



Published by the Water Industry Operators Association of Australia (WIOA)

# WIOA WORDS

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## AROUND THE TRAPS

Welcome to 2022 although it is already off to a bumpy start. The Omicron outbreak has created staffing availability issues for water corporations, forcing us to have to postpone the Victorian Conference and Exhibition once again. The conference will now be held in **Bendigo on 22 & 23 June 2022**.



The Committee, Board and Staff of WIOA hope that the trials and tribulations of 2020 & 2021 will soon be behind us, and we look forward to delivering another exciting and operationally important calendar of events this year. The Advisory Committees in all States will be meeting in early February and will look to schedule interest days in the coming months, ahead of our conference schedule which now commences with our NSW Conference in Tamworth in the week of 4 April 2022.



Members are reminded that **annual fees for 2022 were due on 1 January**. If you have not paid your fees, please do so as soon as possible, or alternatively, please let us know if you do not intend to renew your membership and we will remove you from the Membership register.

We received some payments by EFT in December 2021 and January 2022 where the invoice number or the name of the payee was not provided. Our staff are unable to correctly allocate the payments without this information. Receipts have now been issued and sent to everyone by email. If you have not received a receipt for your payment, can you please contact the office staff with the date and amount of your payment, as it may be one of the missing ones.



Australian Industry Standards, on behalf of the Water Industry Reference Committee has recently released some draft **updates to Units of Competence in the Networks area** for water industry feedback. There are three new units along with proposed amendments to unit NWPNET020 Control electrical risk on metallic pipes. Feedback is required by COB on Tuesday 22 February 2022 and the draft materials and feedback form can be accessed at <https://tinyurl.com/3t6dtr3f>



WIOA is now internally managing the production and distribution of **WaterWorks** (WIOA's technical publication) with editions scheduled for May and November each year. Copies are distributed to all members, as well as to conference delegates and exhibitors and other water industry stakeholders. We rely on advertising sales to offset the cost of providing this valuable publication for the benefit of members and others in the water industry. Corporate Members are invited to consider advertising in the May edition and can contact Craig - [craig@wioa.org.au](mailto:craig@wioa.org.au) for more information or visit the WIOA website to download the 2022 Media Kit at <https://wioa.org.au/publications/water-works/>

We are seeking **articles, stories or information** from Members suitable for publication in the May edition of WaterWorks along with the February and May editions of Operator. If you can contribute, or know of anything that would be interesting to our Members, please contact George at [george@wioa.org.au](mailto:george@wioa.org.au).



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/>



Congratulations to the team at Richmond Valley Council in NSW for the sample from the Casino WTP winning the **Best Tasting Tap Water in Australia competition**. Held in Tasmania with the outstanding support of sponsor Ixom and staff from TasWater, the winners of each of the State based Taste Tests were pitted against one another. A guest judging panel that included Australian Cricket Chairman of Selectors George Bailey had a hard time selecting the winner. The sample from Casino will now represent Australia in the world titles to be held in West Virginia USA at the end of February. As the reigning gold medallist, we have our fingers crossed for another medal in the international competition. <https://wioa.org.au/tastetest/>



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 31 January 2022 and can be accessed at <https://tinyurl.com/j2uk7ukc>

## WIOA AWARDS

Nominations are now open for the 2022 **NSW Operator of the Year Award** sponsored by the NSW Water Directorate. We encourage organisations to nominate your operational staff for consideration for these prestigious awards, that recognise the valuable contribution of operators in the water industry. More information on how to nominate operational staff for this award will be on the WIOA website soon.



