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WIOA WORDS

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BENDIGO CONFERENCE RESCHEDULED

The 2022 WIOA Victorian Water Industry Operations Conference in Bendigo has been brought forward by one week and will now be staged on **23 & 24 February 2022**. We apologise for any inconvenience that this change of date may cause our Members and water industry stakeholders, but it is due to circumstances outside WIOA's control.

WIOA AWARDS

As a result of having no face to face events anywhere other than Queensland in 2021, WIOA reverted to an online format to recognise and celebrate the achievements of many water industry operations people. Our congratulations to all the winners announced on the day including:

Tasmanian Operator of the Year – **Rex Townsend** (TasWater) *sponsored by TasWater*

Tasmanian Young Operator of the Year – **Dean Edsall** (TasWater) *sponsored by TasWater*

NSW Operator of the Year – **Geoff Matheson** (MidCoast Council) *sponsored by NSW Water Directorate*

Victorian Operator of the Year – **Gavin Allen** (Veolia) *sponsored by AWA Vic Branch*

Victorian Young Operator of the Year – **Lillee Hardie** (Gippsland Water) *sponsored by IWA Vic*

Kwatye Award – **Jason Van Der Heyden** (Wannon Water) and the Heywood Water Tower Mural Team members *sponsored by TRILITY*

WIOA Team of the Year Award – **Tweed Shire Council**, water and wastewater reticulation operations supervisory group, *sponsored by TRILITY*

IDIOTS Award – **Robran Cock** (Ametqua), South Australia

With wonderful support from Ixom as sponsor, and using the WIOA staff as independent judges, the State heats of the Best Tasting Tap Water competitions were also held. Congratulations to the State winners:

Tasmania – **Rocky Creek WTP** *operated by Stornoway for TasWater*

NSW – **Casino WTP** *operated by Richmond Valley Council*

Western Australia – **Wyndham WTP** *operated by Water Corporation*

South Australia – **Anstey Hill WTP** *operated by Suez for SA Water*

Victoria – **Bass WTP** *operated by Westernport Water*

TasWater will host the Best Tasting Tap Water in Australia final where each of these organisations plus the Marian WTP (Mackay) representing Queensland, will battle it out for glory in early 2022. The winner will then represent Australia at the International Water Taste Test competition in Berkeley Springs in the USA in February 2022. More information on the finalists in each State and a short summary of each winner is available at <https://wioa.org.au/tastetest/>. A full write up will appear in the February edition of Operator.

WIOA has recently been announced as a finalist in the **Association External Campaign of the Year Award** for the Best Tasting Tap Water Competition that we stage annually in conjunction with IXOM. Managed by Associations Forum, this award is presented to an association that has made an outstanding achievement through an external campaign resulting in significant improvement for the association's mission, sector or members. The award announcement is on Thursday 2 December 2021 from 4.00-5.00pm AEDT. Members interested in watching the announcement can register at <https://tinyurl.com/z7kjt363>

AROUND THE TRAPS

After being managed externally for many years, WIOA is taking over responsibility of the production of our technical magazine **WaterWorks**, with the first edition under WIOA's control to be distributed in May 2022. We invite all our Corporate Members and other water industry stakeholders to consider advertising in the coming editions. For more information, please contact Craig - craig@wioa.org.au or visit the WIOA website to download the 2022 Media Kit at <https://wioa.org.au/publications/water-works/>

We are also on the lookout now for technical articles for the May 2022 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.



Congratulations to both **qldwater** and SA Water for being finalists in the National Training Awards held on 18 November. **qldwater** was a finalist in the Industry Collaboration section and SA Water was a finalist in the large Employer category. Although neither picked up the award on the night, it is great to see their strong commitment to training for water industry operational staff being recognised.



The NHMRC is seeking experts to join the **Water Quality Advisory Committee**. The role of the committee is to advise on water-related public health issues as requested by NHMRC, in particular priorities and quality of the evidence to inform the rolling review of the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines. The members of the Committee will be appointed based on their recognised expertise in one or more of the following fields: public health, evidence translation and methodology, guideline development, epidemiology, microbiology, toxicology, water chemistry, water recycling, surface water hydrology, groundwater hydrology, water quality risk assessment and risk management, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and consumer representation. Information on the Committee and expression of interest process is at <https://tinyurl.com/5ah996ey> with applications closing at 11.59pm (AEDST) 17 December 2021.



Australian Industry Standards (AIS) is inviting responses from industry to their annual **Industry Skills Survey** about key issues affecting skills and workforce development. We encourage everyone to participate and your input will assist the development of the 2022 *Industry Outlooks*. The skills surveys aim to build a whole-of-industry picture and will be used to assist in identifying new or emerging skills needs and help inform workforce skills needs for the water sector. The skills survey can be completed online and should take around 5 to 10 minutes. The survey will remain open until close of business on 20 December 2021 and can be accessed at <https://tinyurl.com/j2uk7ukc>



WIOA is seeking expressions of interest from members who would like to be considered for a position on the **Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) group**. The D&I group was established in 2019 to help us identify opportunities to embrace and celebrate Diversity and Inclusion within our organisation. Interested Members are invited to submit the EOI by 13 December 2021 via the WIOA website. Information on the activities of the group, the EOI, plus a Terms of Reference is available at <https://wioa.org.au/di/>

The Australian water industry was represented in a forum at COP26's Water Pavilion with Tracey Slatter, Managing Director at Barwon Water, speaking on how governments, water Utilities and the private sector are working together to reduce emissions and energy consumption and ensure water resilience. Tracey's forum discussion is available to view at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WpVeHyAZH-8&t=1678s>



After receiving requests from two Registered Training Organisations, the Water IRC through Australian Industry Standards has **applied to ASQA for another 6 month extension** to the train out period for the Certificate II and Certificate III qualifications. An extension of an additional 12 months has also been requested for Certificate IV. These requests are in responses to restricted access to training opportunities during the COVID lockdown periods. The IRC is awaiting ASQA's reply on this matter.

