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WIOA WORDS

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AROUND THE TRAPS

At the WIOA Inc AGM held online on 21 April, **Mark Samblebe** was announced as President and George Wall continues as the Secretary/Treasurer. A total of 456 members participated in the online voting process, which saw **Sally Shepherd** elected as Vice President. Ryan McGowan, Elise O'Keeffe, Heidi Josipovic and Grant Waite were re-elected and they are joined on the Committee by Bill Collie. President Mark congratulated outgoing President Heidi for doing such an outstanding job over the past two years. He also thanked outgoing Committee members in Kathy Northcott and Simon Page for their efforts. 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) were also confirmed and are on the Committee.



The Australian Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment has released six new **Default Guideline Values (DGVs)** and associated technical briefs on the ANZG Water Quality website. These include Alpha-cypermethrin in freshwater; Bisphenol A in freshwater; Bisphenol A in marine water; Dioxins in freshwater; Fipronil in freshwater; and Mancozeb in freshwater. The six DGVs will be published as draft for a period of three months until 3 August 2021, at which point they will become final unless new peer-reviewed scientific or technical information justifies a re-examination. The DGVs have progressed through rigorous peer-review and technical and policy committee review processes. To access the six DGV technical briefs and associated documents, please refer to Table 1 at <https://tinyurl.com/2b85e3bs>. For information on how to make a submission, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/dj5ruec8>



The **Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA)** has recently approved an extension to the train out period for NWP30219 Certificate III in Water Industry Operations to now end on 31 December 2021. The Water Industry Reference Committee requested ASQA to consider the extension. The request was based on evidence that COVID had disrupted training of water operators throughout 2020 and that closing access to the previous version of NWP on 31 August would genuinely disadvantage a large cohort of trainees currently undertaking training in NSW in particular.



The **National Construction Code 2022** public comment draft has been released and WIOA members are encouraged to review the changes made. In particular Volume Three, the Plumbing Code of Australia has been significantly revised. Although not related to water works or the treatment side, some areas will be of interest to members. The public comment period closes 2 July, so please get any comments in as soon as possible. The link to the NCC 2022 drafts can be accessed at <https://tinyurl.com/tkzcn9nd>

Nearly \$300,000 has been raised for flood-affected farming families through donations to **Rural Aid**. The funds have already been distributed to hundreds of affected farmers through a \$1,000 emergency payment. Rural Aid has also been busy delivering hay to farmers in flood-affected areas. If anyone would like to donate to Rural Aid, you can do so at <https://tinyurl.com/25wwup54>

EVENTS

Time is running out to register for the **45th WIOA Queensland Water Industry Operations Conference and Exhibition** to be held in Toowoomba on 2 & 3 June. If you intend to come along as a delegate, please use our online event registration system ASAP. WIOA is taking COVID very seriously and we have a COVID Safe Plan that has been approved by Queensland Health. More details about the measures we are adopting to reduce the COVID risk are included on the website.

We understand that not everyone can attend as a delegate, so please keep in mind that entry to the exhibition is FREE. We encourage everyone to get a carload of people together and come and have a look through the exhibition, even for just an hour or so. For more information including the papers program and updates on the event, please visit: <https://wioaconferences.org.au/qld-2021/>



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 next **WIOA Talks** webinar will focus on **Membranes** and will be held on Wednesday 19 May at 11am and includes the launch of the new Practical Guide to the Operation and Optimisation of Membranes. Brionne Gay and Rick Maffescioni will share some of their substantial knowledge and experience around the operation and maintenance of membrane systems. Kathy Northcott, one of the Practical Guide authors, will give a run down of the content of the new book. To register for the webinar, please visit <https://wioa.org.au/nevent/wioa-talks-membranes/>



The call for platform papers has closed for the **83rd Victorian Water Operations Conference and Exhibition** but we are still looking for **a few more Platform and Posters abstracts from Operators**. If you have an idea or topic that could be presented, please contact the WIOA office ASAP: info@wioa.org.au



The **3rd 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 soon.

