



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

WIOA WORDS

FEBRUARY 2023 Edition

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

AROUND THE TRAPS

Do you have a story you would like to share? WIOA will support turning our Members story into an article for the May edition of WaterWorks and or the May edition of Operator. If you would like to share your story please contact us at info@wioa.org.au



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 Ella know by email at admin@wioa.org.au and she will update the membership database.



WIOA in partnership with WSAA, are collaborating on a **new initiative being the first Australian Water Industry Operator Exchange Program**. The aim of the Operator Exchange Program is to provide water treatment, wastewater treatment and network operators with the opportunity to spend time at another organisation, to share ideas, processes and view their tools and equipment. WIOA has now opened our Expression of Interest for interested members and host organisations. To find out more or to nominate please contact us at info@wioa.org.au **Expressions of Interest close 31 March 2023**.



WIOA's State Advisory Committees are vital to provide members with the opportunity to actively participate in the direction of WIOA in their state. You can find out more via our website <https://wioa.org.au/membership/advisory-committees/> If you would like to become more involved with WIOA, have ideas that you want to share, or would like to assist in the staging of any events, please contact the State Advisory Committee Chair in your State. Alternatively, email us at WIOA at info@wioa.org.au



Last Chance to Apply - 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 and would welcome more female applications for this program.



The Water Challenge is back for 2023. **Drink Water to Give Water** in support of **WaterAid Australia**. This March, it's time to lose the booze and can the caffeine and replace them with water, all to help raise funds and awareness for those who don't have access to clean water. You can sign up to the Challenge or donate from the WaterAid website at <https://fundraise.wateraid.org.au/event/waterchallenge2022>

The **United Nations World Water Day** is celebrated globally on 22 March each year. The theme for 2023 is about accelerating change to solve the water and sanitation crisis. There are a range of resources available to help individuals and organisations get the message out to the community at <https://www.worldwaterday.org/share-2023>



The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations is managing a process to create new Industry Clusters to manage skills, training packages and workforce challenges into the future. The water sector has been included in the “Build Skills” group. Although the Cluster manager is yet to be finalised, the Department has confirmed that in the first instance, the Water IRC will continue to represent our sector within the new organisation. To help keep our training package current, the IRC Chair, George Wall will maintain an issues register until the new entity and water committee is operational. Any issues related to units of competence or skills required can be forwarded to George – george@wioa.org.au



Members are invited to demonstrate their prowess over the NRL and/or AFL seasons by entering the 2023 **FREE WIOA NRL and/or AFL tipping competitions**. Firstly, join WIOA NRL Tipping Competition at <https://tipping.nrl.com/> then join the “WIOA Competition” & the Competition code is: **HR6WZWFD**. For the AFL, the competition through the Official AFL website has not opened yet, as soon as it does, we will get the information out.

WIOA AWARDS

Nominations are 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/>



Last Chance to Enter - Applications for the **Problem Accepted, Solution Supplied (PASS) Award** close on 1 March 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. Details and entry form is at <https://wioa.org.au/awards/national-awards/pass-award/>

EVENTS

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 11am 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 commence again from 9am Thursday and the conference concludes at 1pm. 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.

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>



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 Institute of Instrumentation, Control and Automation (IICA) first **Technology Expo** for 2023 will be held on 1 March 2023 in Wagga Wagga NSW. To find out more or to register this free event please click this link <https://bookings.iica.org.au/bookings/events/event.asp?bookingid=1422>



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-Member**.



Are you one of our amazing women in water attending our 84th Victorian Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition? If so, have you considered attending our **Women of Water (WOW) Breakfast on Wednesday 29 March 2023 from 7.00am to 8.20am**? As a female conference attendee or visitor, WIOA will offer you a complimentary breakfast to start your conference day and build your network. You can register for the breakfast here: <https://wioaconferences.org.au/vic-2023/vic-breakfasts/>



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/>



Our first **WIOA Talks** for 2023 on the **Smart Sewer Project Trial** – a collaborative approach between Barwon Water / Intelligent Water Networks / Deakin University will be held on **Wednesday 15 March at 12.00pm (AEDT)**. The project involves increasing sewer intelligence by introducing real time sewer network instrumentation, then developing smart algorithms allowing the water business to make informed, real-time decisions on how they manage the network. To register, visit the WIOA website at <https://wioa.org.au/wioa-talks-smart-sewer-project-trial/>



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>

TRAINING COURSES

The **Australian Groundwater School** provides an introduction to groundwater processes and methods for understanding them. The school will be offered online in 2023 on the following dates: 20-24 February and 7-11 August. You can register at: <https://tinyurl.com/362vw5b4>



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.



AMS Training & Solutions offers online, virtual, classroom and hands-on **David H Paul RO Specialist Training**, recognised by the IDA Academy as the most comprehensive RO training worldwide. Visit their website - www.amsts.com.au - for more details, or contact them to discuss your training needs and be waitlisted for future events. AMS is seeking host sites for their training later in 2023.



The Australian Water School has a range of free webinars in 2023. More information on the on-demand and live training courses can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/y6xfjke6>

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

The positions vacant section of our website has a range of operational positions from across the country. To utilise this FREE job advertisement service, please email your advert to sherryn@wioa.org.au

PEOPLE & CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

Every year **Rural Aid** helps more than 2,600 farmers doing it tough. Support Rural Aid & Enter their raffle to win \$250K first prize plus hundreds of prizes at <https://tinyurl.com/2uv3633f> The draw closes on 16 March

2023 CONFERENCES & EVENTS

- 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
- 1 March **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 Ella your new details (admin@wioa.org.au) or call the office on 03 5821 6744.