



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

The Board, Committee and Staff of WIOA wish all our members and their families a Happy New Year, welcome to 2023, and we hope you enjoy our first edition of Words for the year.

AROUND THE TRAPS

We are pleased to welcome **Dean Barnett** who joined the WIOA staff team on 9 January 2023 as Executive Officer. Dean brings more than 30 years experience in the Victorian water industry at Western Water, Intelligent Water Networks, and on WIOA's Network Operator Development Program committee. Dean will manage the day-to-day operations of WIOA and all the activities of the operations team.



Members are reminded that **Membership fees** for 2023 were 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) and she will update the membership database.



WIOA now is managing the production and distribution of **WaterWorks**, WIOA's technical publication. Copies are distributed to all members, as well as to conference delegates, exhibitors and other water industry stakeholders. 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 or download the 2023 media kit at <https://wioa.org.au/publications/water-works/>

We are also on the lookout for technical articles for the May 2023 edition. We are always happy to help operators to 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



Applications to participate in the **2023 Victorian Network Operator Development Program (NODP)** are now open, with a **closing date of 21 February 2023**. The first session for the new group is scheduled for 19 & 20 April 2023. More information and the application forms are available from the WIOA website at <https://tinyurl.com/2p8hu2p2> WIOA is keen to help encourage and promote diversity and inclusion across all operational areas. It would be great to see more women participating in the NODP if possible.

EVENTS

WIOA looks forward to delivering another exciting and operationally relevant calendar of events this year. The Advisory Committees in all States will be meeting in early February and will schedule a range of special interest days, conferences, webinars and other member engagement opportunities in the coming months. We hope that members will take the opportunity to participate fully in the various activities.

Delegate registrations for the **3rd WIOA South Australian Water Industry Operations Conference and Expo** at the Murray Bridge Racing Club on **1 & 2 March 2023** are now open. The program includes a tour of the new Murray Bridge WWTP from 10am Wednesday, the Expo opens at 11.00am and the conference kicks off at 12.30pm with the heats of the Ixom Best Tasting Tap Water in SA competition. This is followed by a number of outstanding presentations during the afternoon and the Conference Dinner in the evening. The technical program and Expo commences again from 9.00am Thursday and the conference concludes at 1.00pm. All the information on the event, including the full technical program and the registration process is available on the WIOA website at <https://wioaconferences.org.au/sa-2023/sa-delegates/> Intending delegates need to download and submit a completed registration form to the WIOA office.

We understand that not everyone can attend the conference as a delegate, so please keep in mind that entry to just the exhibition on either day is FREE. We encourage everyone to get a car load of people together and come and have a look through the expo, even if it is just for an hour or so.



WIOA invites all South Australian water suppliers to participate in the **2023 Ixom Best Tasting Tap Water in South Australia** competition with heats and the grand final to be held at the WIOA conference in Murray Bridge on **1 March 2023**. More details including the Taste Test entry form are available at <https://wioaconferences.org.au/sa-2023/sa-water-taste-test/>



The WIOA Tasmanian Advisory Committee is staging a **Networks focussed Operations Interest Day** at TasWater's Moonah depot on 23 February 2023. The day will incorporate some presentations covering network management issues as well as the inaugural Tasmanian main tapping competition sponsored by Reece Civil and Viadux. The program and registration details are at <https://tinyurl.com/5n829jk2>



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 at <https://wioaconferences.org.au/vic-2023/> If you will be attending as a delegate, please use our online event registration system and make sure you access the 20% member discount using the promo code.



WIOA also invites all Victorian water suppliers to participate in the **2023 Ixom Best Tasting Tap Water in Victoria** competition with heats to be held at the WIOA Victorian conference in Bendigo on 28 March 2023 and the Grand Final at lunch time on **29 March 2023**. More details are available on the WIOA website at <https://wioaconferences.org.au/vic-2023/vic-water-taste-test/>



Victorian water services providers are invited to enter teams of 2 competitors into the keenly contested **Victorian Main Tapping Competition** (supported by Reece Civil/Viadux and Coliban Water) to be conducted as part of the Victorian Conference in Bendigo. The fastest team will have \$1,000 donated to a charity of their choice, as well as having their names added to the perpetual trophy. Check out the details at <https://wioaconferences.org.au/vic-2023/vic-main-tapping-comp/>



The preliminary program for Water Research Australia's **Next Water Conference** to be held on 22 & 23 February in Sydney has been released. To view the program or register, visit <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 preliminary program is at <https://tinyurl.com/35jxcxyv>

WIOA AWARDS

Each of the winners of the three Operator of the Year Awards below will receive the opportunity to participate in the May 2023 Operator tour to New Zealand, courtesy of the various award sponsors.



