

## AROUND THE TRAPS

The **2021 WIOA Annual General Meeting** will be held online on Wednesday 21 April 2021 commencing at 2.00pm AEST. Members are encouraged to attend the AGM where you can find out more about your association. Register by 19 April 2021 at <https://wioa.org.au/about-wioa/aggm/>



At the close of nominations for the **2021 WIOA Committee**, we received three nominations for Vice President and eight nominations for the five available committee positions. Members are reminded that online voting utilising the unique login provided will be open until COB on Monday 19 April. We hope that all members will take the opportunity to vote online to help fill these very important positions.



The **National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)** maintains the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 2011 through a rolling review process to ensure they provide an evidence-based framework for the management of drinking water supplies. NHMRC has published **new guidance on short-term exposure values** in Chapter 9 of the Guidelines. The short-term exposure value guidance will assist water regulators and suppliers to manage instances where short-term drinking water contamination occurs, such as during extreme weather events. NHMRC drafted the guidance with the expert advice of the Water Quality Advisory Committee. The Administrative Report provides information on how the guidance was developed. Several minor edits to the Guidelines have also been actioned as part of this update. Details of these updates, the updated Guidelines and Administrative report are available at <https://tinyurl.com/4d4xekck>



**The Foundation for Regional Renewal (FRRR)** and **Rural Aid** are both supporting **flood affected rural communities** in NSW and Queensland. The compounding impacts of droughts, bushfires, COVID restrictions, and now once in a century floods mean the recovery will be long, with varied and complex challenges unique to each town. These communities will need our support long after the water recedes. For FRRR, donations can be allocated to all rural, regional, and remote communities, or for specific regions or communities. Tax Deductible donations can be made at <https://tinyurl.com/35c247rp> or at <https://tinyurl.com/a4tnfyk7> for Rural Aid.



The national network of state **MND Associations** all hold Walk to D'Feet events throughout the year to raise money for the support services they offer people living with MND and their families. The walks are typically 5kms long, open to everyone, and are accessible for wheelchairs and prams. On Sunday 2 May 2021, the MND associations will hold the inaugural **National Walk to D'Feet MND**, with walks planned around the country in Springfield, QLD; The Hunter, NSW; South-East Melbourne, VIC, Adelaide, SA and Perth, WA. More information or sponsor opportunities is at <https://tinyurl.com/2ahnmb36>

Whatever anyone is feeling, **Beyond Blue** is here to provide support. The Beyond Blue website has lots of information on both mental wellness and mental illness. According to WHO, mental health is “a state of well-being in which every individual realises his or her own potential, can cope with normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to his or her community”. To improve your mental health and well being, or support those around you, you can find tips, information and strategies to achieve your all-round personal best at <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/personal-best>

## WIOA AWARDS 2021

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 close on 20 July 2021 with more information available at <https://wioa.org.au/awards/national-awards/kwatye-award/>



Applications are being sought for the newly created WIOA **Team of the Year Award**, also sponsored by **TRILITY**. The award recognises teams of employees working in any part of the water industry that have made an outstanding contribution to their workplace or community. The award winner will be announced at the WIOA conference in Tamworth, NSW in October. The winning team will receive copies of WIOA’s Practical Guide books for the use of the team to the value of \$2,000. To find out more or to nominate a team for the award, visit <https://wioa.org.au/awards/national-awards/team-year/>



Nominations for the **2021 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 2022. Applications close on Friday 23 April 2021 and a form is available from <https://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 2022. 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 23 April 2021, nomination forms are available from <https://wioa.org.au/awards/state-awards/queensland-awards/>



At the close of applications, we received 6 entries for the **2021 PASS Award** generously sponsored by Aqualift Project Delivery. The award winner will be announced at the Meet the Exhibitors Dinner at the Queensland conference in Toowoomba on 2 June 2021. The award shares and showcases the good ideas of members, with all entries made into a booklet for distribution to members after the winner is announced.

