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WIOA WORDS

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Merry Christmas



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Snippets, news items or other information can be sent to info@wioa.org.au

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 2020. The WIOA office will be closed from COB 20 December 2019 and will reopen on 6 January 2020. **Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year to all.**

AROUND THE TRAPS

WIOA's State Advisory Committees perform an important role on behalf of the association ensuring that our activities meet the expectations of our members. All the Advisory Committees have held their end of year meetings and we congratulate Alan Butler - NSW, Colin Haynes - Queensland, Robran Cock - South Australia, Stephen Westgate – Tasmania, and Anthony Evans - Victoria who have been elected Chair of their respective State Advisory Committees for 2020. 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.



Following the release of the Water Research Australia (WaterRA) final report from the project to demonstrate the value of developing, building and continually growing **a competent operator workforce** noted in the November edition of Words, a summary and fact sheet has also been released.

The report, summary and fact sheet can be viewed at:

<https://www.waterra.com.au/research/value-of-operator-competency/>



Members are reminded that **Membership fees** for 2020 are due on 1 January and a renewal invoice has recently been sent to all members. If any of your personal details are incorrect, please let Sherryn know by email (sherryn@wioa.org.au) and she will update the database.



Water Research Australia (WaterRA) has released its **2018-19 Annual Report**. The report provides a snapshot of the activities undertaken and what WaterRA is working on to address the challenges that remain across the research value cycle. The report can be downloaded from <https://tinyurl.com/uquhbr9>



The itinerary for the **2020 Operators Tour of New Zealand** from 15 to 23 May 2020, including attendance at the WIOG Operations Conference in Napier, 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 2020. 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 Napier, New Zealand from 20-22 May 2020. Further information on the conference is available at www.wiog.org.nz

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.



The Productivity Commission invites interested parties to register their interest in a study into the National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development. The Commission has been asked to examine several related issues, including how governments can better coordinate their support for VET, options for improving funding and pricing arrangements, and how to ensure that government investment in VET produces the best returns for the community. The Commission has released an issues paper to guide people in preparing a submission. It sets out some of the issues and questions the Commission has identified as relevant at this early stage of the study, with initial submissions due by Friday 20 December 2019. More information at <https://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/skills-workforce-agreement>

AWARDS

Nominations are open for the **2020 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 2020 valued at over \$2,500. A nomination form is available at: <https://www.waterdirectorate.asn.au/Awards/WIOANSWOperatoroftheYearAward.aspx>



A reminder to members that applications are being accepted for the **Problem Accepted, Solution Supplied (PASS) Award** with a closing date of 28 February 2020. 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/>

EVENTS

The **2020 Queensland WIOA Operations Conference and 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 technical program for the **14th 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. Tamworth Regional Council is hosting the event in Tamworth on 1 & 2 April 2020, 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.

TRAINING COURSES

AMS Training & Solutions invites companies to begin a discussion about hosting an event in 2020. These opportunities represent a great ROI and give the host opportunity to tailor the event around specific needs. Visit their website - www.amsts.com.au - for more details about online training and to see upcoming offerings of David H Paul RO Specialist hands-on and classroom training for March 2020. Email them to be waitlisted for future events near you.



The **International Centre of Excellence in Water Resource Management (ICE WaRM)** is offering a range of courses in 2020 through the Australian Water School. To gain a sneak peek at the program, visit <https://tinyurl.com/ql54sq8> Also, the next Webinar titled **Understanding Water Values in Indigenous Australia** will be held on 5 February 2020 commencing at 2.00pm (AEDT). For more information or to register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/ufyps2h>



The **International Water Centre** is taking enrolments for the **Master of Integrated Water Management** or the **Master of Catchment Science** with courses due to commence in February 2020. They offer Graduate Certificate or Graduate Diploma courses as well. For more information or to apply, visit the website at <https://tinyurl.com/trba423>

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

The positions vacant section of our website is one of the most visited sections of the WIOA website and listed 158 positions in 2019. Currently a position for a **National Chemical Sales Engineer** is available. To utilise this FREE job advertisement service, please email your advert to sherryn@wioa.org.au

PEOPLE & CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

Corporate Member Simmonds and Bristow offers a **relief operator service** where skilled Relief or Permanent Operators for your STP, WWTP, TWTP and WTP can be provided. They can be used to provide cover for staff shortages, holiday leave, training, resignations, waiting for replacements & long term illness anywhere, anytime, any duration. Contact them on 1800 620 690 for a tailored solution for your needs.

2020 EVENTS - Check out the events calendar online, visit www.wioa.org.au/seminars/calendar.htm

- 14 February **NSW Operator of the Year Award** nominations close
- 14 February **Queensland Conference Call for Papers and Posters** close
- 26 February **NSW Recycling Interest Day**, Parkes, in conjunction with CENTROC
- 28 February **PASS Award**, applications close
- 3 March **Victorian Recycling Interest Day**, Melbourne (TBC)
- 5 March **qldwater - Queensland Water Skills Partnership Forum**, Albion
- 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
- 15-23 May **Operators Tour of New Zealand & WIOG Conference**, Napier, New Zealand

2020 Conference & Exhibition Schedule

- 1 & 2 April **14th WIOA NSW Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Tamworth
- 3 & 4 June **45th WIOA QLD Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Toowoomba
- 5 & 6 August **3rd WIOA SA Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Murray Bridge
- 2 & 3 Sept **83rd 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 Sherryn your new details (sherryn@wioa.org.au) or call the office on 03 5821 6744.