



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

# WIOA WORDS

DECEMBER 2022

*Merry Christmas*



+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)

The Board, Committee and Staff of WIOA wish all our members and their families a safe and happy festive season and we look forward to a prosperous 2023. The WIOA office will be closed from COB 20 December 2022 and will reopen on 3 January 2023. **Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year to all.**

## AROUND THE TRAPS

We are excited to confirm that **Glenn Alford** joined the WIOA staff team as the **Events Coordinator** from 22 November 2022. Glenn would be well known to many WIOA Members having served on the WIOA Committee in 2018 and through his previous role at Calix, a WIOA Corporate Member. Glenn has hit the ground running and is already working on events for our Members to be delivered in the New Year.



The November 2022 edition of WIOA's Technical publication **WaterWorks** has been distributed to members recently. WIOA is now managing the production and distribution of the publication and Corporate Members can help support WIOA by advertising your products or services in the May 2023 or future editions. For more information, please contact Ann - [ann@wioa.org.au](mailto:ann@wioa.org.au) or visit the WIOA website to download the 2023 Media Kit at <https://wioa.org.au/publications/water-works/>

We are now on the lookout for technical articles for the May 2023 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, please contact George via [george@wioa.org.au](mailto:george@wioa.org.au)



Members are reminded that **Membership fees** for 2023 are due on 1 January and a renewal invoice has recently been sent to all members. If any of your personal details are incorrect, please let Ann know by email ([ann@wioa.org.au](mailto:ann@wioa.org.au)) and she will update the membership database.



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/>

The **Water Training Package (Release 5.0)** has been endorsed by Skills Ministers for implementation. The Water Industry Reference Committee, with support from its Technical Advisory Committees has led the development of new and updated materials related to maintaining remote flood sites, cleaning water networks using various methods and using digital imaging equipment in the field. The endorsed Training Package materials are now available on Training.Gov at <https://training.gov.au/Training/Details/NWP>



For Members in NSW, as part of the Town Water Risk Reduction Program, the NSW DPIE has invited **feedback on the Department's regulation and support of local water utilities** through the latest 6 monthly survey. Feedback received from the survey will help to inform and improve how the department regulates, supports and works in partnership with local water utilities. The survey is open until 31 December 2022 and will take around 5 minutes to complete. It can be accessed at <https://tinyurl.com/ykaz3mjt>



The Federal Minister for Skills and Training announced the establishment of new Jobs and Skills Councils (JSCs) to replace the current Industry Reference Committees (IRCs) and Skills Service Organisations (SSOs). The Water sector has been included in the **Building, Construction and Property JSC**, due to commence in January 2023. This means that the supportive and collaborative relationship the water sector has enjoyed for the last 8 years with Australian Industry Standards (AIS) is coming to an end. More information on the training reform process is available at <https://tinyurl.com/mr2by6pu>



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 19 & 20 April 2023. More information and the application forms are available from <https://wioa.org.au/network-operator-development-program/>



WIOA has supported numerous charitable organisations over the years through donations from our various charity golf and bowls days or other fundraising activities. COVID issues and the current economic climate have limited the fundraising activities, not only for WIOA, but also for various charities. We know the water industry is very generous and there are a number of very worthwhile charities that could use a kick along this Christmas via a donation, large or small.

- Prostate Cancer Foundation - <https://tinyurl.com/2p94dwzn>
- MND Australia - <https://www.mndaustralia.org.au/donate/donate-to-mnd-australia>
- Rural Aid (buy a bale) - <https://tinyurl.com/2ea9zkmt>
- Beyond Blue - <https://tinyurl.com/4ch9vuse>
- Cancer Council Australia - <https://www.cancer.org.au/get-involved/donate-to-cancer-council>
- Water Aid - <https://www.wateraid.org/au/donate>



The **Bureau of Meteorology** is pleased to present BOM Webinars. Webinars are offered free of charge and are delivered by Bureau experts across weather, water, climate and ocean information. To receive information about BOM Webinars straight to your inbox, and to learn how the Bureau's products and services can inform your business and policy decisions, register at <http://www.bom.gov.au/webinars/>

## EVENTS

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

After being disrupted by COVID since 2019, it is exciting that the Delegate registrations for the **3rd WIOA South Australian Water Industry Operations Conference and Expo** to be held in Murray Bridge on 1 & 2 March 2023 are now open. The expo sold out in record time and there is an excellent technical program with something of interest to everyone in the SA water sector. The program and registration form is available on the WIOA conferences website at <https://wioaconferences.org.au/sa-2023/>



Delegate registrations for the **84th WIOA Victorian Water Industry Operations Conference and Exhibition** to be held in Bendigo on 29 & 30 March 2023 are also 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/vic-2023/>. If you intend to come along as a delegate, please use our online event registration system and make sure you access the 20% member discount using the promo code.



The preliminary program for Water Research Australia's **Next Water Conference** to be held in Sydney on 22 and 23 February has been released. To view the program or to register, visit the website at <https://tinyurl.com/yj893v3w>



The preliminary program for the Australian Water Association's **Ozwater'23 Conference** to be held in Sydney on 10-12 May has been released. The program is at <https://tinyurl.com/35jxcxyv>

## AWARDS

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/>



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/>

## TRAINING COURSES

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/>

The **Australian Water School** has a range of free webinars coming up in December and then into 2023. More information on the on-demand and live training courses is at <https://tinyurl.com/y6xfjke6>.



The National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training (NCGRT) is offering the **Australian Groundwater School** online in 2023. The School provides an introduction to groundwater processes and methods for understanding them. It includes sessions on Groundwater Hydraulics, Surface Water - Groundwater Interactions, Groundwater Modelling, Mining Hydrogeology, Fractured Rock Aquifers, Groundwater Microbiology, Salinity and Water Logging, Managed Aquifer Recharge, Groundwater Chemistry and Water Quality, Environmental Isotopes in Groundwater, Pump Tests, Drilling Methods and Bore Design, Geophysics, Groundwater Governance and Water Law and Groundwater Management. The School will be held from 20-25 February and 7-11 August. For more information or to register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/5n6j2udh>

## PEOPLE & CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

We were saddened to hear of the passing of **Craig Griggs**. Craig was a long term member and supporter of WIOA in his home State of Tasmania and assisted with the organisation of several interest days in the Hobart region. He also presented an award winning paper at the WIOA conference in Bendigo and again in NSW the following year. He will be sadly missed by his family, colleagues and everyone who knew him.

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

The positions vacant section of our website is one of the most visited sections of the WIOA website and listed 355 positions in 2022. Currently positions for several **Water & Wastewater Operators, a Networks Engineer, Manager Water Regulation, Manager Communications and Engagement, Environmental Health Officer and several other** roles are available. To utilise this FREE job advertisement service, please email your advert to [sherryn@wioa.org.au](mailto:sherryn@wioa.org.au)

**2023 EVENTS** Check out the events calendar online, visit <https://wioa.org.au/wioa-events/>

- 21 February **Network Operator Development Program**, applications for 2023 close
- 28 February **PASS Award**, applications close
- 12-20 May **WIOA Tour of New Zealand & WIOG Conference**, South Island

## 2023 CONFERENCE & EXHIBITIONS

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



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.

*Seasons Greetings*  
FROM ALL AT WIOA