



Published by the Water Industry Operators Association of Australia (WIOA)

# WIOA WORDS

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*Merry Christmas*



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The Board, Committee and Staff of WIOA wish all members and their families a safe and happy festive season and we look forward to a prosperous 2019. The WIOA office will be closed from COB 21 December 2018 and will reopen on 7 January 2019. **Merry christmas and a safe and happy new year.**

## AROUND THE TRAPS

WIOA welcomes our newest staff member in **Habiba Yousofi**. Habiba has joined us in the role of Trainee Administration Officer and will undertake Certificate III in Business Administration over the next 2 years. We are sure that all our Members and water industry colleagues will make her feel most welcome.



WIOA was saddened to learn of the recent passing of a good friend in **Ross Young**. Ross was a great supporter of WIOA particularly in his role as Executive Director of WSAA from 2003-2011. It is fitting that WSAA has created a Scholarship in his name for young leaders in the water industry.



Following the release of the **Safe Water, Water Mains Repair** video noted in the November edition of Words, WIOA has received feedback that some organisations consider the use of a concrete saw to cut pipes as extremely dangerous. We are interested in feedback from other organisations across Australia about how their staff approach the task of cutting pipe and what equipment is used. Please send any comments to [info@wioa.org.au](mailto:info@wioa.org.au) and depending on responses, we'll report results in a future publication.



Members are reminded that **Membership fees** for 2019 are due on 1 January and a renewal invoice has recently been sent to all members. If any of your personal details are not correct, please let Sherryn know by email ([sherryn@wioa.org.au](mailto:sherryn@wioa.org.au)) and she will update the database.



**State Advisory Committees** perform an important role on behalf of the association ensuring that WIOA's activities meet the expectations of our members. Following an Expression of Interest process, the Members of the Advisory Committee in each State have now been confirmed and the first meeting held. WIOA congratulates Lindsay Walsh - NSW, Colin Haynes - Queensland, Robran Cock - South Australia, Mark Abela - Tasmania, and Anthony Evans - Victoria who have been elected Chair of the respective State based Advisory Committees for 2019. Each of these members are now automatically included in the WIOA General Committee at the 2019 AGM. If you would like to become more involved with the association, have ideas that you want to share, or would like to assist in the staging of any events, please contact the Chair in your State or the WIOA office.

The itinerary for the **2019 Operators Tour of New Zealand** from 3 to 11 May 2019, including attendance at the WIOG Operations conference in Christchurch, is currently being finalised. Based on past tours, the approximate cost will be \$1,600 AUD per person plus airfares. To allow us to book accommodation, the bus and confirm prices, registrations will close on 1 February 2019. Anyone intending to participate should register your interest with the WIOA office ASAP.

The Water Industry Operations Group NZ (**WIOG**) conference will be held in Christchurch, New Zealand from 8-10 May 2019. Further information on the conference is available at [www.wiog.org.nz](http://www.wiog.org.nz)



Due to dwindling Member support, the Committee has decided not to continue to stage the Weekend Seminar from 2019. The WIOA Inc AGM will now be held on-line on Thursday 14 March 2019. We'd like to encourage as many Members as possible to log in and be part of the meeting. More details to follow.



Members are invited to consider contributing to the success of WIOA by **nominating for the General Committee**. Along with the notice of the AGM and annual report, the Committee nomination form will be sent to all Members in January 2019.



WIOA is pleased to confirm the continued support of **Calix, Hach, Ixom and Xylem** as Prime Sponsors of all three Conferences and Exhibitions in 2019. **Alliance Automation and Filtec** have also come on board as a Prime Sponsor of individual events. The opportunity to be a Prime Sponsor of the conference bags supplied to delegates is still available, along with several other sponsorship opportunities. Contact Ann or Craig in the office if you are interested and would like more information.



The **Australian Industry and Skills Committee** (AISC) is seeking input on the water industry to help with their ongoing work supporting the National Water Training Package.

- **Survey** a 5-10 minute survey has been designed to gather feedback about issues affecting the industry that will be used to develop the industry outlook and identify any new or emerging skills. Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/skillsforecast>
- **Submissions** are sought to assist the Water Industry Reference Committee formulate their advice to AISC on industry priorities, skill shortages that will inform future discussions about updates to the Water Training Package. Submission: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/callforsubmissions>

## AWARDS

Nominations are open for the **2019 NSW Operator of the Year**. Sponsored by NSW Water Directorate, this prestigious award recognises commitment to the job, innovation, initiative and achievements. If you know someone within NSW who fits the bill, then nominate them today. The winner receives an all-expenses paid opportunity to join the tour to New Zealand in May 2019 valued at over \$2,500. A nomination form is available at: <https://www.waterdirectorate.asn.au/Awards/WIOANSWOperatoroftheYearAward.aspx>



At the Wastewater Interest Day held at the Ti Tree STP in Launceston, **Rodney Innes** was announced the winner of the 2018 **Tasmanian Operator of the Year** and **Bradley Housego** was announced as the 2018 **Tasmanian Young Operator of the Year**. Sponsored by TasWater, these awards recognise commitment to the job, innovation, initiative and achievement. By winning these awards Rodney and Bradley will also join the WIOA delegation to New Zealand in May 2019.

