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# WIOA WORDS

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24 New Dookie Road  
Shepparton, Victoria  
PO Box 6012  
Shepparton, Victoria 3632

+61 3 5821 6744



+61 3 5821 6033



info@wioa.org.au



www.wioa.org.au



Snippets, news items or other information can be sent to [info@wioa.org.au](mailto:info@wioa.org.au)

## AROUND THE TRAPS

After more than 10 ½ years in the role, WIOA's **Chief Operations Officer, Craig Mathisen is leaving**, with his last day on Friday 25 March 2022. Craig's management skills, creativity, dedication, motivation and passion for the water industry has been an enormous asset during this time and he will be greatly missed. On behalf of all Members and staff, we say "thank you Craig, and best wishes on your next venture".

We are pleased to announce that **Anthony Evans** from Wannon Water will be joining WIOA in a part time secondment position from mid-April. Anthony brings a wide range of experience gained from various roles in the water industry since 1984, and also as a past President and current Committee member of WIOA.



Members are reminded that this is the last chance to pay your **annual fees for 2022 which were due on 1st January**. A reminder has been sent out recently and any member not financial will have their details removed from the member database and will not receive any further correspondence or member benefits.



The **2022 WIOA Annual General Meeting** will be held online on Thursday 21 April 2022 commencing at 2.00pm AEST. We would like to encourage as many Members as possible to log in, be part of the meeting and provide your input in the future direction of the association. If you wish to attend, please register by 19 April 2022 at <https://wioa.org.au/about-wioa/agm/>



Members are invited to contribute to the success of WIOA by **nominating for the General Committee**. To be considered for a Committee position, a completed nomination form must be returned by COB on 23 March 2022.



WSAA has created what they are describing as a one stop shop for water industry resources. **The Water 360 website** is the best place to start searching for the latest and most reliable information to support your work in the Australian water industry. Continually curated and updated to respond to emerging issues and needs, the refreshed Water360 website provides access to a range of publicly available research, information and news for the water sector. To access the site visit <https://water360.com.au/>



On behalf of the Water Industry Reference Committee (IRC), its Technical Advisory Committee has considered all stakeholder feedback and revised draft **Training Package materials** for the **Water Network Maintenance** project, including three new Units of Competency and one updated unit. The new units address the skills and knowledge required to clean and maintain water assets, including use of new technologies to monitor and repair assets. The IRC is seeking industry feedback by Thursday 24 March 2022. The draft materials can be viewed, and feedback submitted from <https://tinyurl.com/yckhjh4>

The **UN's World Water Day** is celebrated globally on 22 March each year. The 2022 theme is "Groundwater – making the invisible visible". There are a range resources available to help individuals and organisations to get the message out to the community. More info at <https://www.worldwaterday.org/share>



Members are invited to demonstrate their prowess over the NRL and/or AFL seasons by entering the 2022 **FREE WIOA NRL and/or AFL tipping competitions**. Firstly, join the NRL Tipping Competition at <https://tipping.nrl.com/> then join the WIOA competition. The name is **WIOA** and the Competition code is: **MVH47SZY**. For the AFL, join the AFL Tipping Competition at <https://tinyurl.com/2p8f2zpx> then join the WIOA competition. The name is **WIOA** and the Competition code is: **LX6DZSLH**.

## EVENTS

Last chance to register as a delegate for the **WIOA NSW Operations Conference and Exhibition** to be held in Tamworth on 6 & 7 April 2022. There is an excellent mix of topics in both the platform and poster sections, from a wide cross section of authors and the exhibition has all 110 sites filled. Intending delegates need to register ASAP via our online event registration system on the WIOA conferences website at <https://wioaconferences.org.au/nsw-2022/>

Members and colleagues from Councils close to Tamworth are reminded that entry to the **exhibition at the NSW Conference 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 the afternoon of 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/>



**Abstracts for WIOA conferences** can be submitted at any time prior to the official closing date. The Call for Papers is currently open for the WIOA Queensland Conference in Logan with abstracts for platform and poster presentations due to be submitted by Friday 5 April 2022. We are also seeking abstracts for the WIOA South Australian conference being held later in the year. We encourage all potential presenters to submit your abstracts early, visit <https://wioaconferences.org.au/call-for-papers/> for more information.



The WIOA Talks webinar series recommences for 2022 with the first event focussing on **the best job in the world – experiences in the water industry**. Hosted by WIOA's Diversity and Inclusion Group, it will be held online via Zoom on Wednesday 23 March 2022 at 11.00am AEDT. There will be a presentation from Ashleigh Meadows about her experiences as a newbie in the water industry followed by some group discussions in breakout rooms. Topics for discussion include what brought people into the water industry, what kept them in the industry, and the role (if any) managers/operators and WIOA can play in the future retention and recruitment of staff. Register at <https://wioa.org.au/wioa-best-job/>

The recent devastating floods in NSW and Qld have had a huge impact on people both in towns and on farms. There has been some considerable fundraising activities including the national Australian Red Cross appeal for flood victims. When the floodwater recedes, the farmers have a huge job ahead as they strive to recover. **Rural Aid has created The Farm Army** where volunteers can register an interest in physically supporting farmers on the ground who need help. More information is at <https://www.farmarmy.com.au/>

## WIOA AWARDS

Three outstanding operators have been nominated for the 2022 **NSW Operator of the Year Award** sponsored by the NSW Water Directorate. This most prestigious award recognises the valuable contribution of operators in the water industry and we look forward to the announcement of the winner at the Awards Dinner at the Tamworth conference.