## EVENTS

The second WIOA Talks webinar for 2021 will focus on **Asset Management Issues**. Hosted by WIOA's Victorian Advisory Committee, it will be held online via Zoom on Wednesday 28 April 2021 at 11.00am AEST. There will be presentations from Travis Dunn, TRILITY about the development of their maintenance KPI Dashboard; Nick Subotsch, Peerless Industrial Systems looking at the differences between coatings and paint; and Andrew Evans from Ventia talking about asset condition monitoring for operators. Registration for members is now open at <https://wioa.org.au/nevent/assets/>



The platform paper program for the **WIOA Queensland Operations Conference and Exhibition** to be held in Toowoomba on 2 & 3 June has been set but we are still looking for a couple **more Operator poster papers**. If you have an idea for a poster, please contact the office ASAP. There is an excellent mix of paper and poster topics from a wide cross section of authors and organisations. Registrations are now being accepted. Registration information and the program is now available from the WIOA website at <http://wioaconferences.org.au/qld-2021/>. Support for the exhibition in Toowoomba has already been phenomenal with all 81 available sites allocated and a long list of companies on the waiting list.



The keenly contested **Queensland Main Tapping Competition** will also be held again at the Toowoomba conference and we are currently seeking teams to compete. Will 2021 be the year that sees the trophy head somewhere other than to Gold Coast Water? Enter your teams via email with Craig at the office.



The third **WIOA South Australian Conference and Expo** will be held at the new Murray Bridge Race Club facility on 4 & 5 August 2021. Using a smaller and slightly different format to WIOA's East Coast conferences, the technical program and expo is aimed directly at staff in operational roles in the South Australian water industry. Opportunities to participate as a sponsor or exhibitor will be provided exclusively to WIOA Corporate Members in early May.

The Call for Papers for the SA Conference closes on 23 April. More information on the event, including the call for papers is available at <https://wioaconferences.org.au/call-for-papers/>



The **Call for Papers** for the **83rd Annual WIOA Victorian Conference** on 1 & 2 September is open with abstracts being sought for both platform and poster presenters. Closing on 7 May, more information and an abstract submission template can be obtained from <https://wioaconferences.org.au/call-for-papers/>



**2021 Sponsorship Opportunities.** WIOA still has two **Sponsorship** opportunities available for the 2021 Conferences and Exhibitions in Queensland, Victoria and NSW. Sponsorship opportunities include the conference bags that are presented to all delegates at these events and a COVID sponsor to provide everything we need to meet all the new COVIDsafe event requirements. For more information contact Craig on 0457 846 008.

## TRAINING COURSES

The Australian Water School and WMAwater are pleased to announce the launch of the **Australian Rainfall & Runoff (ARR) Live Training Series**. In collaboration with key authors of ARR, the Live Training Series will be run throughout 2021. ARR Essentials will lead into the Live Training Series comprised of 8 individual intensive 3-hour courses. More information on the courses or register at <https://tinyurl.com/eh2jb2yd>

**AMS Training & Solutions** is excited to announce the release of their new Water Treatment Resources App in partnership with DHPaul Inc., designed to make it easier to access their training but also a range of other features, including FREE webinars. Search for 'DHP Neptune Lite' in the App Store or Google Play. Enable location services to see Australian specific content and check back regularly to see new features as they are released over the coming weeks.



The Australian Hydrographers Association (AHA), HydroTerra and Sentek are combining to provide a free **Webinar: 101 Soil Moisture Monitoring**. The webinar will cover the fundamentals of the importance of soil moisture monitoring, how to monitor soil moisture and the latest monitoring technologies available. This webinar will be of particular interest to water Utilities that irrigate recycled water. The webinar commences at 12.30pm AEST on Friday 16 April 2021. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/hpmww9na>



