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WIOA WORDS

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Merry Christmas



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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 2021. The WIOA office will be closed from COB 18 December 2020 and will reopen on 4 January 2021. **Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year to all.**

AROUND THE TRAPS

Date Change 2021 NSW Conference: The WIOA NSW Conference & Exhibition will now be staged in **Tamworth on 27 & 28 October 2021.** WIOA has been monitoring the restrictions and requirements from the NSW Government relating to COVID-19 and the impacts on the staging of corporate events. We have taken on board feedback from the recent survey of members and NSW stakeholders and there is still too much uncertainty for us to proceed with the event which was originally planned for March 2021. More information on sponsorship, site sales and an updated call for papers will be provided in 2021.



A reminder to Members that WIOA's virtual conference and exhibition platform **Virtual Water** will remain active until April 2021. Keep in mind that there are 50 Corporate Members showcasing their latest in products and services to the water industry in the interactive 3D environment. There are also over 80 excellent operational presentations in the On-demand area of the Auditorium, with just under 24 hours of recorded material available to access in your own time. The content has also been stored in easy to navigate categories such as bushfires, water treatment, wastewater treatment, biosolids and safety to make it even easier to find information relevant to your specific area of interest. It is vitally important that Members and water industry colleagues login and support all our Corporate members participating in the expo. Members and water industry people can register at <https://www.virtualwater.com.au> using your email to gain access. You then set your own password and you are good to login whenever it suits you.



Members are reminded that **Membership fees** for 2021 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 membership database.



For many, the festive season is the most stressful time of year. And for most, it's the busiest. Missed calls and unanswered emails are an unfortunate fact of life in the holiday chaos. That can make it hard for people to find support when they decide to reach out for help. This year, Australians can update their voice mail, out-of-office, and social message spaces with messages for Beyond Blue. These powerful, personal messages will help break the stigma surrounding mental health, and let people know there is always someone there for support, even when you are not. To find out more, visit <https://tinyurl.com/y539qadm>

The **Bureau of Meteorology** is pleased to present BOM Webinars. Webinars are offered free of charge and are delivered by Bureau experts across weather, water, climate and ocean information. To receive information about BOM Webinars straight to your inbox, and to learn how the Bureau's products and services can inform your business and policy decisions, register at <http://www.bom.gov.au/webinars/>



The itinerary for the **2021 Operators Tour of New Zealand** from 21 to 29 May 2021, including attendance at the WIOG Operations Conference in Napier, is currently being finalised. The tour will only proceed if mandatory quarantine restrictions are not in force on either side of the Tasman. Based on past tours, the approximate cost will be \$1,800 AUD per person plus airfares. To allow us to book accommodation, the bus and confirm prices, registrations will close on 1 February 2021. Anyone interested in participating 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 26-28 May 2021. Further information on the conference is available at www.wiog.org.nz



The November 2020 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 2021 edition. We are always happy to help operators develop and write articles. If you have an interesting topic, idea or project that you'd be prepared to share with the industry, contact George via george@wioa.org.au.



Despite all the upheaval of 2020, MND Research Australia has recently awarded close to **\$3 million in MND research grants** for projects starting in 2021. This crucial investment in Australian MND research would not be possible without the generosity of donors and supporters. MND Australia's aim is to not only fund MND research, but to communicate the achievements of this research, plus the progress towards finding treatments and improving care. Watching their four-part State of Play webinar series is an excellent way to stay on top of the latest developments in MND research. You can register at <https://tinyurl.com/yyhcj6gh>.



Congratulations to **Paul Walsh** for his appointment as **CEO of Australian Industry Standards** (AIS) following the retirement of Robert Adams. Paul has been on the executive and leadership team at AIS for the past 8 years and is well known to Water IRC members, having attended numerous IRC meetings in his previous role as Chief Operating Officer. Paul's focus for AIS is to build on its strong legacy of skilling Australia's workforce, through well informed, innovative and targeted skills solutions to support life-long learning.