Nominations for the **2023 South Australian Operator of the Year Award** sponsored by the SA Department for Energy and Mining (Office of the Technical Regulator) will close **on 2 February 2023**. The winner will be announced at the WIOA SA Conference Dinner, 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. Nomination forms are 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, along with the **2023 Victorian Young Operator of the Year Award** sponsored by the Institute of Water Administration, Victoria. **Applications close 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/>



Applications for the **Problem Accepted, Solution Supplied (PASS) Award** close 28 February 2023. This award gives operational staff the chance to share their 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 2023 to the value of \$2,500, courtesy of sponsor Aqualift. Application details and an entry form are on the website at <https://wioa.org.au/awards/national-awards/pass-award/>

TRAINING COURSES

TRILITY is launching its Registered Training Organisation (RTO) Business Unit in 2023. They are planning to deliver Certificate II, III and IV in Water Industry Operations in all states except WA. To ensure you receive updates from their Training Services Division, and to register your interest in courses under the National Water Training Package for 2023, email them at training@trility.com.au



The operator training course "**Monitoring and Optimisation of Activated Sludge and Nutrient Reduction**" presented by A/Prof Helen Stratton and Peter Griffiths will be held again this year during June/July (dates to be finalised). The course is being held on the Gold Coast and presents a solid basis for understanding of the activated sludge process, optimisation and troubleshooting of nutrient removal systems. Registration of interest will open soon through Griffith Uni and the course cost is projected at \$3,400 per delegate ex GST.



Water Training Australia is seeking suitably experienced Trainers & Assessors to become part of their expanding RTO team. Opportunities exist for experienced operators in water & wastewater treatment, networks, dam safety, workplace health & safety and environment. A pre-requisite is a TAE40116 Certificate IV in Training and Assessment, along with a minimum of 5 years employment in the water industry. If you have a passion for empowering new water industry operators on their learning journey, please contact Mike Rankin by email at mike@watertrainingaustralia.com.au



Registration for the online **IWES Courses** will close on 23 January 2023. The courses offered include Applied Statistics for Water & Wastewater; Integrated Urban Water Assessment and Management; and Principles of Wastewater Treatment. More info and registration details at <https://tinyurl.com/3pa2t6bj>

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

The positions vacant section of our website currently has operational positions listed for roles as **Water & Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators; Management, Mechanical, Maintenance, and Field Technicians** to mention a few. Positions are currently being advertised for jobs in NSW, Queensland and Victoria. To utilise this FREE job advertisement service, please email your advert to sherryn@wioa.org.au

PEOPLE & CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

We were saddened to learn of the sudden passing of **Graham Thomson**. Graham had a long history with WIOA dating back to the early 1990s when he first joined as a Member. Graham served on the WIOA Inc Committee from 2001-2012, assisted with the production of Operator for five years, and was made an IDIOTS member in 2011. Following his retirement from Barwon Water, he stayed actively involved in the water industry as a trainer for Water Training Australia, and also helped out occasionally with the NODP. Our sincerest condolences are extended to his family, friends and work colleagues.



We would like to celebrate **Lindsay Walsh's** career and wish him well in his retirement from MidCoast Council, and our WIOA NSW Advisory Committee. Lindsay has also been on our General Committee and has always brought enthusiasm, commitment, and his own unique style. He finishes up on 20 January 2023.



Free MIB and Geosmin Testing - Research Laboratory Services in Eltham, Victoria has purchased a GCMS and seeks a variety of water samples with different characteristics and MIB/Geosmin concentrations to test (for free) to help validate their method before it is offered commercially. Free sample tests are limited, and this offer will be on a first in first served basis. To find out more, please email peta@researchlab.com.au with the type of sample, source of the water and any turbidity, colour, DOC data you may have.



SWAN Analytical Instruments have just revolutionised water monitoring with the launch of their new cutting-edge device, the Chematest 42. This portable hand-held instrument is packed full of features including photometric determinations, turbidity measurement and sensor-based measurements - all encased in a waterproof housing for optimal reliability. Find out more at <https://tinyurl.com/4sk4v72t>

2023 CONFERENCES & EVENTS

- 2 February **SA Operator of the Year Award**, nominations close
- 22 February **Victorian Operator of the Year and Young Operator of the Year Awards** close
- 22 & 23 February **Next Water Conference**, Water Research Australia, Sydney
- 23 February **Networks Interest Day & Inaugural Tas Tapping Competition**, Moonah, Tasmania
- 28 February **PASS Award**, applications close
- 1 & 2 March **3rd SA Water Industry Operations Conference and Exhibition**, Murray Bridge
- 15 March **WIOA Talks – Smart Sewers**, online
- 29 & 30 March **84th Victorian Water Industry Operations Conference and Exhibition**, Bendigo
- 10 -12 May **AWA's OzWater conference**, Sydney,
- 19 & 20 July **47th QLD Water Industry Operations Conference and Exhibition**, USC, Sippy Downs
- 1 & 2 November **15th NSW Water Industry Operations Conference and 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 Ann your new details (ann@wioa.org.au) or call the office on 03 5821 6744.