



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

# WIOA WORDS

## NOVEMBER 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 November 2019 edition of WIOA's Technical Journal **WaterWorks** will be distributed to members shortly. We are now on the lookout for technical articles for the May 2020 edition. We are always happy to help operators develop and write articles. If you have an interesting topic that you'd be prepared to share with the industry, contact George in the office.



The **Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA)** invites everyone to attend their **Ask The Experts Webcast** on Wednesday 27 November 2019 from 7.00-8.00pm (AEDT). The interactive forum with leading health professionals will be guided by the audience and will cover a variety of topics. To register and for more information visit [www.pcfa.org.au/asktheexperts](http://www.pcfa.org.au/asktheexperts) For those that can't attend live, there will be a podcast post recording available later. The recording of the September **Ask The Experts Webcast** is now available at <https://tinyurl.com/rvnmwmp>



WIOA established a small group of Members in 2018 to help us to identify opportunities to embrace and celebrate **Diversity and Inclusion** within our organisation. We are now looking to expand this group so that we can continue on the Diversity and Inclusion journey. Members who can help advise and assist WIOA with Diversity and Inclusion are invited to nominate for the group by 13 December 2019 at <http://wioa.org.au/di/> We look forward to working with the expanded Diversity & Inclusion Group to deliver even more for our Members across the country.



With much of Australia experiencing severe drought, the option of purifying recycled water to replenish water supplies has been covered in numerous media stories and announcements, as part of discussions about drought and towns running out of water. The NSW Water Directorate has been working closely with the Water Services Association of Australia (WSAA) on an initiative called **All Options on the Table**. In light of the ongoing community concern about recycled water, WSAA have made a summary version of the document available on their website at <https://tinyurl.com/wxzctde> The website also has links with a range of community education materials, designed to save Water Utilities from having to start from scratch.



Water Research Australia (WaterRA) has recently released the final report from the project to demonstrate the value of developing, building and continually growing a **competent operator workforce**. The research confirmed there is a need for a well-structured and dedicated approach to frontline operator training and competency. It also illustrates that organisations not providing frontline operators with a diverse set of competencies may be more vulnerable to service delivery failures. The full report and recommendations is available at <https://www.waterra.com.au/research/value-of-operator-competency/>

On behalf of the Water Industry Reference Committee, Australian Industry Standards confirms their annual skills survey is now open. The survey is used to capture a broad range of Industry intelligence with the results used to assist develop a **Water Industry Outlook**, identify any new or emerging skills, and inform development of the Water Training Package. The survey should take 5-10 minutes. All answers can be completely anonymous. Undertake the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/IRCSkillsSurvey2020>

## 2019 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Individual and Corporate Members are reminded that **annual fees for 2020** are due on 1 January 2020 and renewal invoices are currently being sent to all members. For those who have previously paid for multiple years, we will also send a confirmation that you are currently financial. Membership fees for 2020 are \$35 for Individual members and \$290 for Corporate members (inc GST).



A reminder to all our **Utility Corporate Members** - your employee lists have been sent out and need updating (if you have not already done so). For those who are unfamiliar with this membership category, it is a combination of both Individual and Corporate Membership. Utilities that employ operators can sign up and pay for each nominated staff member at the Individual Member rate. The Utility receives free corporate membership and a number of other benefits including discounted registration fees for WIOA events. There are already 74 organisations that have taken up this opportunity. More information on Utility Corporate Membership is available at: <https://wioa.org.au/membership/>



WIOA Members can choose to receive all correspondence by email or hard copy. Sending information electronically helps reduce our environmental footprint. If you currently receive WIOA information in the mail, and wish to receive it by email only, contact [sherryn@wioa.org.au](mailto:sherryn@wioa.org.au) and we will update our records.

## EVENTS

At the time of printing, only 2 exhibition sites remain unsold for the **2020 NSW WIOA Conference & Exhibition in Tamworth**. Corporate Members wishing to exhibit should get in quickly before they are all allocated. A full list of all the exhibiting companies will be placed on the WIOA conference website shortly.

The official Call for Papers for NSW has closed, but we are still looking for **more Operator Platform and Poster Papers**. If you are an operator and have an idea for a platform paper or poster, contact us in the office ASAP and we'll send you all the details. The delegate registration forms will be available soon.



WIOA extends an invitation to all water industry operators to join us for a **NSW Water Interest Day - Does Bias Road Block Your Operations?** To be held on 29 November 2019 at Hunter H2o Newcastle, the day will be about Diversity and Inclusion with great presenters including Carmel Krogh the AWA President, Lisa Warren from Hunter Water, Susan Judd from HR Culture and a speaker panel. The cost is \$30 and the event is limited to the first 40 people who register <https://wioa.org.au/nevent/nswwid-bias/>



WIOA State based Advisory Committees have commenced planning their events program for 2020. Several **Interest Days** early in 2020 have been identified, with the programs currently being organised. Dates are listed at the end of each edition of Words. Why not put the dates in your State into your 2020 diary now.



The **2020 Queensland WIOA Operations Conference & Exhibition** will be held at the Clive Berghofer Centre in Toowoomba on 3-4 June 2020. The closing date for abstracts for both platform and poster papers is 14 February 2020, so please get busy working on your topics.

