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WIOA WORDS

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AROUND THE TRAPS

WIOA is excited to advise Members that two new staff members have recently joined our organisation.

Abbey Kaine started in late March as a Trainee Administration Officer and got to experience the hustle and bustle of the NSW Conference in just her second week in the job. **Dale Osborne** commenced in late April as our Projects Officer and brings a wealth of experience from a number of years in the water industry in both the urban and irrigation sectors. We are sure that you will assist us to make them both feel welcome.



The **2019 WIOA NSW Water Industry Operations Conference and Exhibition** held in **Orange** in early April attracted just over 630 participants. Our thanks are extended to our event sponsors, all the attendees and in particular, our army of helpers who did a brilliant job assisting us to run the event. Our congratulations are extended to the various award winners:

- NSW Water Directorate sponsored **NSW Operator of the Year Award - Danny Roberts**, Port Macquarie Hastings Council
- **Best paper overall - Alex McCaffrey**, Port Macquarie Hastings Council
- **Best Paper by an Operator - Shawn Charlton**, Federation Council
- Ron Bergmeier Award, sponsored by Utility magazine for **Best Exhibition Site - SAFEgroup Automation**
- Ixom 2019 **Best Tasting Tap Water in NSW/ACT - Shoalhaven Water**
- NSW **Main Tapping Competition** won by **The Drips**, Orange City Council
- Aqualift Project Delivery sponsored **PASS Award 2019 - Toby Spark**, Gippsland Water

For more information on the winners, or the conference itself visit - wioaconferences.org.au/nsw-2019/



The **Backflow Prevention Association of Australia (BPAA)** has recently released a video resource showing what happens when an 80mm Reduced Pressure Zone (RPZ) is activated. This resource has been put together by BPAA as an information tool with support by TAFE Queensland Skills Tech, The Master Plumbers' Association of Queensland, Safe-T-Cover and ValvCheq Backflow. The video is available for download from www.youtube.com/watch?v=XOz4oF6HPal



Australian Industry Standards (AIS) has released an e-book summarising the key messages from their Industry Skills Forums held around the country during 2018. Feedback provided during the panel discussions, industry breakout sessions and Leaders' Dinners has been captured in **Future Skilling Our Workforce – a national conversation**. The key messages reflect many of the themes and issues raised in the Federal Government's VET Sector Review and are consistent with the challenges and opportunities raised at a number of water industry forums. The e-book is available at www.futureskilling.org.au/ebook

A commercial version of the **Aqua Card** online course is now available from **qldwater**. This version allows non-**qldwater** member organisations and contractors to access the course for \$50 including GST. Their new site www.watertraining.com.au hosts the course. To ensure the continued supply of safe drinking water for communities, a number of organisations are now mandating the course as part of their contractor induction process before allowing them to work on their assets. Contact Carlie Sargent on 07 3632 6853 if you would like to explore options for implementation within your organisation.



Australian Industry Standards (AIS) is managing the **review and update of Certificate II and Certificate III** in the national water training package (NWP). Under the guidance of a Technical Advisory Committee comprising numerous experienced water industry people, the revised packaging rules and units of competence have been released for industry discussion. There will be a further round of public consultation, however, the documents are available on the AIS website at <https://tinyurl.com/y5kva4xb>. Please feel free to submit your feedback directly to AIS by Monday 6 May via the online feedback form at <https://tinyurl.com/y4ylqu8n> or contact info@wioa.org.au with your comments.



The next **WIOA Talks** webinar will focus on People and Culture and will be held on Friday 17 May covering **Women in Water**. Three speakers will share their experiences and insights into what makes an inclusive team and workplace, making the most of professional development opportunities, leadership and industry engagement initiatives. The program log in detail is at wioa.org.au/nevent/women-in-water/

WIOA AWARDS 2019

The **Kwatye Award** has been rebranded from 2019 with the support of a new sponsor in **TRILITY**. The Award will now recognise an initiative involving any cultural or diversity and inclusion-based activities within a project or community in which our members serve. The synergies with our indigenous forebearers is obvious, however, the Award aims to be inclusive of a wide range of contributions to supporting diversity and fostering inclusion in the workplace or community. The award focuses on those who have gone above and beyond to further inclusion, connection and belonging for co-workers, members of the community and people from disadvantaged and marginalised groups. The winner each year will be provided a fully funded opportunity to participate in a cultural exchange trip to China. Applications close on 20 July 2019 with more information available at wioa.org.au/awards/national-awards/kwatye-award/



Nominations for the **2019 Queensland Operator of the Year** are being accepted. This prestigious award sponsored by AWA Queensland Branch recognises commitment to the job, safety, innovation, initiative and achievements. The prize for the winner includes a plaque and an all expenses paid opportunity to join the WIOA operator tour to New Zealand in 2020. Applications close on Friday 3 May 2019 and a form is available from wioa.org.au/awards/state-awards/queensland-awards/

Similarly, the Queensland Water Directorate (**qldwater**) is accepting nominations for the **Young Operator of the Year** as well as for the **Operator of the Year – (Civil/All-rounder)**. The Young Operator of the Year will also receive a fully funded opportunity to join the WIOA New Zealand tour in 2020.

