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# WIOA WORDS

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## AROUND THE TRAPS

Congratulations to the team at TasWater and TRILITY and the Rossarden WTP who won the award as the **Best Tap Water in the World** at the Berkeley Springs International Water Tasting Event in West Virginia, USA. The global event judged water from five continents, 14 countries and 19 US states. This is the first time that water from Australia has won the prestigious award, which is a major coup for the nation and the state. This is an amazing achievement for a small town in Tasmania which just over three years ago was under a Do Not Consume notice. The Rossarden entry won its way to the title by being judged the Ixom Best Tasting Tap Water in Tasmania and then the Ixom Best Tasting Tap Water in Australia in 2020.



The **2021 WIOA Queensland Water Industry Operations Conference and Exhibition** was held in **Toowoomba** in early June. After managing some COVID related hiccups, and with huge support from our Queensland members and volunteers, we were able to successfully hold the event with just on 600 participants attending. Our sincere thanks are extended to our event sponsors, all the attendees and in particular, our army of helpers who did a brilliant job helping to run the event. Our congratulations are extended to the various award winners:

- **Shane Bandiera**, Cassowary Coast Regional Council - **Leon Henry Memorial, Queensland Operator of the Year Award** sponsored by AWA
- **Shannon Thomas**, Unity Water - **Young Queensland Operator of the Year** sponsored by *qldwater*
- **Shane Bambrick**, Urban Utilities - **Qld Operator of Year (Civil/All Rounder)** sponsored by *qldwater*
- **Anthony Domanti**, Logan Water Partnership / WSP - **Brian Davis Memorial, Best Paper Overall** sponsored by Hanna Instruments
- **William Smith and Michael Gow**, Logan City Council - **Best Paper by an Operator** sponsored by ProMinent
- **Tony Schultz**, Seqwater - **Best Poster by an Operator** sponsored by IWES
- **Mass Products - Ron Bergmeier Award, Best Exhibition Site** sponsored by Utility magazine
- **Queensland**, Livingstone Shire Council - **Ixom 2021 Water of Origin**
- **Kool Tappings (again), Dan Lee and Gavin Stacey**, City of Gold Coast - **Queensland Main Tapping Competition** sponsored by Reece Civil

For more information on the conference and winners visit - <https://wioaconferences.org.au/qld-2021/>



Due to COVID related issues, the **3rd WIOA South Australian Conference and Expo** has been postponed until March or April 2022. Further information on the date and venue will be provided in the coming months. There is still an opportunity to submit an abstract for consideration by the program organising Committee by emailing your idea to [info@wioa.org.au](mailto:info@wioa.org.au). Opportunities will be provided exclusively to WIOA Corporate Members to participate as a sponsor or an exhibitor in the coming months as well.

We have received numerous queries about whether the **WIOA Victorian Conference** planned for Bendigo on 1 & 2 September 2021. At this stage we anticipate that the event will go ahead in September, and we will continually monitor the COVID situation and the Victorian Government health advice and restrictions on events and gatherings. We have also secured an alternative venue booking for the week of 22-26 November 2021 in case the restrictions stop the event from proceeding in September. We will keep all our stakeholders informed in the coming weeks.



The Water Industry Reference Committee has just released its **2021 Water Industry Outlook**. The outlook reports key water industry trends, new and emerging skills needs, as well as the proposed changes to the National Water Training Package to address these workforce needs. The outlook is developed via a research and stakeholder consultation process conducted by Australian Industry Standards on behalf of the Water IRC. To access the Outlook, visit <https://tinyurl.com/jfp9z9dd>



The latest in WIOA's Practical Guide series – *the **Practical Guide to the Operation and Optimisation of Microfiltration & Ultrafiltration Membrane Processes*** was released in May. Authored by Kathy Northcott, Greg Creek and Peter Mosse, the guide is an outstanding resource for operators in any organisation with these processes. The book retails for \$30 (+ GST, plus postage) and an order form is available at <https://wioa.org.au/publications/practical-guides/>