The **Water Industry Operations Group NZ Conference** will be held in Napier from 20-22 May 2020. As with previous years, there will be a tour of several water and wastewater treatment systems on the North Island from around 15-23 May 2020 (dates and tour program being confirmed at present). If you or any of your staff are interested in being part of the tour, please let us know in the office ASAP.



WIOA is pleased to confirm **Alliance Automation, Hach, Ixom and Xylem as Prime Sponsors** of all our Conferences and Exhibitions in 2020. The opportunity to sponsor the conference bags for delegates is still available, along with several other sponsorship opportunities. Becoming a sponsor assists WIOA and can help in meeting your marketing goals by promoting your organisation and products to a wider, often difficult to reach audience. Contact Craig at the office for more information or to discuss your ideas.



WIOA has again teamed up with Monkey Media, publishers of **Utility Magazine** as our media partner for the 2020 Conference and Exhibitions. The partnership includes distribution of a copy of Utility Magazine to attendees at each event. The February edition will be distributed in NSW, the May edition in Queensland and the August edition in Victoria. For advertising enquiries contact [chris.bland@monkeymedia.com.au](mailto:chris.bland@monkeymedia.com.au)

## WIOA AWARDS

WIOA has an opportunity for an organisation to support the recognition of the **Best Paper Overall Award** for presentations delivered at the 2020 Conferences. The winner receives the opportunity to attend an interstate WIOA conference to deliver their presentation again to a wider audience. Contact Craig at the office for more information.



A reminder to members that applications are being accepted for the **Problem Accepted, Solution Supplied (PASS) Award**. The winner will receive an all-expenses paid opportunity to join the WIOA tour to NZ in May 2020 to the value of over \$2,500. Sponsored by Aqualift Project Delivery, applications close at the end of February 2020. Entry forms are on the website <http://wioa.org.au/awards/national-awards/pass-award/>

## TRAINING COURSES

The Australian Water School's **Dam Breach Modelling with HEC-RAS** online course has limited places still available and it starts on **26 November at 11.00am (AEDT)**. This is the first of 3 sessions which will be run over the next 3 weeks. This unique training will get you on top of software improvements and updated guidelines. You will learn to build, run, and animate dam breach models from scratch using free HEC-RAS software. More information or to register at <https://www.icewarm.com.au/australian-water-school/short-courses/course/dam-breach-modelling-with-hec-ras/>



The ARC-EESep Hub and Water Research Australia (WaterRA) are jointly hosting a workshop; **Membranes in the water industry – operational challenges and research solutions** at Melbourne's Pan Pacific Hotel on Wednesday 27 November 2019. Open to membrane plant operators, membranes operations practitioners from industry and academia, this event features an expert line-up of Australian and international speakers. To register visit: <https://www.arc-eesep.org/membrane-workshop>



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 during November. Email them to be waitlisted for future events near you or to begin a discussion about hosting an event in 2020.

The International Centre of Excellence in Water Resource Management (**ICE WaRM**) is offering an online **webinar entitled Reconciliation in the Water Sector** on Wednesday 18 December 2019 commencing at 2.00pm AEDT. The webinar will discuss the development and implementation of a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) in the water sector. At its core, reconciliation is about building respectful relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians, to enable us to work together to Close the Gap and achieve a shared sense of fairness and justice. SA Water has been working on implementing its Stretch (future-focussed) RAP for the past three years, and through this webinar will share insights into challenges and successes encountered. More information or to register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/udpe8xs>

## PEOPLE & CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to WIOA Victorian Advisory Committee Chair, **Anthony Evans** from Wannon Water in Victoria who was recently confirmed as a member of the Water Industry Reference Committee managed by Australian Industry Standards. Anthony has been appointed in the role of an industry expert and fills the vacancy created by the retirement of John Harris earlier this year.

Congratulations also to WIOA MD **George Wall** for being elected to the board of the Institute of Water Administration, Victoria for a three year term.

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

The positions vacant section of our website currently has several jobs advertised including a **Principal Treatment Plant Operator, Project Leader Field Services, Water/Wastewater Operator, Water Treatment Technician, Water Treatment Technologist** and other positions. To utilise this FREE job advertisement service, please email your advert to [sherryn@wioa.org.au](mailto:sherryn@wioa.org.au)

## COMING EVENTS

- 29 November **NSW Water Interest Day - Does Bias Road Block Your Operations?** Newcastle
- 13 December **Diversity & Inclusion Group**, nominations close

## 2020 EVENTS

- 26 February **NSW Recycling Interest Day**, Parkes, in conjunction with CENTROC
- 28 February **PASS Award**, applications close
- 4 March **Victorian Recycling Interest Day**, Melbourne (TBC)
- 6 March **Queensland Charity Bowls Day**, Yandina (TBC)
- 19 March **Queensland Wastewater Interest Day**, Kawana STP, Sunshine Coast
- 24 March **Tasmanian Operations Interest Day**, Spreyton

## 2020 Conference & Exhibition Schedule

- 1 & 2 April **14<sup>th</sup> WIOA NSW Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Tamworth
- 3 & 4 June **45<sup>th</sup> WIOA QLD Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Toowoomba
- 5 & 6 August **3<sup>rd</sup> WIOA SA Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Murray Bridge
- 2 & 3 Sept **83<sup>rd</sup> WIOA VIC Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Bendigo



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