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WIOA WORDS

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AROUND THE TRAPS

Our heartfelt congratulations are extended to **Tony Hourigan** from TRILITY and **Jillian Busch** from Albury City Council, who were announced as WIOA's tenth and eleventh **Life Members** at the Victorian conference in March. They have both contributed an enormous amount to WIOA over the years and are very deserving of the award. **Heidi Josipovic** from Albury City Council was also inducted into the IDIOTS fold in Bendigo. A full write up on the contribution of all these outstanding members will be in the May 2023 edition of Operator.



After more than 20 years as a part time administration officer with WIOA, **Marilyn Wall** retired at the end of March. We thank her for her efforts and flexibility over such a long period, and we hope to be able to coax her out of retirement occasionally in the future to help out at conferences.



The **2023 WIOA Inc Annual General Meeting** will be held online on Wednesday **24 May 2023** 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. For more information or if you wish to attend, please register by COB Tuesday 23 May 2023 at <https://wioa.org.au/about-wioa/aggm/>



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 Wednesday 26 April 2023. The form can be downloaded from <https://wioa.org.au/about-wioa/aggm/>



Members are reminded that this is the last chance to pay your **annual fees for 2023 which were due on 1 January 2023**. 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.



As a member service organisation, WIOA is really keen to hear from our Members about how you think we are doing. We will shortly be undertaking a **survey of both our Individual and Corporate Members**. We are really interested in your feedback and suggestions to ensure we are doing everything we can to provide maximum value to our Members. The surveys should only take around 5 minutes to complete and there will be a Bunnings voucher awarded to one lucky member who participates.



WIOA in partnership with WSAA, has launched **the Water Industry Operator Exchange Program**. The aim of the Program is to provide water treatment, wastewater treatment and network operators with the opportunity to spend time at another organisation and share ideas, processes, technologies, and experiences. The round 1 Expression of Interest for both individuals and host organisations closed on 31 March with round 2 closing on 31 July. To find out more or to nominate, contact us at info@wioa.org.au

EVENTS

WIOA Talks webinars allow members from all over the country to get together to hear the latest updates and share knowledge and experiences – all from the comfort of their own desk! They run from 12.00pm-1.00pm AEST. The topics for the next WIOA Talks are:

- Thursday 27 April – **WaterAble** - a network of people with disability and their allies in the Victorian water industry
- Tuesday 23 May – **Biosolids** – processes for the management of Biosolids.

More information and how to register is available at <https://wioa.org.au/wioa-events/wioatalks/>



WIOA is staging one of our very popular **Water Quality Awareness in Distribution Systems Seminars** in Bendigo on Thursday 4 May 2023. The seminar is limited to the first 40 attendees to register, and spots are filling fast. The day is mainly aimed at people working in the network operations area and covers a broad range of water quality management issues. For more information or to register, please visit

<https://wioa.org.au/nevent/distribution-seminar-bendigo-2/>



The **15th WIOA NSW Water Industry Operations Conference and Exhibition** will be held at Exhibition Park in Canberra on 1 & 2 November 2023. We invite operators to share their story as part of the conference program. Acceptance of abstracts for consideration closes on Friday 26 May 2023. The abstract submission template is available at <https://wioaconferences.org.au/call-for-papers/>



The **2023 WIOA Victorian Water Industry Operations Conference and Exhibition** was held in **Bendigo** in late March. It was great that almost 1,300 people attended the event and there has already been some positive feedback received. We thank our Victorian Advisory Committee along with all the members and volunteers who helped us to deliver the event. Our sincere thanks are also extended to our event sponsors, all the exhibitors and attendees and in particular, our army of helpers who did a brilliant job helping to run the event. Our congratulations are extended to the various award winners:

- **Scott Johnson**, Greater Western Water – **Victorian Operator of the Year Award** sponsored by VicWater
- **Bailey Andersen**, Goulburn Valley Water – **Victorian Young Operator of the Year Award** sponsored by Institute of Water Administration, Vic
- **Gavin Overy**, East Gippsland Water – **Victorian Networks Operator of the Year Award** sponsored by Water Training Australia
- **Elise O’Keeffe**, Goulburn Valley Water – **Hepburn Prize for Best Paper Overall** sponsored by Hanna Instruments
- **Troy Leyden**, Fitzroy River Water - **Best Paper by an Operator** sponsored by ProMinent
- **Li Lau**, Melbourne Water - **Best Poster by an Operator** sponsored by IWES - The University of Qld
- **UAMTEC** - **Ron Bergmeier Award for Best Exhibition Site**, sponsored by Utility Magazine
- **WaterSure**, Victorian Desal Plant - **Ixom Best Tasting Tap Water in Victoria**
- **Sean Doyle**, Barwon Water – **PASS Award** sponsored by Aqualift
- **Wild West Tappers – Cameron Lusk & Lynden Thurstan**, TasWater – **Victorian Main Tapping Competition** sponsored by Reece Civil & Viadux

For more information on the conference, the winners and to access a range of photos from the event, please visit - <https://wioaconferences.org.au/vic-2023/>

