



Snippets, news items or other information can be sent to info@wioa.org.au

AROUND THE TRAPS

We are very excited to confirm that **Dean Barnett** has been appointed to the position of **Executive Officer** of WIOA and will commence on 9 January 2023. Dean brings a wealth of water industry operational and management experience from his various roles at Western Water in Victoria, and most recently as Program Director for the Victorian Intelligent Water Network. We know Dean will be a wonderful asset for WIOA and we look forward to introducing him to our Members in due course.



With fantastic support from Richmond Valley Council and Ixom as event sponsor, the grand final of the **Ixom Best Tasting Tap Water in Australia competition** was held in Casino NSW on 12 November 2022 at the Primex Field Days.

Congratulations to all the State winners who competed including:

- Tasmania – **Ferntree WTP** operated by *TasWater*
- NSW – **Bamarang WTP** operated by *Shoalhaven Water*
- Western Australia – **Wyndham WTP** operated by *Water Corporation*
- South Australia – **Murray Bridge WTP** operated by *TRILITY*
- Victoria – **Cresswell WTP** operated by *Melbourne Water*
- Queensland – **Nebo Road WTP** operated by *Mackay Regional Council*

In a closely fought competition, the sample from **Melbourne Water's Cresswell WTP** came up trumps, and was announced as the winner. More than 260 people at the Fields Day tasted each of the samples, helping us get the message out about what a great job our operational staff do in providing safe drinking water to our communities 24/7. Melbourne Water will now represent Australia at the International Water Taste Test competition in Berkeley Springs (USA) in February 2023. A full write up on all the finalists will appear in the February 2023 edition of Operator. A Smug Mug folder has been created for all the photos and videos from the day at <https://tinyurl.com/3u3t6y2r>



The Water Services Association of Australia (WSAA) recently released the “**Closing the Water for People and Communities Gap: Improving water services to First Nations remote communities**” Report at a special event in Canberra. The Hon. Linda Burney MP, Minister for Indigenous Australians, launched the report which presents the most complete snapshot of the current status of water servicing of remote communities across Australia including seven recommendations to overcome systemic issues and other challenges. The full report and a summary report are available at <https://tinyurl.com/yaj6bxee>

This may be the first Christmas in a while that we've been able to get together to celebrate. This calls for a very special gift. By contributing to **WaterAid's Gifts for Life Program**, you'll help bring clean water close to home for the children and families who need it the most. There are a range of Christmas card purchase opportunities that allow you to provide a unique gift to your family and help some of the world's poorest people at the same time. More information at <https://www.wateraidgifts.org.au/>



The Bureau of Meteorology (Bureau) reports that **October's rainfall was the second highest on record for Australia** and in the highest 10% of historical observations (since 1900) over large areas of New South Wales, north central Victoria and southern Queensland. Rainfall was the highest on record for October for large parts of the Murray–Darling Basin in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland. Victoria's highest monthly rainfall totals were recorded at Falls Creek with 412 mm (Kiewa catchment), Mount Buller with 490 mm (Goulburn catchment) and Hunters Hill with 322 mm (upper Murray catchment). In NSW the highest monthly rainfall totals were recorded at Khancoban with 242 mm, while Jingellic recorded 143 mm (both in the upper Murray catchment). More information is available at <https://tinyurl.com/ys3jpfh2>

2023 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Individual and Corporate Members are reminded that the **annual fees for 2023** are due on 1 January 2023 and renewal invoices are currently being sent to all members. Membership fees for 2023 have been increased slightly to \$45 for Individual members and \$310 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 79 organisations that have taken up this opportunity. More information on Utility Corporate Membership is available at: <https://wioa.org.au/membership/>

EVENTS

Exhibition sites for the **2023 WIOA Victorian Conference** went on sale from Wednesday 16 November and the majority of sites have already been allocated. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/4r5n5dxw> to secure your site.



Applications to participate in the **2023 Victorian Network Operator Development Program (NODP)** are now open, noting that the closing date is 21 February 2023. The date for the first Session for the new group of operators is scheduled for April 2023. 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 17-19 May 2023. As with previous years, there is likely to be a tour of several water and wastewater treatment systems on the South Island from around 12-20 May 2023 (dates and tour program being confirmed at present).

AWARDS

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 2023 to the value of over \$2,500. Sponsored by Aqualift, applications close at the end of February 2023. Entry forms are on the website <http://wioa.org.au/awards/national-awards/pass-award/>

Nominations are being called for the **2022 South Australian Operator of the Year Award** now being sponsored by the SA Department of Mining and Energy (Office of the Water Regulator). Nominations close at COB on 2 February 2023 and the winner will be announced at the WIOA SA Conference Dinner to be held on Wednesday 1 March 2023 in Murray Bridge. The first 20 nominees will receive a WIOA Individual Membership and their choice of one of the WIOA Practical Guides. We encourage as many organisations as possible to nominate your operational staff for consideration for this prestigious award. Application forms are available on the WIOA website at <https://wioa.org.au/awards/state-awards/sa-awards/>



Nominations are also open for the **2023 Victorian Operator of the Year Award** sponsored by VicWater and the **2023 Victorian Young Operator of the Year Award** sponsored by the Institute of Water Administration, Victoria. Applications close at COB on 22 February 2023. 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

The **Australian Water School** has a range of free webinars coming up in November and December. More information on the on-demand and live training courses coming up in the next couple of months is at <https://tinyurl.com/y6xfjke6>



Some of the **IWES Short Courses** are being offered in their first round of online events for 2023. The courses offered online in this round include the Principles of Wastewater Treatment Course; Regional Wastewater Treatment; Applied Statistics for Water and Wastewater; and Integrated Urban Water Assessment and Management Course. More information at <https://iwes.com.au/events/iwes-online-2023/>

PEOPLE & CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

Global water treatment and pool equipment manufacturer **Waterco Limited** (ASX:WAT) has appointed Jo Ainsworth as new Chief Commercial Officer (CCO) to oversee all aspects of its commercial and export sales in Australia and New Zealand.

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

The positions vacant section of our website currently has around 30 vacant positions for **Treatment Plant Operators, Maintenance Operators, Projects Officers and Engineers 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 Check out the events calendar online, visit <https://wioa.org.au/wioa-events/>

- 30 November **Network Operations Interest Day**, Albury

2023 CONFERENCE & EXHIBITIONS

- 1 & 2 March **3rd WIOA South Australian Operations Conference & Expo**, Murray Bridge
- 29 & 30 March **84th WIOA VIC Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Bendigo
- 19 & 20 July **47th WIOA QLD Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Sunshine Coast
- 1 & 2 November **15th WIOA NSW Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Canberra



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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.