At the close of applications, we received 6 outstanding entries for the **2022 PASS Award** generously sponsored by Aqualift. The award is designed to showcase and share the good ideas of members, with all entries made into a booklet for distribution to members. The winner for 2022 will be announced at the meet the trade dinner at the WIOA NSW Conference in Tamworth on 6 April 2022.



Nominations are also open for the 2022 **Victorian Operator of the Year Award** now sponsored by VicWater 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/>

## TRAINING COURSES

Water Research Australia's **Research Leadership Program** has developed an **introduction to Health-Based Targets (HBTs)** for industry professionals. This series will enable participants to gain a better understanding surrounding the use of HBTs, what industry has learned, key barriers, pitfalls, benefits, and how HBTs can be applied to your organisation. Starting with two online sessions and ending with an in-person workshop, it is designed for water industry professionals not currently using HBTs in their systems. This could include operations, decision makers, risk assessors, councils, and new employees in the field of catchment management. The online sessions are 30 March and 4 April and the In-person workshop will be 9 May in Brisbane preceding OzWater'22. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/5a377s72> to find out more or to register.



The **National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training (NCGRT)** is providing a free online public lecture by Prof Peter Cook covering the essentials of groundwater to coincide with World Water Day on Tuesday 22 March 2022. The link to the lecture will be available from <https://tinyurl.com/3s4fua4e> The NCGRT also offers the **Australian Groundwater School (AGS)** online training which will be held from 4-8 July 2022. For more info or to register visit <https://tinyurl.com/mukr2yv>



The **Australian Water School (AWS)** is staging a Live Course: **Python essential for water**. Python has become part of the toolbox of scientists and engineers and has numerous applications in hydrology. By mastering Python, data analysis and modelling capabilities can be extended far beyond what is possible with spreadsheets, GIS platforms and other software. The courses will be held from 3.00-5.00pm (Sydney time) on 7, 14 and 21 April 2022. For more information or to register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/4f7drnek>

The annual **IWES event** on the Gold Coast is back in 2022 and will be in person. The IWES Gold Coast program is scheduled for 18 to 22 July 2022 at the Mercure Gold Coast Resort and will feature an exclusive IWES industry meet-up on Tuesday 19 July 2022. Early Bird registrations end on 13 May, so make sure you lock in your discounted price before then to save up to \$1000. The event follows the Qld Government COVIDsafe guidelines and as such has strictly limited places to ensure social distancing requirements are able to be met at all times.



**AMS Training Solutions** offers online, virtual, classroom and hands-on Reverse Osmosis and a suite of high tech water treatment training options. Visit their website at [www.amsts.com.au](http://www.amsts.com.au) to see confirmed training events or to register for the Neptune App and see all the online training options. Contact them to be waitlisted for future events near you or to discuss hosting an event at your site.



The operator training course **Monitoring and Optimisation of Activated Sludge and Nutrient Reduction** presented by A/Prof Helen Stratton and Peter Griffiths is returning this year. The course will be held over the week of 24 June to 1 July 2022 at the Mantra on the Sunshine Coast. The updated course presents the latest research findings and developments in optimisation and trouble-shooting activated sludge processes. Registration of interest is open through Griffith University- <https://tinyurl.com/y63pwtzz> By registering, you will be notified once full registration is available. Numbers are limited to 25 delegates and, those that missed out over the past few years due to COVID, are reminded the course books out rapidly.

## PEOPLE & CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

**The Hydroflux Group** has become Australia's first Carbon Neutral Water-Tech Organisation. Climate Active is Australia's initiative for climate action. It was established to grow awareness of a carbon neutral certification and to promote positive action on climate change. For clients this means you are engaging with a carbon neutral organisation without increasing your carbon footprint and you are supporting positive and verified action on climate change. More information at <https://tinyurl.com/mtjhbwd7>

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

There are nearly 30 vacant positions in NSW, Queensland and Victoria currently advertised on the WIOA website. **Current vacancies** include positions for several Water Treatment Operators, Water Treatment Team Leaders, Network or Maintenance Operators, Customers Services roles and Assets Engineers. To utilise this FREE job advertisement placement service, please email your advert to [sherryn@wioa.org.au](mailto:sherryn@wioa.org.au)

## 2022 EVENTS

- 23 March **Committee nominations** close
- 23 March **WIOA Talks - The best job in the world**, on line
- 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
- 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



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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.