Nominations are also open for the 2022 **Victorian Operator of the Year Award** and the 2022 **Victorian Young Operator of the Year Award** sponsored by the Institute of Water Administration, Victoria. Following the postponement of the Victorian conference, the application closing date has been extended to COB on 29 April 2022. We encourage as many organisations as possible to nominate your operational staff for consideration for these prestigious awards. Application forms are available on the WIOA website at <https://wioa.org.au/awards/state-awards/victorian-awards/>



The closing date for applications for the **Problem Accepted, Solution Supplied (PASS) Award** is 28 February 2022. Operational staff continually create innovations and fixes to problems in the workplace, this award provides the opportunity to share those innovations and fixes to problems so that others in the water industry can benefit. The winner receives the opportunity to participate in the WIOA tour to New Zealand in May 2022 to the value of \$2,500, courtesy of sponsor Aqualift. Application details and an entry form are on the website at <http://wioa.org.au/awards/national-awards/pass-award/>

## EVENTS

Delegate registrations for the **14<sup>th</sup> WIOA NSW Water Industry Operations Conference and Exhibition** to be held in Tamworth on 6 & 7 April 2022 are now open. All the information on the event including the technical program and the registration process is available on the WIOA conferences website at <https://wioaconferences.org.au/nsw-2022/>. If you intend to come along as a delegate, please use our online event registration system ASAP.

We understand that not everyone can attend the NSW conference 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.



WIOA invites all NSW/ACT Water Suppliers to participate in the **Ixom 2022 Best Tasting Tap Water in NSW/ACT Competition** with heats to be held at the WIOA NSW conference in Tamworth on Tuesday 5 April and the Grand Final at lunch time on Wednesday 6 April 2022. More details are available on the WIOA website <https://wioaconferences.org.au/nsw-2022/nsw-water-taste-test/>



NSW water services providers are invited to enter teams of 2 competitors into the keenly contested **NSW Main Tapping Competition** (supported by Tamworth RC and Reece Civil) that will be conducted as part of the NSW Conference in Tamworth. The fastest team will have \$1,000 donated to a charity of their choice, as well as having their names engraved into the perpetual trophy. Check out the WIOA website for more information - <https://wioaconferences.org.au/nsw-main-tapping-competition/>

## TRAINING COURSES

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**. Registration for both courses close very soon. Please note that while this event is online and as such not subject to physical seating limitations - there are limited 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.



The **Australian Water School** has its first course for 2022 – **Uncertainty Analysis in Groundwater Modelling**. The course is being staged from 3-10 February with places limited for greater interactivity. More information including registration details is at <https://awschool.talentlms.com/catalog/info/id:232>

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

The positions vacant section of our website currently has positions listed for **Water & Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Technicians, Area Co-Ordinator, Asset Management Information Systems Officer, Operations Management Centre Operator and a number of Engineering roles**. 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](mailto:sherryn@wioa.org.au)

## PEOPLE & CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

**Interflow and Raedlinger Primus Line** have recently announced the signing of an exclusivity partnership for the use of the Primus Line pressure pipeline renewal technology. This relationship will ensure that the product will be expertly installed every time. More information is available by emailing Emma Timbrell at [etimbrell@interflow.com.au](mailto:etimbrell@interflow.com.au)



**Kaeser Compressors Australia** has launched its Webinar Programme for 2022. This programme includes the return of the popular 'Compressed Air Webinar', as well as a new series of compressed air focused webinars being run in partnership with Engineers Australia. More information on the webinars is available at <https://au.kaeser.com/company/press/press-releases/compressed-air-webinars-2022.aspx>

## 2022 EVENTS

- 28 February **PASS Award**, applications close
- 23 March **SA Water Interest Day, Happy Valley WTP**, South Australia
- 6 & 7 April **14<sup>th</sup> WIOA NSW Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Tamworth
- 29 April **Victorian Operator of the Year and Young Operator of the Year Awards** close
- 20-28 May (TBC) **WIOA Tour of New Zealand**, South Island
- 22 & 23 June **83<sup>rd</sup> WIOA Victorian Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Bendigo
- 3 & 4 August **46<sup>th</sup> WIOA Queensland Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Logan
- 20 & 21 September **3<sup>rd</sup> WIOA SA Water Industry Operations Conference & Expo**, venue TBC



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](mailto:sherryn@wioa.org.au)) or call the office on 03 5821 6744.