



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

# WIOA WORDS

## SEPTEMBER 2019 Edition

24 New Dookie Road  
Shepparton, Victoria  
PO Box 6012  
Shepparton, Victoria 3632

+61 3 5821 6744



+61 3 5821 6033



info@wioa.org.au



www.wioa.org.au



Snippets, news items or other information can be sent to [info@wioa.org.au](mailto:info@wioa.org.au)

## AROUND THE TRAPS

The **82nd Annual Victorian Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition** held recently in Bendigo attracted over 1,300 attendees. Congratulations to the award winners and a big thank you to our volunteers, exhibitors, delegates and visitors for making the event such a success. A full report on the conference will appear in the November edition of 'Operator'. Photos from the event are now available at <https://wioa.smugmug.com/Events/Vic-82nd-Water-Industry-Operations-Conference/>



The **Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA)** invites attendance at their **Ask The Experts Webcast** on 26 September 2019. Join them online via computer, smart phone and tablet for an engaging panel discussion with leading health professionals. The webcast will run from 7.00–8.00pm (AEST). Hosted by SBS Presenter Ricardo Goncalves, this interactive forum will be guided by the audience and cover key topics such as; what is distress after a prostate cancer diagnosis; what can make distress worse; and support available to men and their partners. Participants must register at [www.pcfa.org.au/asktheexperts](http://www.pcfa.org.au/asktheexperts)



The National Health and Medical Research Council (**NHMRC**) is seeking feedback on draft **Guidance on Short Term Exposure Values**. The health-based guideline value (HBGV) for each chemical that might be present in drinking water is the concentration that, based on present knowledge, does not result in any significant risk to the health of the consumer over a lifetime of consumption and is consistent with water of good quality. In certain circumstances the HBGV of some chemicals in a water supply may be exceeded for a short period of time without any appreciable risks to public health. The draft *Guidance on Short Term Exposure Values*, aims to provide water regulators with advice on how to apply and derive short-term exposure values that can be applied when HBGVs are exceeded, such as during extreme weather events. The consultation is open until Monday 14 October 2019, 4pm (AEST) and submissions to NHMRC are invited through the NHMRC public consultation website at <https://tinyurl.com/y3lcsnew>.



Applications to participate in the **2020 Victorian Network Operator Development Program (NODP)** are currently being sought with applications closing on 20 November. We have received extremely positive feedback from the 2019 NODP participants and we look forward to having more Corporations and employers of network operators represented in 2020. More information and the application forms are available from <https://wioa.org.au/network-operator-development-program/>



Well done to David Cook from SA Water on winning the **WIOA AFL footy tipping competition**. Having tied with Manfred Glombowski from Thermo Fisher on 136, David's winning margins was 36 points less and saw him come home in first place, ahead of Manfred and Andrew Nyholm in third place on 135. In the **WIOA NRL footy tipping competition**, David Binello on 132 was a clear winner over Brett Elsaesser on 127.

WIOA recently provided our support for the **revised Certificate II & III in Water Industry Operations** to be submitted to the Australian Industry Skills Committee for approval. The revised qualifications are now in their final stages of review and it is expected they will be available early in the New Year. The qualifications have been deemed equivalent to current qualifications, meaning the transition period for RTOs to implement the revised qualifications should be relatively short. A review of the **Certificate IV in Water Industry Operations** is due to commence soon and WIOA will provide details as the review progresses.



The third **WIOA Victorian Main Tapping Competition**, sponsored by Reece Civil and Coliban Water was staged at the morning tea breaks of the Victorian Conference. Well done to the eight participating teams and our congratulations are extended to the winning team of **Luke Smith and David Taylor** from Wannon Water. They chose Water Aid as the recipient of the \$1,000 charity donation.



With the recent conclusion of the last of our four WIOA Operations Conferences for 2019, it is timely to thank all our hosts and sponsors of these events. Our appreciation is extended to all our sponsors whose support allows us to keep our events affordable for delegates and other exhibitors. If you would like information on sponsorship opportunities for our 2020 events, please contact Craig or Ann at WIOA.

