



Published by the Water Industry Operators Association of Australia (WIOA)

WIOA WORDS

FEBRUARY 2017 Edition

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AROUND THE TRAPS

Members are reminded that the **annual fees for 2017 were due on 1 January 2017** and all those who have paid will have received their receipt in the mail. Reminders have also been sent this week and any member not financial at the end of February 2017 will be deemed to have resigned their membership and will have their details removed from the member database. Remember, all financial individual members will be entered into the draw for the \$1,000 Travel Voucher generously donated by Royce Water Technologies, to be drawn at the NSW Conference in Canberra.



We are very pleased to announce that **WIOA and Water Research Australia (WaterRA)** have signed an agreement on reciprocal membership benefits. WaterRA is now a corporate member of WIOA, and WIOA is an associate member of WaterRA. Our aim is to build the good relationship and share information to benefit the wider industry and in particular for the operational employees.



As the winner of the **Australia's Best Tasting Tap Water** in 2016, WIOA has worked with the team from TasWater and entered the sample from the Barrington WTP into the Annual Berkeley Springs International Water Tasting competition being held in the USA in late February. Our fingers are crossed it can go one better than last year's silver medal winning sample from Maysville, and bring home gold for Australia.



The **World Environment Day Climate Action Awards** entries are now open! Each year since 2000, the United Nations Association of Australia has presented the World Environment Day Awards to individuals, organisations, schools, councils, businesses and media leading the way in environmental innovation. Entries for the 2017 awards in the following categories close on Friday 31 March 2017: Climate Change Leadership, Excellence in Climate Research, Clean Energy, Infrastructure Innovation for a Strong Climate Future, Protecting Biodiversity from Rapid Climate Change, Business Climate Action, Community Climate Action, Climate Education and Engagement, Local Government Climate Action and the Media Award for Climate Reporting. www.unaavictoria.org.au



The **Australian Stockholm Junior Water Prize (ASJWP)** is accepting entries for 2017 with a closing date of 20 March 2017. The ASJWP is an annual water science competition for high school students aged 15 - 20. The winner of the Australian competition, announced at Ozwater'17, goes on to compete internationally at the Stockholm Junior Water Prize during World Water Week in August. The student is awarded a fully-funded trip to Stockholm to participate in a week-long cultural exchange program with national winners from over 33 other nations. We can assist by promoting this fantastic award program to high schools in our local area, or teachers and students you may work with. More details and resources, including a flyer and information kit can be found at www.awa.asn.au/asjwp

Australian Industry Standards (AIS) is calling for input from stakeholders about a range of issues affecting the water industry. This information will be used to develop the industry outlook for the sector and help identify any new or emerging skills. The intelligence gathered during this process will assist in formulating advice on industry priorities, skill shortages and will inform future discussions about updates to the Water Training Package. Closing 21 February 2017, visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017SkillsForecast



The Government has asked the **Productivity Commission** to undertake an **inquiry into the reform of Australia's water resource sector**. The inquiry will assess progress against the objectives and outcomes of the National Water Initiative (NWI) and the need for any future reform. The Commission is required to; assess the outcomes of the NWI and related water reform efforts; consider the potential and realised benefits of NWI implementation; consider the scope for improving the NWI; and make recommendations on future reform priorities. More information and the inquiry terms of reference can be obtained from the Productivity Commission inquiry page at www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/water-reform

WIOA AWARDS

Last chance to share your **in-the-field innovations & fixes to problems** by entering the **PASS Award**. Applications close on 1 March 2017 with the winner announced at the NSW Conference in Canberra. The winner receives an all-expenses paid position on the WIOA tour of NZ including attending the WIOG operations conference in Queenstown in May 2017. The prize is sponsored by Aqualift Project Delivery. More details from www.wioa.org.au/awards/pass.htm



Opportunities to recognise operators commitment to the job, innovation, initiative and achievements in South Australia and Tasmania will be closing soon. If you know someone working in the water industry in these states that fits the bill, nominate them today.

- **South Australian Operator of the Year.** Nominations close on 24 February 2017.
www.wioa.org.au/awards/sa_ooty.htm
- **Tasmanian Operator of the Year.** Nominations close on 24 February 2017.
www.wioa.org.au/awards/tas_ooty.htm
- **Tasmanian Young Operator of the Year.** Nominations close on 24 February 2017.
www.wioa.org.au/awards/tas_yooty.htm

The winners of all these awards will receive all-expenses paid position on the WIOA tour to NZ in May 2017 valued at over \$2,000. These awards would not be possible without the valued support of the sponsors in the NSW Water Directorate, TAFE SA and TasWater.



NSW water utilities are invited to enter the annual **Ixom NSW/ACT Water Taste Test** to find the **Best Tasting Water in NSW/ACT**. The heats, grand final judging and announcement of the winner will take place at the WIOA conference in Canberra in March. The winning sample will then represent NSW against Queensland in the Water of Origin taste test to be held at the WIOA Conference in Logan. It may even go on to win Australia's Best Tasting Tap Water in a competition to be conducted later in 2017. More information is available on the WIOA conference website www.wioaconferences.org.au/nsw_tastetest.htm

MEMBER INFORMATION & EVENTS

The **2017 Weekend Seminar and AGM** will be held on 25 & 26 February at Homes Glen at Eildon. All financial members are welcome to attend this free event with spaces limited to the first 50 who register for this fun event. You can register online at www.wioa.org.au/seminars/WeekendSeminar.htm