The Civil/All Rounder will receive “up to” \$1500 towards professional development. This could be used for opportunities such as attendance at conferences, **qldwater** training or for funding expenses for exchange opportunities at neighbouring or other councils. If you know someone within the Queensland water industry that fits the bill for either of these awards, make sure you nominate them today. Also closing on Friday 3 May, nomination forms are available from wioa.org.au/awards/state-awards/queensland-awards/

EVENTS

The papers program for the **WIOA Queensland Operations Conference and Exhibition** to be held in Bundaberg on 5 & 6 June has been set and registrations are now being accepted. There is an excellent mix of paper and poster topics from a wide cross section of authors and organisations. A registration form containing the program is now available from the WIOA website at wioaconferences.org.au/qld-2019/



The second **WIOA South Australian Conference and Expo** will be held at the new Murray Bridge Race Club facility on 7 & 8 August 2019. Using a smaller and slightly different format to WIOA's East Coast conferences, the technical program and expo is aimed directly at staff in operational roles in the South Australian water industry. Opportunities to participate as a sponsor or exhibitor will be provided exclusively to WIOA Corporate Members in early May.

The Call for Papers for the SA Conference closes on 30 April. More information on the event, including the call for papers is available at wioaconferences.org.au/sa-2019/



The **Call for Papers** for the **82nd Annual WIOA Victorian Conference** is open with abstracts being sought for both platform and poster presentations. The Call for Papers closes on 10 May. More information and an abstract submission template can be obtained from wioaconferences.org.au/call-for-papers/

TRAINING COURSES

AMS Training & Solutions offers a unique mix of classroom and hands-on training and they are currently seeking expressions of interest from potential sites to host these events. Contact AMS to begin a discussion about training needs and what you can offer as a host site. For information on upcoming events visit – www.amsts.com.au. Email them to be waitlisted for future events near you.



The National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training (NCGRT) is running their **Australian Groundwater Modelling School** in Brisbane from 20-24 May 2019. This is a highly interactive, intensive hands-on workshop that will introduce attendees to groundwater modelling. More information on the content, the costs and the registration for the course is available at <https://tinyurl.com/y5xvjh8y>



The **International Water Centre** is offering their **Introduction to Integrated Water Management**, four week online training course commencing 3 June 2019. This course will introduce participants to the theory and principles of Integrated Water Management (IWM). It will investigate conceptual frameworks used to critically analyse water management problems and drive sustainable solutions. More information is available at watercentre.org/training/tab/online-training/



pH Water Consultants once again brings the course **Monitoring and Optimisation of Activated Sludge and Nutrient Reduction** presented by A/Prof Helen Stratton and Peter Griffiths. The course will be held 24-29 June 2019 on the Sunshine Coast. Helen and Peter have been delivering activated sludge training courses for the past 20 years. The course presents the latest research findings and developments in optimisation and trouble-shooting activated sludge processes. Numbers are limited to 25 delegates and the course is likely to book out rapidly. Delegates who attend and successfully complete the assessment items for the course can receive RPL towards their Certificate III or IV. Registration is now open at www.pHwater.com.au

The International Centre of Excellence in Water Resources Management (**ICE WaRM**) has launched their **Groundwater Schedule** for 2019. There is a range of webinars, course and events all addressing issues related to groundwater. For more information on the Schedule, visit <https://tinyurl.com/y2ufkedj>

POSITIONS VACANT - For information on these positions visit wioa.org.au/positions-vacant/

Current positions vacant include a Process Controller, a Manager Asset / Project Delivery, a Wastewater Operator and a Water and Sewer Network Operator positions. To utilise this FREE job advertisement placement service, please email your advert to sherryn@wioa.org.au

PEOPLE & CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to **Brendan Guiney** for recently being appointed as Executive Officer of the NSW Water Directorate, taking over from Gary Mitchell who is retiring after 20 years of dedicated service in the role.



Aquatec Maxcon Group has partnered with Fluence Corporation to distribute Aspiral™ Membrane Aerated Biofilm Reactor (MABR) in Australia. Membrane Aerated Biofilm Reactors (MABRs) provide highly efficient biological nutrient reduction via an energy-efficient passive aeration process that diffuses oxygen through membrane modules and offers the industry a great alternative to conventional treatment processes. MABR can be incorporated into new plants or utilised to upgrade capacity or effluent quality of existing assets. Obtain more information from Zak Floyde Smith - Zak.floydesmith@aquatecmaxcon.com.au



Kathy Northcott has joined WaterRA as their Victorian-based Research Manager. Kathy's role will involve contributing to development and delivery of products and services that enable collaborative research and build capability among WaterRA's members, as well as supporting application of research, including knowledge translation and adoption. Contact Kathy on 0438 422 432 or kathy.northcott@waterra.com.au.



Air-Met has announced the appointment of Rachit Sahay as Territory Manager for Victoria & Tasmania. Rachit contact details are 1800 000 744, mobile 0419 009 016 or by email at Rachit.Sahay@airmet.com.au

COMING EVENTS

- 30 April **Call for Papers** for WIOA South Australian Conference closes
- 2-10 May **WIOA Tour to New Zealand** and **WIOG conference**, Christchurch, New Zealand
- 7-9 May **Ozwater Conference and Exhibition**, Melbourne
- 10 May **Call for Papers and Posters** for WIOA Victorian Conference closes
- 17 May **WIOA Talks Webinar** - Women in Water, Online
- 23 May **Wastewater Interest Day**, Kingborough, Tasmania
- 5 & 6 June **44th WIOA QLD Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Bundaberg
- 20 July **Kwatye Applications** close
- 24 July **Water Interest Day & Ixom Best Tasting Tap Water in Tasmania**, Launceston
- 26 July **NSW Interest Day & Charity Bowls**, Port Macquarie
- 7 & 8 August **2nd WIOA SA Water Industry Operations Conference & Expo**, Murray Bridge
- 4 & 5 Sept **82nd WIOA VIC Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Bendigo
- 9 October **Water Industry Safety Event - WISE**, Coburg



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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.