



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

WIOA WORDS

MAY 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

At the WIOA Inc AGM held online on 24 May 2023, **Sally Shepherd** was elected President, **Ryan McGowan** as Vice President and **George Wall** continues as Secretary/Treasurer. New President Sally thanked outgoing President Mark Samblebe for his substantial efforts over the past two years, and recognised Grant Waite who did not seek re-election to the Committee. Coming on to the Committee following the election is David Sheehan, and thanks to David Rae for nominating as well.



At WIOA, we embrace diversity and inclusion and consider it integral to our culture, our values and the way we do business. Our Diversity & Inclusion Group will advise the WIOA Inc Committee, WIOA Ltd Board and WIOA staff on D&I related issues and actions relating to the provision of services, events, training and opportunities to recognise achievements for the operational sector of the water industry. We have some vacancies on this group, and seek motivated and enthusiastic Members to fill these positions, ideally from within the operational sector of the water industry. If you are a WIOA Member and would like to nominate, please send an email to info@wioa.org.au outlining why you would like to join this group.



The May 2023 edition of **WaterWorks** is about to be distributed to members shortly. There are some really interesting articles on a wide variety of operational topics. We are now seeking articles for the November edition. Also, there is an opportunity for Corporate Members to advertise in the November edition. The advertising offsets the cost of producing and distributing this valuable publication to members and the broader water industry. If you are interested, please contact Ann - ann@wioa.org.au or download the 2023 Media Kit at <https://wioa.org.au/publications/water-works/>



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. You can access the WIOA Individual Members survey here <https://forms.office.com/r/nuT5hWsqu> and the WIOA Corporate Members survey here <https://forms.office.com/r/g6bXxc1w5S>



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, visit our website <https://wioa.org.au/operator-exchange-program/> or contact us at info@wioa.org.au

Men's Health Week takes place from 12-18 June 2023. This event is celebrated every year around the world and the theme for 2023 in Australia is Healthy Habits. The Australian Men's Health Forum will release a new Know Your Man Facts toolkit, that will encourage men and boys to build healthy habits. The toolkit is available at https://www.amhf.org.au/know_your_man_facts



The Water Services Association of Australia (WSAA) has published a discussion paper on the forthcoming **renewal of the National Water Initiative**. Building on recommendations by the Productivity Commission for a new NWI, WSAA has taken the lead for the urban water sector, calling on all state and territory governments to embrace the opportunity a national approach presents to deliver prosperity, jobs, action on climate change and liveable cities. The paper is a must read to stimulate and encourage discussion and engagement between key stakeholders for the urban water sector and can be accessed at <https://tinyurl.com/wh493ypy>

EVENTS

The program and registrations for the **47th WIOA Queensland Water Industry Operations Conference and Exhibition** to be held at the USC Stadium on the Sunshine Coast on 19 & 20 July 2023 are now available. If you intend to come along as a delegate, please register through Eventbrite ASAP. There is an excellent mix of paper and poster topics from a wide cross section of authors and organisations. Registration information and the program is available from the WIOA website at <http://wioaconferences.org.au/qld-2023/> Support for the exhibition has already been phenomenal with all 103 available sites allocated and a long list of companies on the waiting list.

We understand that not everyone can attend the Sunshine Coast conference as a delegate, so please keep in mind that **entry to the exhibition is FREE**. We encourage everyone to get a carload of people together and come and have a look through the exhibition, even if it is for just an hour or two.



The keenly contested **Queensland Main Tapping Competition** will also be held again at the Sunshine Coast conference, and we are currently seeking teams to compete. Will 2023 be the year that sees the trophy head somewhere other than to City of Gold Coast? Enter your teams via email with Sherryn at the office sherryn@wioa.org.au



The **Local Govt NSW Water Management Conference**, themed **Working together towards tomorrow** is being held in Parkes, NSW from 26-28 June 2023. The conference aims to bring together key industry stakeholders to learn about practical solutions to water and sewerage management to explore the issues and challenges facing local water utilities today and into the future. View the program or register at <https://bit.ly/3Jx0rhd>



A **Tasmanian Interest Day and Ixom Best Tasting Tap Water in Tasmania** competition will be held at the Mowbray Race Club, Launceston on Tuesday 4 July 2023. The program will include presentations from the TasWater Capital Delivery Office, a report on the recent WIOA NZ tour, and the challenges of delivering drinking water in remote locations. Along with crowning the provider of Tasmania's best tasting tap water, the Tasmanian Operator of the Year and Young Operator of the Year for 2023 will also be announced. The full program and registration information is available at <https://tinyurl.com/26b8rzdx>

