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WIOA WORDS

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AROUND THE TRAPS

The Water Industry Skills Taskforce (WIST), has released a draft **Certification Framework for Operators within Wastewater and Recycled Water Treatment Systems** for national consultation. Work on the Framework began in late 2016 when the Australian Water Recycling Centre of Excellence engaged *qldwater* to coordinate development of a Certification Framework for Recycled Water Operators, including managing industry consultation. Following discussions with national recycled water regulators, a combined recycled water and wastewater approach was believed to be more effective. The draft Framework and a feedback form can be downloaded from www.wioa.org.au/aboutus/news_certification100417.htm Any comments or issues can be sent to skills@qldwater.com.au by 28 April 2017.



The Water Industry Skills Taskforce (WIST) is also seeking interest in the establishment of a **standardised water industry online induction program**, targeted at new entrants to the industry, as well as those interested in entering the industry. It is envisaged that the national program would include both national as well as specific information for each state/territory. A list of questions to allow enterprises to provide feedback to WIST has been developed and a link to the Queensland-based program maintained by *qldwater* is available at www.wioa.org.au/aboutus/news_induction100417.htm Any comments or issues can be sent to skills@qldwater.com.au by 28 April 2017.



The **2017 WIOA NSW Water Industry Operations Conference and Exhibition** held in **Canberra** in late March was a great success with just over 730 people in attendance. Our thanks are extended to the team at Icon Water for hosting the event and our congratulations are extended to the various award winners. These include the Water Directorate **NSW Operator of the Year – Shane Kimber** from Shoalhaven Water, the Iwaki Award for the **Best paper overall** as well as the Nalco Award for **Best Paper by an Operator - Brock Stone** from Gunnedah Shire Council, and the WIOA Award for **Best Operator Poster** went to **Gary Perrin** from Singleton Council. The Utility magazine award for **Best Exhibition Site** was presented to **Reece Civil** and the winner of the **Ixom 2017 NSW/ACT Water Taste Test** was **Icon Water**.



A Victorian water utility has recently completed an inspection of a 10ML potable water storage reservoir with an aluminium roof. They discovered that a number of the bolts holding the roof to the top of the tank were missing, along with many tek screws holding the roofing sheets to the frame. The repairs will require work both internally and externally of the reservoir. They have queried whether any other utilities could recommend contractor/s who could undertake the repairs safely whilst protecting water quality at the same time. Any recommendations or information can be sent to george@wioa.org.au to be passed on.

The **Bureau of Meteorology** has recently released a couple of significant water information products that will provide simpler ways for people to access water information. Their former water storage and water market sites have been upgraded and can now be accessed from a single page called **water information dashboards**. The dashboards can be accessed at www.bom.gov.au/water/dashboards/ The other product is the **Water Storage app**, first developed for iPhone in 2010, which is now available for Android users. The app lets users compare water levels and volumes for more than 300 publicly owned lakes, reservoirs and weirs around Australia, and provides daily updates on how much water is available in most urban and rural regions around the country. It can be downloaded from www.bom.gov.au/apps/water/



The third WaterRA Research Symposium, '**Water Industry Research – Collaborating Today for Tomorrow's Solutions**', will be held on 19-20 July, in Melbourne. This year's Research Symposium showcases a number of WaterRA projects in key areas of smart monitoring beneficial to water utilities. Early Bird registrations close on 30 April. View the Provisional Program and register at www.waterra.com.au/events/detail/149-1

WIOA AWARDS 2017

Congratulations are extended to **Marcus Boyd** from Toowoomba Regional Council, who was announced as winner of the **2017 PASS Award** at the Canberra conference. Marcus, in conjunction with the team of fitters at Toowoomba designed and developed a tool to allow replacement of the mixer baseplates in the BNR bioreactor, avoiding the need to take the plant offline. The resulting tool is estimated to have saved Toowoomba RC around \$120,000. Marcus will join the NZ tour courtesy of award sponsor, Aqualift Project Delivery. A copy of all the applications received for judging will be made into a booklet and will be sent out to all Members in the near future.



Nominations for the **2017 Queensland Operator of the Year** are now 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 an invitation to attend Qwater and an all expenses paid spot on the WIOA operator tour to New Zealand in 2018. Applications close on 5 May 2017 and a form is available from AWA Queensland Branch by emailing qldbranch@awa.asn.au



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 spot on WIOA's 2018 New Zealand tour.

The Civil/All Rounder will receive "up to" \$1500 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 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 5 May 2017, nomination forms are available from the **qldwater** website: www.qldwater.com.au/qldwaterAwards

EVENTS

The papers program for the **WIOA Queensland Operations Conference and Exhibition** to be held in Logan on 7 & 8 June has been set. There is an excellent mix of paper topics from a wide cross section of authors. We are still looking for a couple more operator poster papers, so if you have an idea about a potential topic, please contact the office ASAP. A registration form containing the program can be downloaded from the WIOA website at www.wioaconferences.org.au/qld_delegates.htm

All 112 exhibition sites at the Queensland conference in Logan were snapped up in record time. Running in parallel with the technical program, delegates and exhibition visitors have the opportunity to inspect the products and services offered by many of the world's leading companies servicing the water industry. The full list of exhibitors and event sponsors is available at www.wioaconferences.org.au/qld.htm



With the support of *qldwater*, Reece Civil, Ixom, Logan Council and Gold Coast Water & Waste, a **Mains Tapping Competition** has been introduced to the 2017 WIOA Queensland conference program for the first time. Up to 8 teams will fight it out in a timed competition on the Wednesday, to determine the Queensland winner. We anticipate that a similar competition will be introduced into events in the other States in the near future as well.