The program for the **47th WIOA Queensland Water Industry Operations Conference and Exhibition** to be held in the Sunshine Coast on 19 & 20 July 2023 has now been finalised, although we are still looking for more Operator Poster Papers. More information on the conference, including the program for the event can be found at <https://wioaconferences.org.au/qld-2023/>



The preliminary program for the Australian Water Association's **Ozwater'23 Conference** to be held in Sydney on 10-12 May 2023 has been released. The preliminary program is at <https://tinyurl.com/35jxcxyv>

WIOA AWARDS

At the close of applications, WIOA received 6 entries for the **2023 PASS Award** generously sponsored by Aqualift. The award winner, Sean Doyle from Barwon Water was announced at the Meet the Exhibitors Dinner at the Victorian conference in Bendigo on 29 March 2023. The award shares and showcases the good ideas of members, with all entries made into a booklet to be distributed to members shortly.



In partnership with TRILITY, WIOA is seeking nominations for the following two awards:

Kwatye - Cultural Recognition Award - Recognising an initiative involving cultural or diversity and inclusion-based activities within a project and/or community in which WIOA members serve. Nominations close 1 July annually <https://wioa.org.au/awards/national-awards/kwatye-award/>. The winner will receive \$2,000 donation to their cultural or diverse charity of choice.

WIOA Team of the Year Award – Recognises teams of employees working in any part of the water industry that have made an outstanding contribution to their workplace or community. Nominations close 1 October annually <https://wioa.org.au/awards/national-awards/team-year/>. The WIOA Team of the Year Winner will receive copies of the WIOA Practical Guides for the use of the winning business, to the value of \$2,000 and the Runner up Team of the Year will receive copies of the WIOA Practical Guides for the use of the winning business, to the value of \$1,000.



Nominations for the **2023 Queensland Operator of the Year** are being accepted. This prestigious award sponsored by AWA Queensland Branch recognises commitment to the job, safety, innovation, initiative and achievements. The prize for the winner includes a plaque and an all-expenses paid opportunity to join the WIOA operator tour to New Zealand in 2024. Applications close on Monday 19 June 2023 and an application form is available from <https://wioa.org.au/awards/state-awards/queensland-awards/>



Similarly, the Queensland Water Directorate (*qldwater*) is accepting nominations for the **Young Operator of the Year** as well as for the **Operator of the Year – (Civil/All-Rounder)** which close on Monday 19 June 2023. The Young Operator of the Year receives a fully funded opportunity to join the WIOA New Zealand tour in 2024. The Civil/All-Rounder will receive up to \$1,500 towards professional development. If you know someone in the Queensland water industry that fits the bill for any of these awards, make sure you nominate them. Nomination forms at <https://wioa.org.au/awards/state-awards/queensland-awards/>

TRAINING COURSES

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.

Monitor and Optimise Activated Sludge and Biological Nutrient Reduction Course for operators, engineers, and managers. This course is aimed at people responsible for AS/BNR systems operation, assessment, control, and optimisation. The course also provides micro credentials for training recognition and post graduate studies. The June 2023 Activated Sludge and Biological Nutrient Reduction micro-credential course is now open for registration through the link below. This year the course will be held at Southbank Campus, Griffith University, Brisbane, from Monday 26 June at 8.00am through to Friday 30 June at 2.00pm. More information is available at <https://tinyurl.com/yu7snw56>



The Australian Water School has a new **Live Course: Passive and Low Input Wastewater Systems**. The 3 session course will allow attendees to discover sustainable and eco-friendly alternatives to traditional wastewater treatment methods. The course runs between 13 - 27 June 2023 in an online format. More information on the course content, cost and presenters can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/3t9dz8jz>

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

There are approximately 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, and Management** positions. To utilise this FREE job advertisement placement service, please email your advert to sherryn@wioa.org.au

PEOPLE & CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

SWAN Analytical Instruments have launched 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: <https://swan-analytical.com.au/products/chematest-42/>



Busselton Water has recently updated their Chlorination facilities, and has an Expression of Interest open to re-home parts that are no longer suitable to their system. They have existing new stock and also serviceable, lightly used parts. For details email: craig.francis@busseltonwater.wa.au

2023 CONFERENCES & EVENTS

- 26 April **WIOA Inc Committee Nominations close**
- 27 April **WIOA Talks - WaterAble**, online
- 4 May **Water Quality Awareness in Distribution Systems Seminar**, Bendigo Showgrounds
- 10 -12 May **AWA's OzWater conference**, Sydney
- 23 May **WIOA Talks - Biosolids**, online
- 24 May **WIOA Inc Annual General Meeting**, online
- 21 June **SA Interest Day - Glenelg WWTP**
- 4 July **Tasmanian Interest Day and Ixom Best Tasting Tap Water**, Mowbray
- 19 & 20 July **47th QLD Water Industry Operations Conference and Exhibition**, Sippy Downs
- 1 & 2 November **15th NSW Water Industry Operations Conference and 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 Ella your new details (admin@wioa.org.au) or call the office on 03 5821 6744.