An **Operations Interest Day** will be held at the **Glenelg Wastewater Treatment Plant** in Adelaide on Wednesday 14 June 2023. The day will include a number of interesting presentations including energy management and the smart maintenance project and will incorporate a tour of the site. More information or to register, visit <https://wioa.org.au/sa-operations-interest-day-2023/>



An **Operations Interest Day** showcasing the **training academy and depot** will be held at Greater Western Water's **Melton Depot** on Thursday 6 July 2023. The day will include a tour of the training academy and depot, demonstration of the network operator training facility along with the blending facility, that mixes hydro waste with biosolids for the reuse of nature strip re-instatements. For more information or to register, visit <https://wioa.org.au/vic-operations-interest-day-2023/>



The next **WIOA Talks** webinar will focus on **Demystifying a Digital Twin – a water industry example** and will be held on Thursday 15 June at 12 noon AEST. Blair Smith – Innovation Lead at Melbourne Water and Steve Avery – Head of Smart Cities and the Digital Twin Program, NCS Australia will talk us through a Digital Twin project at Melbourne Water. Registration is now open at <https://wioa.org.au/wioa-talks-digital-twin/>

WIOA AWARDS 2023

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 19 June 2023 and a nomination 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)**. The Young Operator of the Year will also receive 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. This could be used for opportunities such as attendance at conferences, *qldwater* training or for funding expenses for exchange opportunities at neighbouring or other councils. If you know someone within the Queensland water industry that fits the bill for either of these awards, make sure you nominate them today. Also closing on 19 June 2023, nomination forms are available from <https://wioa.org.au/awards/state-awards/queensland-awards/>



LAST CHANCE TO ENTER Kwatye - Cultural Recognition Award, sponsored by TRILITY - 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 June annually via <https://tinyurl.com/y6ub5e55>
The winner will receive a \$2,000 donation to their cultural or diverse charity of choice.

TRAINING COURSES

The **Australian Water School** is offering a new three session **Live Course: Passive and Low Input Wastewater Systems**, allowing participants to discover sustainable and eco-friendly alternatives to traditional wastewater treatment methods. Learn how to treat wastewater with minimal energy and rely on natural processes, resulting in lower operational costs and reduced carbon footprint. The course will run between 13 June 2023 and 27 June 2023 with 3 x 2 hour live interactive sessions. More information or register at <https://tinyurl.com/mtj7c59p>

The annual **IWES event** on the Gold Coast is back in 2023 and will be in person. The IWES Gold Coast program is scheduled for 17 to 21 July 2023 at the Mantra on View, Surfers Paradise and will feature an exclusive IWES industry meet-up on Tuesday 18 July 2023. For more information on the courses available or to register, visit <https://iwes.com.au/events/iwes-gold-coast-july-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/2p943fva>

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

There are more than 30 vacant positions in ACT, NSW, Queensland and Victoria currently advertised on the WIOA website. **Current vacancies** include positions for Water and Wastewater Treatment Operators, several Managers in Water and Wastewater fields and a wide range of other water industry operational roles. To utilise this FREE job advertisement placement service, email your advert to sherryn@wioa.org.au

PEOPLE & CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to WIOA MD George Wall who was made a **Life Member** of the **Water Industry Operations Group of New Zealand (WIOG)** at their annual conference awards dinner in Dunedin on 18 May 2023. The award is in recognition of the support, encouragement and knowledge that George has shared with the WIOG Executive, Committee and operators in NZ over an extended period.

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

- 1 June **Kwatye Award**, applications close
- 14 June **Operations Interest Day** - Glenelg WWTP, SA
- 15 June **WIOA Talks – Digital Twin**, online
- 4 July **Operations Interest Day and Ixom Best Tasting Tap Water**, Mowbray, Tas
- 6 July **Networks Interest Day at Greater Western Water Training Facility**, Melton, Vic
- 19 & 20 July **47th QLD Water Industry Operations Conference and Exhibition**, Sippy Downs
- 1 September **WIOA - Queensland Charity Bowls Day**, Yandina
- 1 October **Team of the Year Award**, applications close
- 13 October **FNQ Operations Interest Day and Optional TRILITY Barefoot Bowls**, Cairns (TBC)
- 1 & 2 November **15th NSW Water Industry Operations Conference and Exhibition**, Canberra



Become a friend of WIOA on **FACEBOOK** follow us on **TWITTER** or join us in **LinkedIn**

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.