## WIOA AWARDS 2019

WIOA is calling for nominations for the **2019 South Australian Operator of the Year Award**, sponsored by TAFE SA. Applications close on 31 October 2019. More information and an application form can be downloaded from the WIOA website at: <https://wioa.org.au/awards/state-awards/sa-awards/>



Nominations are also open for the **2019 Tasmanian Operator of the Year** and the **2019 Tasmanian Young Operator of the Year Awards**, sponsored by TasWater. Applications close on 27 September with the winner announced at the WIOA Interest Day at the Scottsdale Depot and Ringarooma WTP on 15 October. More information and an application form can be downloaded from the WIOA website at: <https://wioa.org.au/awards/state-awards/tasmania-awards/>



Congratulations to the team at **Barwon Water** for the sample from Geelong's Wurdee Boluc WTP being judged the winner of the **Ixom 2019 Best Tasting Tap Water in Victoria** competition. Barwon Water was victorious in the grand final over Westernport Water and Wannon Water. Thanks to everyone who provided a sample for tasting as part of the competition.



At the Bendigo Conference, **Lee Marshall** from Central Highlands Water was announced as the winner of the **AWA Wal Whiteside Victorian Operator of the Year** award. The Institute of Water Administration (IWA Victoria) announced **Thomas O'Brien** from North East Water as the **Young Victorian Operator of the Year**. The Water Training Australia sponsored **Network Operator of the Year** was **Benjamin Paul**, also from North East Water. Our congratulations are extended to all these very worthy winners.

## EVENTS

The program and delegate registration form for the **Water Industry Safety Event (WISE)** to be held in Coburg (Melbourne) on 9 October is now available. The event is aimed at all personnel involved in safety in the water industry. There will be safety related presentations from many Victorian Corporations, as well as a panel discussion on a wellbeing, including fatigue management. There is an expo comprising companies that supply products or services related to safety in the water industry. The program and registration form is available from [wioaconferences.org.au/wise2019/](http://wioaconferences.org.au/wise2019/)

The sixth annual **Far North Queensland Operations Interest Day** followed by an optional **TRILITY sponsored Barefoot Bowls** afternoon will be held in Cairns on Friday 11 October 2019. We encourage all WIOA members in the FNQ region to get along to this event. The exciting and very diverse technical program for the day can be accessed at <https://wioa.org.au/nevent/fnq-wid-bowls-2019/> Any Corporate members wishing to sponsor the bowls day should contact George or Craig at the WIOA office ASAP.



The **Best Tasting Tap Water in Australia** competition will be held at the Twin Peaks Festival in Dunkeld, Victoria on 19 October 2019. The festival attendees will be invited to taste a sample from each of the State based Taste Test winners to help determine which one is Australia's Best. Good luck to all of the finalists: Shoalhaven Water (ACT/NSW); Mackay Regional Council (Queensland); TRILITY, Swan Reach (South Australia); Launceston, Mount Leslie (Tasmania); and Barwon Water, Geelong (Victoria). The winner will go on to represent Australia at the International Taste Test in the USA in February 2020.



After 20 consecutive years, the Victorian Charity Golf Day will change to a **Charity Bowls Day** from 2019 which will include the opportunity for Corporate members to win the coveted Tradies Cup. The day will be held on Friday 25 October 2019, at the Sunbury Bowling Club. From experiences in other States, a charity bowls day is a great way to network with others in the water industry and have some fun. The day will include a morning of technical presentations prior to the bowls commencing in the afternoon. We seek strong member support as participants and sponsors to help make the day a success. If you would like information on how to get involved or to support this event, please contact Craig at WIOA.



The next **WIOA Talks webinar**, covering **Safety Issues** will be held online at 11:30am (AEST) on Tuesday 29 October 2019. The program will be confirmed after the WISE day in Coburg. More information to follow.



