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WIOA WORDS

MAY 2020 Edition

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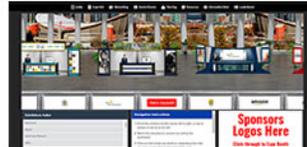
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Snippets, news items or other information can be sent to info@wioa.org.au

VIRTUAL WATER



WIOA is excited to announce our new virtual conference and exhibition platform **Virtual Water**. Virtual Water will deliver a highly interactive experience using a visually rich online platform that will enable you to hear the latest updates and technical experiences from presenters in a virtual environment. Virtual Water will launch on Wednesday, 22 July 2020 with the first of the scheduled live days. We will provide more information soon about the technical program and how and when to register.

The Virtual Water Expo provides the opportunity for Corporate Members to showcase the latest in products and services to the water industry. Exhibitors can share information on their latest products and services, as well as engage with attendees through text chat, video meetings and email functions. Expo sites are now on sale and we encourage all suppliers to the industry to support WIOA by purchasing an expo booth or obtaining more information from <https://wioaconferences.org.au/virtualwater/>

AROUND THE TRAPS

To assist staff in the urban water industry **WSAA has created a COVID-19 Toolbox Talk** to outline what it means for them. Dr Melita Stevens, Principal Scientist at Melbourne Water and Dr Dan Deere, Water Quality Specialist at Water Futures have prepared and recorded the toolbox talk covering the COVID-19 virus, infection v illness, worker safety, masks, water quality management and wastewater management. The intention is that the video can be shared with all staff, especially those who work with wastewater, and should answer many of the questions they might have about the virus. A condition of providing the video is that it is not to be shared beyond water utility staff and not posted to any public websites or on social media. The content is current as at 5 May 2020 and will be updated if required. The video is available at <https://vimeo.com/415328759/3b23a9c656>



Beyond Blue is working hard to ensure mental wellbeing support is available for anyone who needs it. It has been humbling to see the support that so many people in Australia have given to each other in these difficult times. Amid the uncertainty, messages of hope, resilience and recovery have never been more important. On Saturday 23 May, Australian band Powderfinger will emerge from a decade-long hiatus to bring a little happiness to fans while raising money for Beyond Blue and music industry crisis relief charity, Support Act. Streaming on Powderfinger's YouTube channel <https://tinyurl.com/y7q2nyne> from 7.00pm AEST, the set will feature a medley of their biggest hits! For more information and to donate to Beyond Blue and Support Act, visit <https://tinyurl.com/y8panfpm>

Australian Industry Standards (AIS) is managing the **review and update of the Certificate IV** 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/y9chf2bu> Please feel free to submit your feedback directly to AIS by Tuesday 2 June via the online feedback form.



The finalised **PFAS National Environmental Management (NEMP) Plan 2.0** was released recently by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE). The PFAS NEMP was created by the Heads of EPAs in Australia and New Zealand to provide guidance on managing PFAS contamination in the environment. The NEMP will be subject to a formal review every five years, with the first formal review due in 2023. The PFAS NEMP 2.0 is on the DAWE website at:

<https://www.environment.gov.au/protection/chemicals-management/pfas>

WIOA AWARDS 2020

NOMINATE QLD OPERATORS NOW – The AWA Queensland Branch and the Queensland Water Directorate (*qldwater*) have extended the closing date for nominations for the **Operator of the Year, Young Operator of the Year** and for the **Operator of the Year – (Civil/All-rounder)** until the end of May. These prestigious awards recognise commitment to the job, safety, innovation, initiative and achievements. The prize for the winner of the Operator of the Year and the Young Operator of the Year includes a plaque and an all expenses paid opportunity to join the WIOA operator tour to New Zealand in 2021. 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. Recognising the outstanding job our operators are doing is even more important during these difficult times. If you know someone within the Queensland water industry that fits the bill for any of these awards, make sure you nominate them today. More information and nomination forms are at <https://wioa.org.au/awards/state-awards/queensland-awards/>



Applications are being sought for the **Kwatye Award**, sponsored by **TRILITY**. The award recognises an initiative involving any cultural or diversity and inclusion-based activities within a project or community in which our members serve. 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. Applications have been extended until 20 August 2020 with more information available at <https://wioa.org.au/awards/national-awards/kwatye-award/>

EVENTS

WIOA is seeking presentations or ideas on topics of interest that can be included in the programs of the Live days on the Virtual Water platform. We seek expressions of interest from operational employees who would like to give back to the industry by sharing their experiences and learnings from the field with others. Please email info@wioa.org.au with any ideas you may have.



The next WIOA Talks webinar looking at issues related to **Energy in the Water Industry** will be held online on Wednesday 20 May 2020 at 1.00pm AEST. Speakers including Helen Beard from SA Water, Steve Reddington from Barwon Water and Nicholas Moore from North East Water will cover a variety of initiatives in the energy management space being undertaken within their organisations. This event will utilise the Zoom platform. Register to attend at <https://wioa.org.au/nevent/wioa-energy-webinar/>

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 with more information available from the website at <https://wioaconferences.org.au/call-for-papers>



The AWA Newcastle Subcommittee has organised a special Climate Science Webinar called "**Climate Variability - Impacts on Water Planning**" on Thursday 21 May 2020, online at 6:30pm AEST. Dr Anthony Kiem (University of Newcastle) will present his research on palaeontology and climate change. This will be further discussed with Peter Dennis (Hunter H2O) as the MC and a group of panellists: Brendan Berghout (Hunter Water), Adam Davis (AECOM) and Tyler Tinkler (GHD). The presentation by Anthony is sure to be very useful for any regional council planners or staff involved in drought management plans or IWCMs. For more information and to register please visit <https://tinyurl.com/ycqvw7so>

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.

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

Current positions vacant include a number of **Engineering positions, Water and Wastewater Operators and Team Leaders, a Tech Officer and a Business Development Manager**. To utilise this FREE job advertisement placement service, please email your advert to sherryn@wioa.org.au

PEOPLE & CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

Although drought conditions have eased in some places, there is a large part of the country still affected. **Bushman Tanks** has created a webpage outlining a range of drought related issues including drought assistance, water saving techniques and rainwater harvesting to note a few. The web page is available at <https://www.bushmantanks.com.au/drought-resources/>



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IMPORTANT DATES

- 20 May **WIOA Talks - Energy**, online
- 21 May **AWA NSW Climate Change Webinar** - online
- 31 May **Qld Operator of the Year Awards application** closes
- 2 June **Ozwater 2020 commences** – Online
- 17 June **AWA Vic Bushfire Hackathon** - online
- 22 July **WIOA Virtual Water – Launch day and presentations**, online
- 20 August **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.