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WIOA WORDS

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Merry Christmas



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Snippets, news items or other information can be sent to info@wioa.org.au

The Board, Committee and Staff of WIOA wish all members and their families a safe and happy festive season and we look forward to a prosperous 2018. The WIOA office will be closed from 22 December 2017 and will reopen on 8 January 2018. **Merry christmas and a safe and happy new year.**

AROUND THE TRAPS

Members are reminded that annual fees for 2018 are due on 1 January and a renewal invoice has recently been sent to all members. If any of your personal details are not correct, please let Sherryn know by email (sherryn@wioa.org.au) and she will update the database.



State Advisory Committees perform an important role on behalf of the association ensuring that WIOA's activities meet the expectations of our members. WIOA congratulates the following members who have been elected Chair of the respective State based Advisory Committees for 2018. Each of these members are now automatically included in the WIOA general committee at the 2018 AGM.

Lindsay Walsh - NSW

Colin Haynes - Queensland

Robran Cock - South Australia

Darren Lord - Tasmania

Anthony Evans - Victoria

If you would like to become more involved with the association, have ideas that you are prepared to share, or would like to assist in the staging of any events, please contact your state Chair or the WIOA office.



Members are invited to consider contributing to the success of WIOA by **nominating for the Committee**. Along with the notice of the AGM and annual report, the Committee nomination form will be sent to all Members in January 2018.



WIOA is pleased to confirm the continued support of Calix, Hach, Ixom and Xylem as Prime Sponsors of our Conferences and Exhibitions in 2018. The opportunity to sponsor the conference bags for delegates and visitors in 2018 is available along with several other sponsorship opportunities. Becoming a sponsor can assist in meeting your marketing goals by promoting your organisation and products to a wider, often difficult to reach audience. Contact Craig at the office for more information or to discuss your ideas.



WIOA has again teamed up with Monkey Media, publishers of **Utility Magazine** as our media partner for the 2018 Conference and Exhibitions. The partnership includes distribution of a copy of Utility magazine to attendees at each event. The February edition will be distributed in NSW, the May edition in Queensland and the August edition in Victoria. Corporate members interested in advertising in any of these editions should contact chris.bland@monkeymedia.com.au

On behalf of the Industry Reference Committees (IRCs) they support, Australian Industry Standards (AIS) is calling for industry input on a range of issues that affect the water and utilities industries, among others. AIS invites water industry stakeholders to complete a survey to help identify new and emerging skills and their associated training needs. Input provided will inform the 2018 IRC Skills Forecast and Proposed Schedule of Work including review and development of the Water Training Package. The survey and Call for Submissions will close on **Tuesday, 16 January 2018**. The survey, which should take no more than 10 minutes, can be accessed at www.surveymonkey.com/r/2SQCV7W



The itinerary for the **2018 Operators Tour of New Zealand** including attendance at the WIOG Operations conference in Palmerston North, is currently being finalised. Based on past tours, the anticipated total cost will be \$1,500 AUD per person plus airfares. To allow us to book accommodation, the bus and confirm prices, registrations will close on 2 February 2018. Anyone intending to participate should register your interest with the WIOA office ASAP.

The Water Industry Operations Group NZ (**WIOG**) conference will be held in Palmerston North, New Zealand from 9-11 May 2018. Further information on the conference is available at www.wiog.org.nz



Water Research Australia (WaterRA) is seeking industry assistance in the **sponsorship of student projects**. WaterRA's Education Program demonstrates the benefits of providing professional development opportunities, with 90+% retention rate of graduates commencing their careers in the water sector. They have a suite of topical PhD and Honours projects that address relevant water and environmental issues as well as projects addressing the Sustainable Development Goals, which is high on everyone's agenda. To review the topics being proposed visit <https://tinyurl.com/y7nal9mb> WaterRA offers a package including mentoring support and integration with industry, along with opportunities to network and present research outcomes at conferences. WaterRA students are industry-ready graduates! All enquiries can be directed to carolyn.bellamy@waterra.com.au or 08 7424 2443.

AWARDS

Nominations are open for the **2018 NSW Operator of the Year**. Sponsored by NSW Water Directorate, this prestigious award recognises commitment to the job, innovation, initiative and achievements. If you know someone within NSW who fits the bill, then nominate them today. The winner receives an all-expenses paid opportunity to join the tour to NZ in May 2018 valued at over \$2,000. Nominations can be downloaded from: www.waterdirectorate.asn.au/Awards/WIOANSWOperatoroftheYearAward.aspx



Congratulations to **Brendan Roesler** from Trility for being announced the **2017 South Australian Operator of the Year** at the recent water interest day held at the Happy Valley WTP. Brendan will join the WIOA contingent on the tour to New Zealand in May 2018 courtesy of award sponsor TAFE SA.



At the Wastewater Interest Day held in Longford, David Stacey was announced the winner of the 2017 **Tasmanian Operator of the Year** and Robert McDonald was announced as the 2017 **Tasmanian Young Operator of the Year**. Sponsored by TasWater, these awards recognise commitment to the job, innovation, initiative and achievement and both David and Robert will also join the WIOA delegation to New Zealand in May 2018.

