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# WIOA WORDS

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**Launches 22 July 2020 - Expo Sites Available**

Only 4 weeks until the first of the Live Days on WIOA's new virtual conference and exhibition platform **Virtual Water**. Virtual Water will launch on Wednesday, 22 July 2020 with a Keynote presentation from internationally renowned researcher, educator, communicator, author and a tireless advocate for scientific excellence and safe drinking water, Dr Steve Hruddy. Also on Day 1 will be the announcement of the 2020 PASS Award winner along with other presentations by operators. More specific details on the technical program content and registration details will be released shortly. The exhibition hall is starting to fill with around 40 Corporate Members already taking the opportunity to showcase the latest in products and services to the water industry. 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

**Last Chance** to purchase discounted copies of WIOA's **Practical Guide books**. The end of financial year sale where all the current Practical Guide books are selling for \$20 (+ GST, plus postage) will conclude at COB on 30 June 2020. This is a great opportunity to access some valuable resources for your operations teams at reduced prices. Order online at <https://wioa.org.au/publications/practical-guides/>



For the third consecutive year, **Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA)** has been selected as one of the Major Beneficiaries of the **Dry July campaign**. Dry July fundraisers have delivered a whopping 20,000 hours of nursing support to men facing prostate cancer and their families. This year, you can also choose to have a 'Dry(ish) July' and go dry for 21 or 14 days. More info on signing up, or just making a donation to PCFA, is available at <https://tinyurl.com/y99eueaa>



A project is under way to review the **high pressure water jetting** units of competence included in the Manufacturing Training Package (MSM) plus the potential to create to a new unit on hydro excavation. There is a consultation paper available at <https://tinyurl.com/y8jfgoxe> that outlines the project and seeks feedback from industry about the proposed changes to the units. Feedback needs to be sent to the project manager, IBSA by Friday 26 June 2020. Due to the high risk nature of operating this equipment, we strongly encourage all water utilities to read the consultation paper and provide any feedback by the closing date.

The Productivity Commission has commenced the **2020 National Water Reform Inquiry** and has released an issues paper. WIOA will be making a submission and will concentrate on issues related to skilling and operator training needs for the water industry. Initial submissions are due by Friday 21 August, with the final report anticipated in early 2021. A copy of the issues paper and more information on the review process is available at <https://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/water-reform-2020#issues>

## WIOA AWARDS 2020

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/>



Applications are being sought for the new **Spirit of Australia (Mateship) Awards**, also sponsored by **TRILITY**. Australians are renowned for coming together and supporting each other during times of need. It is this compassion and kindness that we want to recognise. We encourage you all to share your stories and submit nominations so that 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 a 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. There will be one winner from each State and courtesy of award sponsor TRILITY, a donation will be made to the winner's nominated charity of choice. Applications close on 20 August 2020 and more information is on the WIOA website at <https://wioa.org.au/awards/national-awards/spirit-of-aus/>



The Victorian Branch of AWA will shortly call for nominations for the 2020 **Wal Whiteside Memorial, Victorian Operator of the Year Award** and the Institute of Water Administration, Victoria will also be calling for nominations for the **Young Victorian Operator of the Year Award**. We encourage as many organisations as possible to nominate your operational staff for consideration for these prestigious awards.

## EVENTS

WIOA invites all NSW/ACT water suppliers to participate in the **2020 Ixom NSW/ACT Best Tasting Tap Water competition** to be held on Live Day 3 on the Virtual Water platform on 12 August 2020. To participate, we ask that all NSW/ACT water suppliers send a 1 litre sample of your finest drop along with a completed entry form to the WIOA office (24 New Dookie Road, Shepparton, Vic 3630) by Wednesday 5 August 2020. The entry form is at <https://wioa.org.au/awards/national-awards/australias-best-tap-water/> Just like at a face to face event, WIOA will arrange a number of independent judges who will taste each sample and determine the grand finalists and ultimately, the winner. The winner will be announced at the end of Live Day 3 and will have bragging rights for the next 12 months.