In conjunction with Ixom and both the NSW and Queensland Water Directorates, a **Water of Origin Taste Test** will be held at the WIOA conference in Logan in June. The winner of the NSW/ACT Taste Test (Icon Water) will be pitted against the 2017 Queensland winner (Toowoomba Regional Council) with judging to be undertaken in a blind tasting format. With Queensland leading 3 to 1 in the head to head competition, ironically the NSW hopes rest with the ACT to try to close the margin.



The **Victorian Advisory Committee** is conducting a Water Interest Day with the support of Central Highlands Water and Sulzer Pumps, to be held in Ballarat on 17 May. The program will examine the delivery of the Ballarat South WWTP Augmentation Strategy and will include a tour of the Ballarat South WWTP. To see the full program or to register, visit www.wioa.org.au/seminars/VicCHWBallarat2017.htm



The **Queensland Advisory Committee** is conducting a Water Interest Day at SEQWater's Mt Crosby WTP on 11 May. The program will feature a number of speakers covering the WTP process along with some invited industry representatives. To inspect the preliminary program for the day or to register, visit www.wioa.org.au/seminars/QLDMtCrosby2017.htm



Also on 11 May, the **NSW Advisory Committee** is conducting a Wastewater Interest Day at Clarence Valley Council's Maclean Depot, followed by an inspection of the recently upgraded Yamba STP. The program will feature speakers covering the STP process updates along with invited industry representatives. To see the preliminary program or to register, visit www.wioa.org.au/seminars/NSWYamba2017.htm

TRAINING COURSES

pH Water Consultants Pty Ltd offers a new course **Monitoring and Optimisation of Activated Sludge and Nutrient Reduction** presented by A/Prof Helen Stratton and Peter Griffiths. The course will be held 26-30 June 2017 on the Sunshine Coast. Popular presenters, Helen and Peter, have been delivering activated sludge training courses for the past 20 years. The new course presents the latest research findings and developments in optimisation and trouble-shooting activated sludge processes. Registration is now open at www.pHwater.com.au Delegates who attend and successfully complete the assessment items for the course can receive RPL towards their Certificate III or IV.



The **International Water Centre** is offering their redesigned **Introduction to WASH for Development**, eight week online training course commencing 2 May 2017. It is designed to empower participants with the fundamentals of WASH enabling them to plan, design and implement activities to improve sustainable and equitable access to water supply, sanitation facilities and improve hygiene behaviours. More information at <http://www.watercentre.org/training/online-courses/WASHintro/>

PEOPLE & CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

After what seems like an eternity, long standing WIOA member **Eddy Ostarcevic** completed his PhD thesis to develop real time integrity monitoring for high pressure membrane systems. Eddy received the Vice Chancellor's citation for excellence in research and research training at a ceremony in Melbourne in December 2016. The outcome of Eddy's research is being commercialised through CHSGroup with interest in the technology shown in Australia, USA and The Netherlands. Eddy was the inaugural winner of the Kwatye Award way back in 2005.



A number of new companies have recently joined WIOA as Corporate Members. Details on companies including Solo Water, Southern Divers, Carbon Activated, Gentrack, Ganden Enginners & Project Managers, Filtec, AVFI & pH Water Consultants to name a few, are available from the WIOA website.

POSITIONS VACANT - For information on these positions visit www.wioa.org.au/positions/index.htm

Current positions vacant include a Water Services Trainee, Water Services Operator, Experienced and Trainee Lining Technicians, Manager - Risk & Compliance and a number of Treatment Operators. There is also a couple of members seeking job opportunities. To utilise this FREE job advertisement placement service, please email your advert to sherryn@wioa.org.au

COMING EVENTS

- 28 Apr to 6 May - **Operator Tour of NZ plants and WIOG NZ Conference**, Queenstown
- 11 May - **NSW Wastewater Interest Day**, Yamba STP
- 11 May - **Queensland Water Interest Day**, Mt Crosby WTP
- 12 May - **Call for Papers and Posters** for WIOA Victorian Conference closes
- 17 May - **Victorian Water Interest Day**, Ballarat
- 6 & 7 June - **42nd WIOA Queensland Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Logan
- 5 July - **Operations Interest Day & Ixom South Australian Water Taste Test**, Adelaide, (TBC)
- 2 August - **Water Interest Day & Ixom Tasmanian Water Taste Test**, Launceston
- 6 & 7 Sept - **80th WIOA VIC Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Bendigo
- 6 Sept - **Ixom 2017 Victorian Water Taste Test**, Bendigo



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KEEP YOUR CONTACT DETAILS UP TO DATE. If your phone number, mailing address or email address has changed please email Ann your new details (ann@wioa.org.au) or call the office on 03 5821 6744.