The Call for Papers for the SA Conference closed on 14 May. More information on the event, including the technical program will also be available soon.

WIOA AWARDS 2021

We look forward with interest to the announcement of the AWA sponsored **Leon Henry Memorial, Queensland Operator of the Year Award**, the *qldwater* sponsored **Young Queensland Operator of the Year Award** and the **Queensland Operator of the Year (Civil/All Rounder) Awards**. The winners will be announced at the WIOA Qld Conference Awards Dinner on Thursday 3 June in Toowoomba.

Applications are being sought for the new **WIOA Team of the Year Award**, sponsored by **TRILITY**. The award will recognise teams of employees working in any part of the water industry that have made an outstanding contribution to their workplace or community. Teams may be recognised for a range of activities like; implementation of new infrastructure and solutions; maintaining services through difficult times such as weather events, fires, and the pandemic; providing support to their communities, other employees, other businesses, or the water industry; or development of innovative programs or initiatives as examples. The award will be judged by a WIOA selection committee and the winner will be announced at the WIOA NSW Conference in Tamworth in October. Applications close on 10 September 2021 with more information available at <https://wioa.org.au/awards/national-awards/team-year/>



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/>

TRAINING COURSES

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 next **IWES 2021** training courses will take place in person on the Gold Coast throughout the week of 12-16 July at the Mercure Gold Coast Resort. Courses on offer include Principles of Wastewater Treatment; Corrosion and Odour Management in Sewers; Drinking Water Treatment; Biosolids Treatment and Management as well as a number of others. Early bird sales close on 1 June to lock in a \$1,000 discount. More information or to register, visit IWES - <https://iwes.com.au/events/iwes-gold-coast-12-16-july-2021/>



The **Australian Water School** has a number of **free webinars** coming up where participants can be provided education and knowledge delivered by world-class experts. Covering an extensive range of topics, the webinars are a great opportunity for water professionals to connect and expand their personal networks and industry knowledge. For more information on coming webinars or to access recordings of previous webinars, visit <https://awschool.com.au/webinars/>



Due to the uncertainty of lockdowns and travel restrictions still looming around the COVID-19 pandemic the **Membrane Operators Association** has confirmed that they have deferred their Annual Membrane Operators Conference for another year, to 2022.

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

There are a number of **positions vacant** currently advertised on the WIOA website including several **Operator positions, Engineering positions and Water and Wastewater Operators and Team Leaders**. To utilise this FREE job advertisement placement service, please email your advert to sherryn@wioa.org.au

PEOPLE & CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

Melbourne Water has been named one of Australia's best places to work and is included on the 2021 AFR BOSS Best Places to Work List. The annual list published by The Australian Financial Review and BOSS Magazine, is based on an assessment process managed by behavioural science consultancy Inventium. Melbourne Water was recognised for achievements in innovative work practices that drive flexibility, equality, diversity, inclusion wellbeing, learning and development.



The team at **Treadwell Group** are now fully operational in Perth. Located at 4 Elmsfield Road, Midvale WA 6056, they hold a large range of stock to reduce turnaround time. Served by their highly experienced Perth based team – Wes Merrill and Joseph Paul, feel free to reach out to them on 08 8470 0002 or email them at wa.sales@treadwellgroup.com.au

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

- 19 May **WIOA Talks - Membranes**, online including launch of the Membrane Practical Guide
- 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
- 10 September **WIOA Team of the Year Applications** close

2021 CONFERENCE & EXHIBITIONS

- 2 & 3 June **45th WIOA QLD Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Toowoomba
- 4 & 5 August **3rd WIOA SA Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Murray Bridge
- 1 & 2 Sept **83rd WIOA VIC Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Bendigo
- 27 & 28 October **14th 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 Ann your new details (ann@wioa.org.au) or call the office on 03 5821 6744.