The program for the **WIOA NSW Operations Conference and Exhibition** in Canberra on 29 & 30 March has been set. There is an excellent mix of topics in the platform and poster sections from a wide cross section of authors and the trade exhibition has sold out with 130 sites filled. Delegate registration forms are also now available and can be downloaded from www.wioaconferences.org.au/nsw_delegates.htm



A reminder that the **Call for Papers for the Queensland Operations Conference** closes on 22 February and to date we only have a handful of abstracts. We need member support, especially from those in operational roles, to make this event a success. Presentations do not need to be highly technical to be valuable, and often the best received papers are those that communicate how an operational problem has been investigated and rectified. Submission of abstracts can be obtained from the website: www.wioaconferences.org.au/callforpapers.htm



A **Charity Bowls Day** will be conducted by the Queensland Advisory Committee on Friday 17 March 2017 at the Yandina Bowls Club. It happens to be St Patrick's day so we are encouraging everyone to come along and dress in green, to enjoy this networking opportunity and a relaxed game of bowls. All funds raised from the day will be distributed to charity at the WIOA Queensland conference in 2017. We are also seeking corporate support for this event and look forward to seeing you on the greens. You can register online at: www.wioa.org.au/BowlsDayQld2017.htm



The May edition of **WaterWorks** is currently under development and is a great opportunity for our Corporate members to advertise and support the production of this important technical journal, not only for WIOA but for the entire water industry. This edition is widely distributed and will be included in the Queensland and Victorian conference satchels Contact Nicole Grimm on 0432 217 216 or nicole.grimm@executivemedia.com.au



Last chance to register for the 2017 Operators Tour of New Zealand including attending the WIOG NZ Conference to be held in Queenstown on 3-5 May 2017. Based on past tours, the cost will be approximately \$1,500 pp twin share plus airfares, and will run from 28 April-6 May 2017. Registrations for anyone intending to participate will close with the WIOA office on 17 February 2017, more information is available on the WIOA website: www.wioa.org.au/seminars/NZtour.htm



In December 2016 WIOA conducted a **survey of members** to gauge satisfaction levels on the services the association provides and we received nearly 400 responses which were well above expectations. As a small incentive for participation we offered a WIOA shirt as a prize for 3 lucky members who completed the survey. The randomly drawn winners were Mark Coleman from Central Coast Council, Martyn Simpson from Connexis NZ and Chiz Ruxton from Isaac Regional Council, a WIOA shirt will soon be on its way to you.

TRAINING COURSES

IWES Sydney 2017 will take place throughout the week of 13-17 February. Early bird discounts end on 23 January 2017. The program incorporates a wide range of course offerings for professionals to choose from. The full program, including venue details and speaker profiles can be found at <http://iwes.com.au>



Simmonds and Bristow is running their **two day swimming pool operations** course in Brisbane from 28 February 2017. For more information send an email to training@simmondsbristow.com.au

The National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training (NCGRT) is offering their **Australian Groundwater School** in Adelaide in April and again in Perth in December 2017. They are also accepting abstracts for the Australian Groundwater Conference which will be held from 11-13 July 2017 in Sydney. More information is available from www.groundwater.com.au/



The **Engineering Training Institute Australia** is offering a range of training courses in the February to June period of 2017. There are a number of new courses on offer in 2017 including Process Piping (Pressure) Design Workshop and a Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete Course. For more information about course topics and workshops OR to register online, please visit their website: www.etia.net.au

PEOPLE & CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

The **WTPO Helper** is an app for portable devices such as smart phones, iPhones and iPads, containing a number of useful tools/calculators for water treatment plant operators and anyone in the water industry. The app was developed by Michael Fawcett from South Gippsland Water as a Kwatye Award project. The app include 15 calculations and 4 useful data loggers that can be downloaded for Android on Google play and from the Apple store for the iPhone or iPad. A communication forum to support the WTPO Helper is also available through: www.wiacp.com.au



The 2017 year marks 40 years in the industry since MJK was founded in 1977. They intend to celebrate the milestone through a pipeline of new products, some significant updates and a series of short stories about MJK. More information is available at: mjk.com/news/mjk-1977-2017

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

Current positions vacant include Team Leader - Water & Sewer, Operations Management Centre Operator, Workshop Fitter/Storeman, Water Resources Planner Modeller, Senior Engineer Planning, Senior Engineer - Assets and Planning, Senior Engineer - Mechanical & Electrical and a number of Water Treatment and Sewerage Plant Operators. To utilise this FREE job advertisement placement service, please email your advert to sherryn@wioa.org.au

2017 EVENTS - Check out the events calendar online, visit www.wioa.org.au/seminars/calendar.htm

- 24 February - **South Australian Operator of the Year Award** nominations close
- 24 February - **Tasmanian Operator of the Year** and **Young Operator of the Year** nominations close
- 25 & 26 February - **WIOA Weekend Seminar & AGM**, Eildon
- 1 March - **PASS Award** applications close
- 8 March - **South Australian Wastewater Interest Day**, Bolivar WWTP
- 15 March - **Tasmanian Wastewater Interest Day**, Longford WWTP
- 17 March - **Queensland Charity Bowls Day**, Yandina
- 29 & 30 March - **11th WIOA NSW Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Canberra
- 28 April - 6 May - **WIOA Tour to New Zealand** and **WIOG conference**, Queenstown
- 11 May - **NSW Wastewater Interest Day**, Yamba WWTP
- 7 & 8 June - **42nd WIOA QLD Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Logan
- 20 July - **Kwatye Applications** close
- 6 & 7 September - **80th WIOA VIC Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, 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.