Everyone is invited to **Lace Up For Beyond Blue** and whether you are up for 3km, 10km, or the challenge of a full marathon, don't miss your chance to support Beyond Blue by running in the Melbourne Marathon. The 2020 event will take place virtually between Saturday 5 & Sunday 13 December, so there is still time for you to sign up and be part of Team Beyond Blue, no matter where you are! If you've got questions around fundraising or the competition, send them an email at challengeevents@beyondblue.com.au They'd love to have you on Team Beyond Blue.

AWARDS

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 2021 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/>

EVENTS

Following the change of dates for the NSW Conference and Exhibition for 2021, below is the current proposed dates and locations for our 2021 conferences:

Queensland	Toowoomba	31 May - 4 June 2021 (Conference days - Wednesday 2 & Thursday 3 June) <i>WIOA is also examining the possibility of the Gold Coast if additional space is required for a COVID safe event.</i>
South Australia	Murray Bridge	4-5 August 2021 (Conference days - Wednesday 4 & Thursday 5 August)
Victoria	Bendigo	30 Aug - 3 Sept 2021 (Conference days - Wednesday 1 & Thursday 2 September)
NSW	Tamworth	25-29 October 2021 (Conference days - Wednesday 27 & Thursday 28 October)

We will be providing a first right of refusal to all our existing sponsors in the coming weeks.

The closing date for abstracts for both platform and poster papers for the Queensland conference is 14 February 2021, so please get busy working on your topics.

TRAINING COURSES

AMS Training & Solutions is excited to welcome Paul Roginson as a certified and accredited DHPaul trainer. Paul's inclusion adds flexibility to the training schedule and expressions of interest are invited from potential hosts and/or attendees for 2021. AMS offers online, virtual, classroom and hands-on David H Paul RO Specialist Training, recognised by the IDA Academy and the most comprehensive RO training worldwide. Email them to be waitlisted for future events. Visit www.amsts.com.au - for more details.



The **Australian Water School** is seeking information from the water sector on the skills and technical knowledge that is needed from training. Everyone is invited to complete a short survey which will take approximately 3 minutes to complete. The anonymous responses will help form the basis for future online training opportunities. The survey can be accessed at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/awschool>

PEOPLE & CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to Melbourne Water for being announced as the winner of the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Australasian Organisation of the Year Award for its innovative Next Generation Community Engagement Program (NextGen). The IAP2 Awards shine the spotlight on outstanding organisations and projects at the forefront of public participation and community engagement. They celebrate excellence, quality and innovation across all government and industry sectors. Introduced by Melbourne Water in 2016, NextGen has transformed the way the organisation involves the community in decision-making across its key strategies, projects and operational activity.



From March 2021, **Water Corporation** in Western Australia will offer 10 work experience placements and five school-based traineeships on a rolling basis to students and school leavers with disability. The State-wide program is an action under Water Corporation's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) and supports its commitment to increase employment of people with disability to five per cent by 2025. For more on Water Corporation's disability initiatives, visit <https://www.watercorporation.com.au/daip>

WIOA 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 the team on 1800 620 690 for a solution tailored for your needs.

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 142 positions in 2020. Currently positions for a **Supervisor Water & Wastewater, a Networks Trainer, a Senior Project Engineer and a couple of Operator** roles are available. To utilise this FREE job advertisement service, please email your advert to sherryn@wioa.org.au

2021 EVENTS

- 28 February **PASS Award**, applications close
- 21 to 29 May **WIOA Tour of New Zealand**, North Island, (TBC)
- 2 & 3 June **45th WIOA QLD Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**
- 4 & 5 August **3rd WIOA SA Water Industry Operations Conference & Expo**, Murray Bridge
- 1 & 2 September **83rd WIOA VIC Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Bendigo
- 27 & 28 October **14th WIOA NSW Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Tamworth



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.

Seasons Greetings
FROM ALL AT WIOA