We have received numerous queries about whether the **WIOA Victorian Conference** in Bendigo on 25 & 26 November 2020 will be going ahead. We are continually monitoring and reviewing the situation as the Victorian Government responds to health advice and eases restrictions on events and gatherings. At this early stage, we anticipate the event will go ahead and we intend to make a final decision on this in August.

In the meantime, we are currently seeking abstracts for platform and poster presentations for the 2020 Victorian conference with the call for papers closing on 7 August 2020. More information is available from the website at <https://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](http://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.



**Water Research Australia (WaterRA)** are the new custodians of the Australian Water School (AWS). An initiative of ICE WaRM, the AWS was established with the purpose of facilitating key thought leadership and encouraging knowledge-transfer and capacity-building across the Australian and international water sector. WaterRA is conducting a short survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/awschool> to obtain information to help them formulate their future training offerings within the AWS.



The **International WaterCentre** invites interested persons to attend their free webinars focusing on their range of postgraduate programs. The Catchment Science program will have three sessions on Wednesday 24 June with registrations closing on 23 June at <https://tinyurl.com/y9mnagsk> The Water Leadership program will have one session on Monday 13 July with registrations closing on 12 July at <https://tinyurl.com/yaw99knp> Attending the webinars will help you understand the complete suite of postgraduate programs and how they can be of benefit to you.



The **IWES Short Courses** originally proposed to be staged in July have been rescheduled to 23-27 November 2020. Along with the usual course topics, a new course on applied statistics for water and wastewater has been added to the line up. The early bird discount for attendees where you can save up to \$1,000 has been extended through to 21 September 2020. For more information on the range of courses or to register, visit <https://iwes.com.au/events/iwes-gold-coast-2020/>



**Pump Industry Australia (PIA)** is offering a new **competency-based training program** aimed at staff working within the pumping industry, enabling participants to provide a more professional service to people relying on the pumping industry for advice, service and products. Irrigation Australia Limited is the RTO that will facilitate the course on behalf of PIA, using their certified and recognised trainers. The training program is run online over three half days, with a fourth day consisting of face-to-face practical training to take place at a future date once current government restrictions allow it in the participants' closest capital city. To register for the course or to download a course summary, visit [www.pumps.asn.au](http://www.pumps.asn.au).



Simmonds & Bristow are excited to offer their new **Virtual Training platform**. Participating in online training by joining the virtual classroom provides a number of benefits including studying in a group instead of alone, fast tracking assignments with coaching, and completion of final work ready assessments remotely via phone or virtual meeting. Alternatively, you might like to try a workshop option. More information on both is at <https://www.simmondsbristow.com.au/our-services/virtual-training/>

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

**Current positions vacant** include a Water Treatment Plant Operator, a Graduate Engineer and a Planning and Development Engineer. To utilise this FREE job advertisement placement service, please email your advert to [sherryn@wioa.org.au](mailto:sherryn@wioa.org.au)

## PEOPLE & CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

WIOA Committee Member **Kathy Northcott** has recently commenced as Research and Development Manager with Veolia Australia and New Zealand. Kathy is working on Monday to Thursday and can be contacted via email at [kathy.northcott@veolia.com](mailto:kathy.northcott@veolia.com)

## COMING EVENTS

- 22 July **WIOA Virtual Water – Launch day and presentations**, online
- 7 August **Call for Papers for Victorian Conference** closes
- 12 August **Ixom NSW/ACT Best Tasting Tap Water Competition** online - Virtual Water Day 3
- 20 August **Kwatye Award** applications close
- 20 August **Spirit of Australia (Mateship) Award** applications close
- 25 & 26 Nov **83rd WIOA VIC Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Bendigo



Become a friend of WIOA on **FACEBOOK** follow us on **TWITTER** or join us in **LinkedIn**

**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.