2021 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Individual and Corporate Members are reminded that the **annual fees for 2022** are due on 1 January 2022 and renewal invoices are currently being sent to all members. Membership fees for 2022 have been kept the same as 2021, at \$40 for Individual members and \$300 for Corporate members (incl GST).



A reminder to all our Utility Corporate Members - your employee lists have been sent out and need updating (if you have not already done so). For those unfamiliar with this membership category, it is a combination of both Individual and Corporate Membership. Utilities employing operators can sign up and pay for each nominated staff member at the Individual Member rate. The Utility receives free corporate membership and other benefits including discounted registration fees for all staff at WIOA events. There are already 78 organisations that have taken up this opportunity. More information on Utility Corporate Membership is available at: <https://wioa.org.au/membership/>

EVENTS

Our thanks are extended to John Mills and the operations team at Toowoomba Regional Council for allowing WIOA members the opportunity to attend **an Interest Day and tour** on 16 November 2021 of the new assets recently commissioned at Pechey WTP, Perseverance Dam and Cressbrook Dam. There was an extremely large roll up with nearly 70 attendees on the day. From all reports, it was an amazing opportunity to see some of the water infrastructure that TRC has in their network, and to network with like-minded water people.



Applications to participate in the **2022 Victorian Network Operator Development Program (NODP)** are now open, noting that the closing date has been delayed to 21 February 2022. The date for the first Session for the new group of operators is scheduled for 26 & 27 April 2022. More information and the application forms are available from <https://wioa.org.au/network-operator-development-program/>



The **Water Industry Operations Group NZ Conference** will be held in Dunedin from 25-27 May 2022. As with previous years, there is likely to be a tour of several water and wastewater treatment systems on the South Island from around 20-28 May 2022 (dates and tour program being confirmed at present). If you or any of your staff are interested in being part of the tour, please let us know in the office ASAP.



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 2022 to the value of over \$2,500. Sponsored by Aqualift Project Delivery, applications close at the end of February 2022. Entry forms are on the website <http://wioa.org.au/awards/national-awards/pass-award/>

TRAINING COURSES

AMS Training & Solutions (<https://www.amsts.com.au/>) is excited to announce the release of their Level 2 RO Training as an online offering, via the Neptune Water Treatment Resources App. Search for 'DHP Neptune Lite' in the App Store or Google Play. Enable location services to see Australian specific content and updates. All their online training options are available through Neptune.



The **Australian Water School** has a suite of webinars, on-demand and live training courses coming up in the next couple of months focusing on significant, innovative or critical advances in water science, technology and management including bushfire hydrology; energy losses at structures; extreme events and lake modelling to name a few. Their updated website at <https://tinyurl.com/y6xfjke6> allows everyone to browse their wide-ranging portfolio of live and on-demand courses, including free copies of past webinars.



The next **IWES event** will be held online in February 2022 with their **Principles of Wastewater Treatment Course** and a new course on **Integrated Urban Water Management and Assessment**. Early Bird Sale ends on December 20, so lock in your discounted price before then to save up to \$1000 off your registration price. Please note that while this event is online and as such not subject to physical seating limitations – they are still limiting places to ensure each participant receives adequate teaching and question time. Visit <https://iwes.com.au/events/iwes-online-2022/> to find out more or to register.

PEOPLE & CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

There have been several new Water Utilities CEO announcements made recently. **Jo Murdoch** currently at Barwon Water has been appointed as the new Managing Director at North East Water from January 2022, taking over from Craig Heiner. **Dr Nerina Di Lorenzo** was announced as the new Managing Director of Melbourne Water and the first female MD in the organisation's 130 year history. **George Theo** will take over from Mike Brewster as CEO of TasWater. George moves to the role with more than 30 years experience at Unitywater, GHD, Brisbane Water and City West Water.

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

The positions vacant section of our website currently has a number of positions for **Treatment Plant Operators, Maintenance Operators, Projects Officers and Engineers, a General Manager Technology & Transformation and more**. Positions are currently being advertised seeking applicants for jobs in NSW, Queensland and Victoria. To utilise this FREE job advertisement service, please email your advert to sherryn@wioa.org.au

2022 EVENTS

- 23 & 23 February **83rd WIOA Victorian Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Bendigo
- 28 February **PASS Award**, applications close
- 23 March **SA Water Interest Day, Happy Valley WTP**, South Australia
- 6 & 7 April **14th WIOA NSW Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Tamworth
- 20-28 May (TBC) **WIOA Tour of New Zealand**, South Island
- 3 & 4 August **46th WIOA Qld Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Logan
- 20 & 21 September **3rd WIOA SA Water Industry Operations Conference & Expo**, venue TBC



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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.