



WIOA President's Message 2006

Welcome to the 31st Annual Queensland Water Industry Workshop – Operations Skills.

From strength to strength we grow. These are absolutely exciting times for WIOA as we embark on the organisation and delivery of our first official event tailored specifically for operators, to be staged outside Victoria. As part of our now National role, WIOA is committed to the provision of similar technical workshops and trade exhibitions in all States. We will also be hosting many other events and services all designed to provide direct benefits to operators.

I imagine operators in Queensland can feel quite isolated at times due to the vastness of the State. The coming together of the industry at events like this is becoming even more important by providing an avenue to learn from one another and to make contact with colleagues working in similar fields.

The only instruction I can give to all Workshop participants is to partake whole-heartedly in the event! As they say in the classics – “you will only get out the value of what you are prepared to put in”. Make the most of what this workshop has to offer and network with your fellow water industry colleagues, listen to the papers, view the posters and consider what part of your job role you could talk about next year. Take the time to browse through the trade displays and talk to the exhibitors. They can help you to increase your overall level of knowledge and assist you to take something positive back to your workplace. It may only be a small idea but often small things grow to provide much larger outcomes. Combine all these concepts together and you have one of the main aims that WIOA holds for all of our activities – an opportunity for operators to learn and in time reach their true potential. We hope you will take the opportunity to realise this aim.

George Wall, our Executive Officer has had his hands full finalising details for this workshop while continuing with the organisation of the Victorian conference to be held in Bendigo in September. Add to this the numerous other ongoing Association activities, and George has approached this mammoth task admirably. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him on behalf of the entire WIOA Committee. We have also formed a Queensland Workshop working group consisting of 8 dedicated water industry people who have put their hands up to help – thank you for your efforts and I hope you have enjoyed the experience of working with WIOA.

The 2006 Workshop sees a record number of exhibitors, more than 75 in total, and at the time of printing this report, there were more than 100 delegates registered. Regardless of the final numbers, this level of support makes this a very successful event in anyone's language.

Thanks must be extended to our major supporters and sponsors - WITA, Fitzroy River Water, Australian Pollution Engineering, EPA Qld, AWA as well as the host of other sponsors who have helped keep the price of attending very affordable for all. Without the commitment to the water industry of all these organisations, and especially the support of those at the coal face, it would be much more difficult to share information and technology and the resultant improvements of the water industry would be less apparent.

To all our delegates and exhibition visitors – thank you for attending and we appreciate the efforts of some who have travelled great distances to be here. Please take some time to look over the information provided in the Registration packs and apart from keeping the products or services of the companies present at the Exhibition in mind when undertaking your respective jobs, we hope that you will consider tapping into what WIOA has to offer by becoming a Member. At only \$15 per year, it is a very affordable way to keep in touch with what is happening in your industry.

Before signing off, I want to introduce you all to the “Workshop Competition”. If you don’t know what it is all about, the best way to find out is to join in the fun. Our trade exhibitors have put a lot of effort into their stands and we have randomly selected 10 companies to participate in the competition. Just form a group of three and make sure you visit all of the nominated 10 sites before close on Thursday. If you are here on your own, don’t worry - put your name down at the registration desk and we will fit you into a team – what a great way to meet a couple of new people!. At each trade site you will be required to undertake some form of challenge and you will be scored by the exhibitor depending on how well you go. The winners of the competition will be announced at pre-dinner drinks on Thursday night and there are some great prizes on offer. Good luck to everyone!

I hope to have the opportunity to meet many of you over the course of the event and trust that this workshop will be an enjoyable experience. I look forward to meeting even more operators at future WIOA events.



Cynthia Lim
WIOA President