The **WASH & the COVID-19 Pandemic Virtual Symposium** will be staged on 21 & 22 April 2021, 12pm until 7pm AEST. Registrations are essential for this free symposium with registrations closing on 16 April. The program consists of 2 panels and 10 workshops. For those who can't attend live, there is an opportunity to attend four one hour sessions with Q&A panels discussing the days highlights. For more information on the program or to register, please visit <https://washfutures.com/>

## PEOPLE & CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

**Air-Met Scientific** is providing a **webinar** to discuss the "Monitoring and control of EME in 5G NR Systems – An Update on Test Solutions". The webinar will cover the latest advancements in Monitoring and control of EME in 5G NR Systems; personal safety and environmental health, along with a Q&A session. The free webinar will be held on 29 April 2021 at 3.00pm AEST and will feature guest speaker Volker Brands. For more information contact Air-Met Scientific on 1800 000 744 or register at <https://tinyurl.com/5cex4u6z>



Congratulations to **Icon Water** for taking out the Banksia Foundation's 2020 Large Business Award and the overall Gold Award for its ongoing commitment to sustainability. The award recognised Icon Water's No Opportunity Wasted Program, a collaboration with eight local businesses consisting of eight resource recovery initiatives which target varying opportunities for the reuse and recycling of items that would otherwise be considered waste. Find out more at <https://tinyurl.com/433dzsr4>



**Thermo Fisher Scientific** is staging a webinar on the AlgaeOnlineAnalyser {"AOA"} from bbe Moldaenke on 21 April 2021 from 2.00pm AEST. The AOA unit is an online instrument for continuous monitoring of algae class composition in open waters at rivers, reservoirs and drinking water production. It detects and distinguishes between different algal classes giving a distribution of green algae, blue-green algae, cryptophyceae and brown algae (i.e. diatoms, dinoflagellates), with the ability to add new (customised) algae classes. The webinar will include a 30 minute presentation followed by a Q&A for 15-30 minutes. To register visit <https://tinyurl.com/b8588w7v>



**AWMA** is holding an **Open Day** at its Cohuna manufacturing facility where attendees can explore the latest innovative water control and screening solutions. Guided tours will depart on the hour from 9.00am to 1.00pm on Wednesday 21 April 2021. Bookings are essential so please call 03 5456 3331 or email [info@awmawatercontrol.com.au](mailto:info@awmawatercontrol.com.au) for the exact address and to reserve your place.

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

**Current positions vacant** include several Water and Wastewater Treatment Operator roles, an Asset Performance Engineer, a Senior Technical Officer and a Service Technician. To utilise this FREE job advertisement placement service, please email your advert to [sherryn@wioa.org.au](mailto:sherryn@wioa.org.au)

**2021 EVENTS** Check out the events calendar online, visit <https://wioa.org.au/wioa-events/>

- 19 April **Voting for WIOA Vice President and Committee**, closes online
- 21 April **WIOA Inc Annual General Meeting**, online
- 23 April **Queensland Operator of the Year Awards**, applications close for all three
- 28 April **WIOA Talks - Asset Monitoring**, online
- 4-6 May **Ozwater**, Adelaide
- 19 May **WIOA Talks - Membranes**, online
- 23 June **WIOA Talks - Catchment management and water quality issues**, online
- 20 July **Kwatye Applications** close
- 21 July **WIOA Talks - Anammox**, online
- 19 August **WIOA Talks - UV Disinfection**, online

### **2021 CONFERENCE & EXHIBITIONS**

- 2 & 3 June **45<sup>th</sup> WIOA QLD Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Toowoomba
- 4 & 5 August **3<sup>rd</sup> WIOA SA Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Murray Bridge
- 1 & 2 Sept **83<sup>rd</sup> WIOA VIC Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Bendigo
- 27 & 28 October **14<sup>th</sup> WIOA NSW Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Tamworth



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**KEEP YOUR CONTACT DETAILS UP TO DATE.** If your phone number, mailing address or email address has changed please email Abbey your new details ([abbey@wioa.org.au](mailto:abbey@wioa.org.au)) or call the office on 03 5821 6744.