment systems, and is available to Aerofloat customers as well as non-customers. Contact details are available at www.aerofloat.com.au/contact/ or to download the chemicals brochure, visit <https://tinyurl.com/yb32wzmr>



A new regional office has been opened by **Pensar** at Coolum on the Sunshine Coast with Michael Bissett appointed to the new role of Regional General Manager. Michael will oversee the delivery of Pensar's full suite of capabilities within the Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay regions and beyond, signaling an increased focus for the company on regional infrastructure projects. For more information visit the Pensar website at www.pensar.com.au or phone 07 3846 5922.



To simplify your dosing skid layout and design, **H2O RX** now has Pulsation Dampeners available as 3D CAD models. They are available in the .step format that is compatible with most common 3D modelling software choices. More information from Maria Silk Young 0409 784 236, maria@h2orx.com.au or **Scott Young** (0421) 795-353 on scott@h2orx.com.au



After 17 Rounds of the season, the top 3 in the **WIOA AFL Footy Tipping Competition** are: Lee Marshall 105, Sharyn Johnson is second on 101, and Manfred Glombowski third on 100.



After 19 Rounds of the **WIOA NRL Tipping Competition** Dion Sleep is in the lead by 1 on 83, Barry Mealia & Sue Moore are equal second on 82, and following closely behind that is Shane Wohlsen on 81.

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

Current positions vacant include: a Trainee Water & Wastewater Operator, Senior Water Treatment Plant Operator, Assets and Compliance Officer, Assets Engineer and a host of other positions. To utilise this FREE job placement service, email your job ad to sherryn@wioa.org.au

COMING EVENTS

- 25 July - **Water Interest Day & Ixom 2018 Best Tasting Tap Water in Tasmania competition**, Launceston
- 1 & 2 August - **1st WIOA South Australian Operations Conference & Expo**, Murray Bridge
- 1 August - **Ixom 2018 Best Tasting Tap Water in South Australia competition**, Murray Bridge
- 14 August - **NSW Water Interest Day**, Wagga Wagga
- 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
- 17 October - **Grand Final - Ixom 2018 Best Tasting Tap Water in Australia competition**, Toowoomba
- 21 October - **Victorian Charity Golf Day**, Garfield Golf Club
- 24 October - **Water Industry Safety Event (WISE)**, Coburg



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) or call the office on 03 5821 6744.