



WIOA President's Message 2010

Welcome everyone, to the 4th Annual WIOA NSW Water Industry Engineers & Operators Conference. The Water Industry Operators Association of Australia (WIOA) is pleased to organise this annual event and it is satisfying that each year it continues to grow. We have no doubt that this event has now become a “must attend” annual event for the entire NSW 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 NSW is no exception. Our membership base continues to grow significantly each year, particularly during and after these events. We know that many of you are Members of WIOA already, but a significant number of you are not. Keep in mind the draw for the BBQ valued at over \$1,000 will be undertaken at the Thursday Conference Dinner. If you want a chance to win it, either pay up your fees or join as a member right now.

For those people new to this event and WIOA, we'd like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the Association and what we are all about. WIOA started out in Victoria in 1973, and was originally set up as a wastewater employees self help group. The Association has grown and expanded over time, mostly at the request for more from our Members. We now cover operational issues across the entire water industry, not just wastewater. After trying unsuccessfully for many years to establish branches outside Victoria, from 2000 we dropped the Victorian name and have expanded to become a truly National organisation. We now have Members from every Australian State and Territory and many from New Zealand as well.

One of WIOA's main aims is to increase the level of knowledge and skills of operational staff across all segments of the water industry so that they can perform their important job functions more efficiently and productively. We do this by bringing people together to share the latest information about processes and technologies at events like this, by running other special interest seminars such as our Media Filters; Distribution system; Chemical Dosing; Disinfection or PAC workshops, by producing useful operational resources such as our “Practical Guide” series, by placing information onto our website for all operators to access and by being proactively involved in the development and implementation of the Water Training Package and its associated resource material. We have produced career videos in an effort to attract young people into the industry in the future and we also produce our own Journal and a number of other Member focused publications. There are a number of examples of the various WIOA publications in your satchel and for an annual membership fee of only \$25, we think it is great value and again encourage everyone to join.

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.

There is another Operators tour in 2010, this time to the North Island of New Zealand. The tour kicks off in Auckland on 7th May and will visit a number of water & wastewater plants on the North Island. Included in the trip is attendance at the WIOG Conference in Hamilton and we then make our way home on 15th May. You will meet a great bunch of people, get a PhD in LOTE, be stirred for not understanding a word they say, but, leave NZ with some wonderful new friends & contacts in the water industry overseas. Contact the WIOA office ASAP if you are interested in attending or would like more information for this year or 2011.

Once again this year we have been confronted with some natural disasters such as the flooding in large parts of Qld & NSW and violent storms seem to be the norm rather than the exception now. No doubt operators in these areas will have faced very trying conditions in the day to day running of their systems in providing the services that the community just expects will always be available. I also have no doubt that the same operators have been able to meet the challenge with practical solutions to continue to provide these services. These events are devastating at the time, but most likely will pose new challenges further down track. As operators we need to look at limiting further environmental impact by adopting cleaner, safer operating principles in the day to day running of our plants.

Staging a conference as big as this would not be possible without a lot of hard work and organisation by our wonderful WIOA staff including EO 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 Bathurst, along with a dedicated group of "HELPERS" from NSW and beyond, all working hard behind the scenes. To all these people we extend a very big THANK YOU.

Thank you is also extended to our host, Bathurst Regional Council for all their assistance and we are grateful for the continued support of the NSW Water Directorate. We look forward to the announcement of the 4th winner of the "Water Directorate, NSW Operator of the Year". WIOA really appreciates the wonderful support of our Prime Conference Partners in Rad-tel Systems, ITT Water & Wastewater, Acromet Australia and Peerless Industrial Systems along with a host of other sponsors and exhibitors. Remember to support 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 conference.

To everyone attending, enjoy the event, get in and see the paper presentations, check out the Trade Exhibition, get a group together and have a go at the Conference 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 learned 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 conference and my term. The water industry truly is an exiting place to be working in, enjoy it.



Anthony Evans
WIOA President