The **Department of Education, Skills and Employment** (DESE) has released some summary findings and outcomes from the first phase of consultation on **Skills Reform**. The Skills Reform process is designed to deliver key reforms to improve the VET system, including quality of the VET workforce, improving the quality of training and the role of industry engagement in VET. Some of the key findings include

- The need for a new model for industry engagement in the VET system to move beyond just training package development;
- Industry needs to be a driver in recognising workplace needs, growth areas and pathways;
- There is a need for more cross-sector collaboration in relation to training package development;
- There needs to be more diverse representation in the development of training packages;
- Training packages need to be more responsive to industry needs; and
- Training package approval could be streamlined and improved to ensure training products are fit-for-purpose.

The Department will be publishing articles, fact sheets and other materials with findings from other recent engagement activities on the Skills Reform website at <https://www.skillsreform.gov.au/>



Congratulations to **Craig Woodhouse** from TasWater for being announced as the **2021 PASS Award** winner at the recent Queensland conference. More at <https://wioa.org.au/awards/national-awards/pass-award/>



With **Men's Health week** running from 14-20 June, it is important to share the message of valuing good health. We were alerted to a story about a health scare for long term WIOA member and supporter, **Peter Cations from Melbourne Water**. His story can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/jtwphr63>



For the fourth 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. More information on signing up, or just donating to PCFA, is available at <https://tinyurl.com/y99eueaa>

## EVENTS

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 **Posters from Operators**. If you have an idea or topic that could be presented, please contact the WIOA office ASAP at: [info@wioa.org.au](mailto:info@wioa.org.au)



At our recent Queensland conference, the **Ixom Water of Origin Taste Test** was won by the sample from **Livingstone Shire Council** representing Queensland over the Port Macquarie Hastings Regional Council from NSW/ACT. This opens the gap slightly with Queensland currently ahead five wins to three in the head to head Water of Origin challenge. A select panel of judges sampled the product supplied by both councils. The real winners were the operators who look after the systems and supply such fantastic water to their customers on a daily basis.



The next **WIOA Talks** webinar will focus on **Water Quality and Catchment related issues** and will be held on Wednesday 23 June at 11am (AEST). SA Water's Brooke Swaffer will discuss recreational access to SA Water's reservoirs and how SA Water is opening up recreational access in a controlled manner across South Australia. Shaun Kennedy will discuss the Millbrook Reservoir native revegetation project. To register for the webinar, please visit <https://wioa.org.au/nevent/catchment-management-water-quality-issues/>



WIOA invites all Victorian water suppliers to participate in the **2021 Ixom Victorian Best Tasting Tap Water competition** with heats to be held at the WIOA Victorian conference in Bendigo on 31 August and the Grand Final at lunch time on 1 September.

## 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/>



The Victorian Branch of AWA will shortly call for nominations for the 2021 **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.



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 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/>

## 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. Many of the courses are almost full so to obtain more information or to register, visit IWES - <https://iwes.com.au/events/iwes-gold-coast-12-16-july-2021/>



The **Australian Water School** has announced the launch of their **HEC-RAS training series** which commences in July 2021. Comprising of four intensive courses suitable for either a beginner or advanced user, attendees will be guided through the key concepts, the fundamental processes, and learn hands on by building their own models with the support of the expert trainers. There is a 15% discount for signing up to the whole series with more information available at <https://awschool.talentlms.com/catalog/index/cat:12>

**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 and Water positions and an Assistant Program Director**. 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

**Air-Met Scientific** is proud to announce that their AirMetER series of monitoring stations have been accredited to carry the iconic and trusted Australian made logo. They have three models designed and manufactured by their in-house engineers to monitor a range of particulates, gases, weather conditions and noise. For more information, visit <https://australianmade.com.au/licensees/air-met-scientific>

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

- 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

- 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.