A reminder to members that applications are being accepted for the **Problem Accepted, Solution Supplied (PASS) Award** with a closing date of 28 February 2018. The winner receives the opportunity to participate in the WIOA tour to New Zealand in May to the value of \$2,000, courtesy of sponsor Aqualift Project Delivery. Application forms are available from the website at www.wioa.org.au/awards/pass.htm

EVENTS

The **Call for Papers** for the **WIOA 2018 Queensland Conference and Exhibition** to be held in Logan on 6 & 7 June 2018 is now open. The closing date for abstracts for both platform and poster papers is 21 February 2018, so please get busy working on your topics.



The technical program for the **12th WIOA NSW Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition** has been finalised and includes an excellent suite of papers from the NSW industry covering a broad range of topics. Tamworth Regional Council is hosting the event in Tamworth on 11 & 12 April 2018, and we are now accepting **Delegate Registrations for this important event for the water industry in NSW/ACT**. Make sure you register for the conference and book your accommodation early.



With the support of the WIOA Advisory Committees, WIOA has conducted many successful **Water and Wastewater Interest Days** throughout 2017. These days have been well supported and are a great networking opportunity for members to share their experiences with others in similar roles. We are now seeking hosts for events in 2018. If you have a facility that you would like to showcase to the WIOA members, please contact the WIOA office or your respective Advisory Committee Chair.



The 2018 **WIOA AGM and Weekend Seminar** will be held in Ballarat on 3 & 4 March 2018. The event is free to the first 50 WIOA financial members who register. If the last few years are any indication, the weekend will include some great presentations and heaps of fun. You can register to attend in person via the website at wioa.org.au/event/wioa-agm-weekend-seminar

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

The positions vacant section of our website currently has positions for a range of operational roles including a number of **Customer Services Assistant, Regional Manager covering Vic, SA, Tas & WA, Treatment Plant Operator, and Relief Operator Water & Wastewater**. To utilise this FREE job advertisement service, please email your advert to sherryn@wioa.org.au

TRAINING COURSES In order to inform Members, WIOA lists any water industry training providers on the WIOA website. For more information visit the website: www.wioa.org.au/operator_resources/TrainingCourses.htm

IWES Sydney 2018 will take place during the week of 12-16 February. The program incorporates some new courses available, to keep you up to date with the latest trends, technologies and industry best practices. You can access the full program, including venue details and speaker profiles from the IWES website: <http://iwes.com.au>



The National Centre for Groundwater Research & Training (NCGRT) is staging the **Australian Groundwater School** in Adelaide in April 2018, Melbourne in August and Brisbane in November. The School provides participants with a broad but rigorous introduction to groundwater including hydrogeology, assessment methods, modelling, managed aquifer recharge, management, governance and more. More information and registration details are available at www.groundwater.com.au/events/71

Simmonds & Bristow now offers **online training** using their new E-Learning system. With many trainees struggling to find the time to attend Face to Face training, "Independent Learning" is offered as a way to connect trainees with experienced industry trainers and custom developed training materials. Trainees learn when and where it suits best, tapping in to the same high quality Simmonds & Bristow training. The competency based training still requires a Work Readiness Assessment (conducted remotely or in-person) to demonstrate that all learners have achieved the necessary competency. For more information and to try the training with a demo account, email training@simmondsbristow.com.au for access.

PEOPLE & CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

DCM Process Control is pleased to announce the appointment of Margarita Carroll as National Technical Manager. Margarita brings over 20 years of experience in process instrumentation and water industry to her role which includes characterisation of wastewater influent, automated feed forward coagulation systems and on-line trade waste tracing and treatment. Contact Margarita on 0417 706 041 or margarita@dcmprocesscontrol.com



Congratulations to **Gunnedah Shire Council**, a WIOA Utility Corporate Member, and in particular the Water Services team on being announced as the winner of the inaugural Sam Samra Award for most improved water and sewerage service provider in NSW. The awards are sponsored by the NSW Water Directorate in conjunction with Local Government NSW and the Department of Primary Industries Water.

2018 EVENTS – Check out the events calendar online, visit www.wioa.org.au/seminars/calendar.htm

- 19 February **NSW Operator of the Year Award** nominations close
- 28 February **PASS Award** applications close
- 3 & 4 March **WIOA Weekend Seminar & AGM**, Ballarat
- 9 March **WIOA - QLD Charity Bowls Day**, Yandina
- 11 & 12 April **12th WIOA NSW Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Tamworth
- 4-12 May **Operators Tour of New Zealand & WIOG Conference**, Palmerston North, New Zealand
- 6 & 7 June **43rd WIOA QLD Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Logan
- 20 July **Kwatye Award** applications close
- 5 & 6 Sept **81st WIOA VIC Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Bendigo
- 17 October **Australia's Best Tasting Tap Water Competition**, Toowoomba



Become a friend of WIOA on **FACEBOOK** and follow us on **TWITTER**

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.