



WIOA President's Message 2009

Welcome everyone, to the 34th Annual Queensland Water Industry Operations Workshop.

The Water Industry Operators Association of Australia (WIOA) is pleased to organise this annual workshop and trade exhibition and it is exciting that each year it continues to grow. The expo is a sell-out for the second successive year and this year there were numerous companies on a waiting list, who unfortunately missed out on exhibiting. We have no doubt that this event is gaining even more acceptance as a “must attend” annual event for the entire Qld water industry, as more people experience what it is all about.

The past 12 months have seen very significant growth in WIOA nationally. The benefits on offer through involvement with WIOA have been embraced by operators in all states, and Qld is no exception. Our membership base continues to grow significantly each year, particularly during and after these events. We are very excited to report that our member numbers now exceed 1,000. We know that many of you are Members of WIOA already, but a significant number of you are not. There is no better time to join up than right now.

Some of you may have been fortunate enough to attend the one day seminar on “Distribution System Optimisation” prior to this workshop and experienced for yourself just one of the quality events WIOA is able to offer. There will be more similar events in the future so make sure you get along to them.

Applications for the annual Kwatye (Water) Prize are now open to WIOA Members. If you have an innovative idea, would like to attend an event here or overseas, or further your study in the water industry, send us a proposal. More information can be found on our website by visiting: www.wioa.org.au/awards/kwatye.htm.

Earlier this year we were confronted by some shocking natural disasters with the horrific bushfires in Victoria and flooding in large parts of Qld & NSW. No doubt operators in these areas will have faced very trying conditions in the day to day running of their systems to provide services that the community just expects will be available. I also have no doubt that the same operators have been able to meet all challenges with practical solutions. These events are devastating at the time, and most likely will pose new challenges even further down the track, particularly when we receive rain in burnt out catchment areas.

Many people will argue that global warming is the cause of nature's changes and just as many will disagree. Either way, as operators we need to look at limiting further environmental impact by adopting cleaner, safer operating principles, not just at work but at home also.

To stage a Workshop and trade show as big as this would not be possible without a lot of hard work and organisation by our wonderful WIOA staff including Executive Officer George Wall, Operations Manager Cynthia Lim along with Marilyn & Sherryn in our office.

WIOA is also lucky to have a fantastic group of volunteers on our Committee. Some of them are here in Caloundra, along with a dedicated group of “HELPERS” from Queensland, Victoria and beyond, all working hard behind the scenes to help make the event run as smoothly as it does. To all these people we extend a very big THANK YOU.

Thank you is also extended to our host, Sunshine Coast Regional Council and Sunshine Coast Water. It has been a pleasure to work with everyone from the Sunshine Coast area in setting up this event. We are grateful for the continued support of the Water Industry Training Association (WITA) and the Queensland Branch of AWA. We look forward to the announcement of the 4th winner of the “Leon Henry Memorial, Qld Operator of the Year” award at the Workshop Awards Dinner on Thursday evening.

WIOA appreciates the fantastic support of our Prime Workshop Partners in Rad-tel Systems, ITT Water & Wastewater, Acromet Australia and ABS Wastewater Technology along with a host of other sponsors and exhibitors. Remember to support all of these companies if you get the chance. They are only too happy to help out and don't forget to mention that you saw them at this workshop.

To everyone attending, enjoy the workshop, get in and see the paper presentations, check out the Trade Exhibition, get a group together and have a go at the Workshop Competition. Try and be involved and who knows, next year you may even have a go at a paper. If you need any help we can point you in the right direction. When you get back to work, let your employer or supervisor know of the value of attending. Tell them all about the event and what you have learnt so that next year they won't hesitate in sending along more operations staff.

I am very proud to have the opportunity to be President of a great organisation like WIOA and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during the course of my term. The water industry truly is an exciting place to be working in, enjoy it.



Anthony Evans
WIOA President