Congratulations to **Brad Alcorn** from SA Water for being announced the **2018 South Australian Operator of the Year** at the recent Interest Day held in Mount Barker. Brad will join the WIOA contingent on the tour to New Zealand in May 2019 courtesy of award sponsor TAFE SA.



A reminder to members that applications are being accepted for the **Problem Accepted, Solution Supplied (PASS) Award** with a closing date of 1 March 2019. The winner receives the opportunity to participate in the WIOA tour to New Zealand in May to the value of \$2,500, courtesy of sponsor Aqualift Project Delivery. Application forms are available at <https://wioa.org.au/awards/national-awards/pass-award/>

WIOA has the unique opportunity for an organisation to support the development and recognition of operational employees through **Conference Awards in 2019**. Opportunities include the Best Paper by an Operator Awards, Best Paper Overall Award and Best Poster Awards. The awards provide recognition to the presenters for sharing their stories with the wider water industry. Award winners receive professional development opportunities to attend an interstate WIOA conference to deliver the presentations again to a wider audience. Contact Craig at the office for more information.

## EVENTS

The **Call for Papers** for the **WIOA 2019 Queensland Conference and Exhibition** to be held in Bundaberg on 5 & 6 June 2019 is now open. The closing date for abstracts for both platform and poster papers is 20 February 2019, so please get busy working on your topics.



The technical program for the **13<sup>th</sup> WIOA NSW Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition** has been finalised and includes an excellent suite of papers from the NSW industry covering a broad range of topics. Orange City Council is hosting the event in Orange on 3 & 4 April 2019, and we are now accepting **Delegate Registrations for this important event for the water industry in NSW/ACT**. Make sure you register for the conference and book your accommodation early.



With the support of the WIOA Advisory Committees, WIOA has conducted many successful **Water and Wastewater Interest Days** throughout 2018. These days have been well supported and are a great networking opportunity for members to share their experiences with others in similar roles. We are now seeking hosts for events in 2019. If you have a facility that you would like to showcase to the WIOA members, please contact the WIOA office, or the Advisory Committee Chair in your State.



**Water Research Australia** (WaterRA) will deliver its annual research and innovation conference - **Next Water** at the MCG in Melbourne on 12 & 13 February 2019. Next Water will be an opportunity to inspire the water industry, hear from leading thinkers and stimulate research ideas and solutions that will better equip utilities to get ahead of the curve. It will showcase research which has and will continue to transform the industry and use this as a platform to determine what innovation needs to occur to address future challenges. More information is available at <http://www.waterra.com.au/nextwater/>

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

The positions vacant section of our website currently has positions for a range of operational roles including a **Water/Waste Water Operator in Charge, Senior Engineer, Civil Operator Water Services and a Manager Finance**. To utilise this FREE job advertisement service, please email your advert to [sherryn@wioa.org.au](mailto:sherryn@wioa.org.au)

## TRAINING COURSES

**AMS Training & Solutions** is offering David H Paul **RO Specialist** hands-on training during March. Dr Graeme Pearce (Membrane Consultancy Associates, UK) will be presenting his **UF/MF Membrane Short Course** in WA during March. This is exceptional training for those who want to excel in their field. Contact AMS Training & Solutions to discuss hosting an event during 2019 and to secure your place or to be waitlisted for an event not yet scheduled visit [www.amsts.com.au](http://www.amsts.com.au)



The **International Centre of Excellence in Water Resource Management (ICE WaRM)** is offering a new online course in **understanding uncertainty when developing a groundwater model**. Working through a real case study, the key questions that unpack how the proposal is going to affect groundwater, how to make a groundwater model that accounts for uncertainty and how to gain insight from the model results to understand the effect of uncertainty on the project objectives. This live and interactive online course will cover two sessions over three hours, providing a unique opportunity to ask questions to expert groundwater modellers. The first session will be on Tuesday 19 February 2019. For more information or to register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/y9cgfej6>

## PEOPLE & CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

Kristian Stamenkovic has joined **KOR Equipment Solutions** as its new Business Development Manager for NSW/ACT. Kristian has a background in sales and business development, with a focus in the trucking and demolition industries. He brings skills and experience in business to business sales and customer service and support, as well as an understanding of the local market and what's needed to succeed in the NSW market. For more information visit the KOR website: <http://www.kor.com.au>

**2019 EVENTS** – Check out the events calendar online, visit [www.wioa.org.au/seminars/calendar.htm](http://www.wioa.org.au/seminars/calendar.htm)

- 15 February **NSW Operator of the Year Award** nominations close
- 20 February **Qld Conference Call for Papers and Posters** close
- 1 March **PASS Award** applications close
- 7 March **qldwater Skills Forum and Certification Presentation**, Brisbane
- 8 March **WIOA - QLD Charity Bowls Day**, Yandina
- 14 March **WIOA Inc AGM**, Online
- 3 & 4 April **13<sup>th</sup> WIOA NSW Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Orange
- 3-11 May **Operators Tour of New Zealand & WIOG Conference**, Christchurch, New Zealand
- 5 & 6 June **44<sup>th</sup> WIOA QLD Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Bundaberg
- 7 & 8 August **2<sup>nd</sup> WIOA South Australian Water Industry Operations Conference & Expo**, TBC
- 4 & 5 Sept **82<sup>nd</sup> WIOA VIC Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Bendigo



Become a friend of WIOA on **FACEBOOK** and follow us on **TWITTER** or **Linked In**

**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.