The majority of WIOA's **Advisory Committees** have Interest Days coming up in their respective States in the next couple of months. We encourage all WIOA members to support your State based committees and get along to these events. The dates are included in the calendar below and more information will be placed on the WIOA website in due course.



The **Membrane Operators Association (MOA)** of Australia and New Zealand is holding its third national membranes conference at the Barwon Water Geelong Office, Victoria from 15-17 October 2019. The conference includes multiple site visits, networking drinks and conference dinner with a corporate rate secured at Novotel Geelong. For more information on MOA and the conference program, visit their website at <http://www.moa.org.au/>

## **TRAINING COURSES**

The **International Centre of Excellence in Water Resource Management (ICE WaRM)** offers a range of free webinars through their Australian Water School along with a number of other short courses in September and October. For more information visit <https://www.icewarm.com.au/australian-water-school/webinars/> The ARC-EESep Hub and Water Research Australia (WaterRA) are jointly hosting a workshop; **Membranes in the water industry – operational challenges and research solutions**. Open to membrane plant operators, and membranes operations practitioners from industry and academia, this event will feature an expert line-up of international and Australian speakers. The guest speakers will compare and contrast current operational issues against next generation membrane technologies. The event will include a workshop for participants to discuss industry needs for research into membrane operations. For more information and to register visit: <https://www.arc-eesep.org/membrane-workshop>

The **National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training (NCGRT)** has a number of training related opportunities coming up including the Australian Groundwater School to be held in Adelaide from 11-15 November 2019 and an Introduction to Pump Test Analysis in Melbourne on 21-22 October. More on these and other NCGRT courses is available from [www.groundwater.com.au/events/training](http://www.groundwater.com.au/events/training)



AMS Training & Solutions is proud to announce the return of **Dr Graeme Pearce** to present his **UF/MF Membrane Short Course** (Brisbane) and a one-day **MBR Intensive** (Brisbane and Perth). Visit their website - [www.amsts.com.au](http://www.amsts.com.au) - for more details and to see the current offerings of **David H Paul RO Specialist** hands-on training in WA and NSW, during October. Email them to be waitlisted for future events near you or to begin a discussion about hosting an event in 2020.

## PEOPLE & CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

Our best wishes are extended to **CST Wastewater Solutions** who have received international recognition by being announced as finalist nominations in both the energy and sustainability categories of the prestigious 2019 Institute of Chemical Engineers (IChemE) Global Awards for their major waste-to-energy project with NH Foods in Queensland. The winners will be announced on 7 November at a formal awards night in Hull, UK.

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

**Current positions vacant** include 17 positions across Australia including a number of jobs as Water and Wastewater Treatment Operators and Team Leaders, Treatment Technician and Engineering roles. To utilise this FREE job placement service, email your job ad to [sherryn@wioa.org.au](mailto:sherryn@wioa.org.au)

## COMING EVENTS

- 27 September - **Tasmanian Operator of the Year and Young Operator of the Year**, Nominations close
- 9 October - **Water Industry Safety Event (WISE)**, Coburg, Victoria
- 11 October - **FNQ Operations Interest Day and optional Barefoot Bowls**, Cairns
- 15 October - **Operations Interest Day**, Scottsdale Depot and Ringarooma WTP, Tasmania
- 19 October - **Ixom 2019 Best Tasting Tap Water in Australia competition**, Dunkeld, Victoria
- 25 October - **Operations Interest & Charity Bowls Day**, Sunbury Bowling Club, Victoria
- 29 October - **WIOA Talks Webinar - Safety**, Online
- 31 October - **South Australian Operator of the Year**, Nominations close
- 7 November - **Operations Interest Day**, Aquatec Maxcon facility, Ipswich, Queensland
- 13 November - **Networks Interest Day**, Western Water, Gisborne, Victoria
- 20 November – **Victorian Network Operator Development Program**, Applications close
- 21 November - **Operations Interest Day**, SA Water, Adelaide, South Australia



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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](mailto:ann@wioa.org.au)) or call the office on 03 5821 6744.