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WIOA WORDS

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AROUND THE TRAPS

With the majority of the community in lockdown and working from home for nearly a month, it is timely to give a shout out to all those committed water industry operational staff who are ensuring the delivery of high quality services to our communities on a 24/7 basis. That so few in the community even think about or recognise the fact that there is an army of operators keeping everything running around the clock, does not detract from the importance of your task, and we applaud and appreciate all your ongoing efforts.



WIOA is holding an **End of Financial Year sale** on all Practical Guide books. This is a great opportunity to access some valuable resources for your operations teams at reduced prices. All the current Practical Guide books are reduced between 30-50% with all now selling for \$20 (plus GST, plus postage). The books will be on sale at this price until 30 June 2020. Order online at <https://wioa.org.au/publications/practical-guides/>



At the WIOA Inc AGM held online on 21 April, **Heidi Josipovic** was announced as President and George Wall will continue in the Secretary/Treasurer role. Nearly 430 members participated in the online voting process, which saw **Mark Samblebe** elected as Vice President. Ryan McGowan, Simon Page, Elise O'Keeffe and Grant Waite were re-elected and they are joined on the Committee by Kathy Northcott. President Heidi thanked outgoing Committee members in Lindsay Walsh and Sally Shepherd for their efforts over many years. The Chairs of the State based Advisory Committees in Alan Butler (NSW), Robran Cock (SA), Colin Haynes (Qld), Stephen Westgate (Tas) and Anthony Evans (Vic) are also on the Committee.



A COVID-19 Information and Resources page has been established on the WIOA website. We will continue to monitor developments and will update the page as further information comes to hand. WIOA is here to support you and your organisation, so if we can assist you in any way please do not hesitate to contact us.

COVID-19 Information and Resources: wioaconferences.org.au/covid-19/



Water Research Australia (WaterRA) with the support of the Water Services Association of Australia (WSAA) is leading an Australia wide investigation aiming to integrate reliable results of sewage testing for SARS-CoV-2 with COVID-19 health data nationally. The project entitled **ColoSSoS – Collaboration on Sewage Surveillance of SARS-COV-2** - is a collaborative effort of many water utilities, health departments and researchers across Australia with links to global expertise. The project will track and monitor the presence of the virus that causes COVID-19 and its persistence in the Australian sewerage network, thus providing information on where it is present in the population. More information is available at www.waterra.com.au/research/communities-of-interest/covid-19/

Australian Industry Standards (AIS) releases a regular stakeholder newsletter where they update readers on developments in the training space. This month, they continue a series of profiles featuring the Chairs of each of the 11 Industry Reference Committees (IRCs) that AIS supports. Read George Wall's profile as Chair of the Water IRC at <https://www.australianindustrystandards.org.au/water-irc-chair-profile/>



As the world grapples with COVID-19, there are a numerous worthy charities like the **Prostate Cancer Foundation** and **Motor Neurone Disease Australia (MND)** that have had to cancel many of their major fundraising initiatives. Without donations, much of their valuable research work cannot proceed and they desperately need our help. If you are in a position to do so, please continue your support of MND research at <https://www.mndaust.asn.au/Home> or prostate cancer research at <https://pcf.org.au/donate/>



Whatever anyone is feeling during this challenging time, **Beyond Blue** is here to provide support. A range of resources have been developed and are regularly updated on the Coronavirus Mental Wellbeing Support Service website at <https://tinyurl.com/y85puzzl> Trained mental health professionals are available to talk 24 hours a day, seven days a week, via the phone support line on 1800 512 348.



A Victorian Water Corporation has **excess equipment** that it is removing from a Water Treatment Plant including 2 x 1600g/hour Ozone Generators and 1 x AirSep oxygen generator. This equipment is available for free, but the recipient would need to arrange pickup of the items. Contact Craig on 0457 846 008.

WIOA AWARDS 2020

Applications are being sought for the **Kwatye Award**, sponsored again by **TRILITY** in 2020. The award eligibility has been extended to recognises a range of initiatives which can involve: any cultural or diversity and inclusion-based activities within a project or community; or any activities that provide unconditional help and support to each other during times of need. We want to encourage you all to share your stories and submit nominations so we can acknowledge those who have supported others during challenging times. This could include initiatives to show kindness to neighbours, promoting physical and mental wellbeing in your community, helping those less able, creating virtual communities, supporting remote workers, keeping them engaged, motivated and recognised or adapting work practices to enable remote working. Applications close on 20 July 2020 and more information can be found on the WIOA website at wioa.org.au/awards/national-awards/kwatye-award/



Nominations for the **2020 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 2021. Applications close on Friday 1 May 2020 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 2021. The Civil/All Rounder will receive up to \$1,500 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 1 May 2020, nomination forms are available from wioa.org.au/awards/state-awards/queensland-awards/

EVENTS

Abstracts for WIOA conferences can be submitted at any time prior to the official closing date. We are currently seeking abstracts for platform and poster presentations for the WIOA Victorian conference in November. We encourage potential presenters to submit your abstracts early and more information is available from the website at wioaconferences.org.au/call-for-papers

TRAINING COURSES

AMS Training & Solutions invites enquiries about online training opportunities and instructor led live seminars during 2020. These live seminars give participants the opportunity to engage with the trainer in a small virtual classroom. Visit www.amsts.com.au for more details. AMS is planning to offer David H Paul RO Specialist hands-on and classroom training in October 2020. Email them to be waitlisted for future events.



Women & Leadership Australia (WLA) is offering scholarships of up to \$5,000 for current and aspiring female leaders. Scholarships are currently available to women working in the water and resources sector to help support their participation in a range of career building leadership development programs. The initiative is providing junior through to executive women managers with scholarships to support their growth and development via participation in one of three flagship development programs. Participants will benefit from course content such as Elements of a Successful Team, Team Dynamics, Purpose Priorities and Professional Development, Empowering Teams, and Evolving Strategic Change. Find out more and register your interest by completing the Expression of Interest form prior to Friday 15 May 2020 at <https://www.wla.edu.au/miningresources.html>

PEOPLE & CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

Calix has created a series of webinars so everyone can take advantage of their know-how without leaving your home or office! The webinars are being staged on Thursdays at 10am. Topics covered will include Eliminate odour complaints; Methods of phosphate removal in wastewater; Better pH & alkalinity control; Boosting energy from a cogeneration anaerobic digester; and Dosing unit solutions for wastewater management. To find out more and register visit: <https://www.calix.global/our-webinars/>



Member David Rae has advised that The Island Cleaning Supply Co. sells a long lasting hand sanitizer that uses Silane technology which claims to provide protection for much longer than alcohol based products. More information on the product is available from <https://theislandco.com.au/>

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

Current positions vacant include a **Business Development Manager** a **Water Operator** and an **Assistant Water Operator**. To utilise this FREE job advertisement placement service, please email your advert to sherryn@wioa.org.au

IMPORTANT DATES

- 1 May **Queensland Operator of the Year Awards application** closes
- 20 July **Kwatye Applications** close
- 25 & 26 Nov **83rd 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 Ann your new details (ann@wioa.org.au) or call the office on 03 5821 6744.