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WIOA WORDS

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AROUND THE TRAPS

The **NSW Water Directorate** has released a report on the occupational profile and training needs of employees in Local Water Utilities in NSW. The research was undertaken by the NSW Public Sector ITAB for the Water Directorate and forms part of a national project to count the number of employees in each of 28 water occupations. The purpose of the national research was to provide evidence to the Australian Bureau of Statistics about the size of the water industry workforce so that employees can be appropriately coded and accurately counted in the census in the future.

The NSW report reveals there are 1,957 persons employed in the 28 occupations across 102 NSW Local Water Utilities, Essential Water and Hawkesbury City Council. This represents 28% of the national workforce, based on data collected from other states and territories by Government Skills Australia. A full copy of the report is available from www.waterdirectorate.asn.au/



Government Skills Australia (GSA) has delayed the release of the final draft material for the **National Water Training Package** until later in June whilst it finalises some feedback issues with the relevant Technical Reference Groups. GSA is also negotiating a potential funding extension with the Commonwealth Government which will allow it to operate until December 2015. Government Skills Australia intends to complete the Water Training Package before it ceases operation. WIOA members will be advised when the updated material has been loaded to the GSA website for comment.



The **Water Industry Skills Taskforce (WIST)** has undergone changes recently with a revamp of the Terms of Reference along with a review of membership. Dave Cameron, **qldwater** CEO has been elected as Chair and **qldwater** is also undertaking the secretariat function of the WIST. With the wind up of the National Water Commission and the impending closure of GSA, WIOA envisages that the WIST will become the key body to represent the water sector on issues related to skills. More information about the changes and the current membership is available from www.wioa.org.au/documents/WIST_UpdateJune2015.pdf



WIOA is pleased to announce that we have **certified** the first **six operators** under the “*National Certification Framework 2012, Operators within Drinking Water Treatment Systems*”. The six certified operators, two from Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Council and four from Toowoomba Regional Council, were part of the Queensland certification pilot project to test the national Certification Framework. The WIST endorsed pilot was staged by **qldwater** in conjunction with WIOA. The six were presented with their certified operator credentials at a ceremony at the WIOA Queensland Operations Conference in Toowoomba. Congratulations to Peter Kirchmann and Ray Sycamore from Wujal Wujal and Terry Heness, Rick Mason, Scott Nichols and Craig Smith from Toowoomba, in what we believe is a fantastic milestone for the water industry nationally.

The Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (**ATSE**) says it is **time to use our stormwater** and recently made a submission to the Senate Environment and Communications References Committee inquiry into Australia's stormwater resource. Australian towns and cities are drastically underutilising stormwater, missing out on the chance to reduce pollution and erosion of urban waterways. Stormwater is a valuable potential resource to provide a significant alternative water source for a range of productive applications, but its full potential is still to be realised. Existing technologies are capable of providing stormwater capture but water governance rules need updating to take advantage of stormwater potential. The ATSE submission, including their five recommendations on how to better use Australia's stormwater is contained on their website at www.atse.org.au/

WIOA AWARDS 2015

Applications for the **2015 Kwatye Prize** will be accepted until 20th July and Members are urged to consider submitting an entry. The prize is \$6,000 to spend on any project that will be of benefit to the water industry. More information at: www.wioa.org.au/awards/kwatye.htm



Congratulations to Grahame Dunstan – Cairns Regional Council for winning the AWA sponsored **Leon Henry Memorial, Queensland Operator of the Year Award** at the recent Queensland Water Industry Operations Conference and Exhibition in Toowoomba. Grahame was also awarded the *qldwater* sponsored **Queensland Operator of the Year Award (Civil/All Rounder)**.

As awards sponsor, *qldwater* also presented the **Young Queensland Operator of the Year** to Geoffrey Johnson from Richmond Shire Council. For more information, visit the WIOA Queensland conference summary at www.wioa.org.au/2015conferences/qld.htm



Also at the recent Queensland conference, the **IXOM Water of Origin Water Taste Test** was won by the sample from **Richmond Shire Council** over Orange City Council putting Queensland two wins to one up in the head to head Water of Origin challenge. Delegates conducted a blind test of the samples supplied by both Richmond and Orange Councils. Amid plenty of trash talk, the real winners were the operators who look after the systems and supply such fantastic water to their customers on a daily basis.



The Victorian Branch of AWA has called for nominations for the 2015 **Wal Whiteside Memorial, Victorian Operator of the Year Award**. Application forms www.awa.asn.au/VIC_Operator_of_the_Year_Award.aspx and the Institute of Water Administration Vic will also be calling for nominations for the **Young Victorian Operator of the Year Award**. We encourage as many organisations as possible to nominate your operational staff for consideration for these prestigious awards.

EVENTS

WIOA is represented on the organising committee of the inaugural **Biggest Ever (Laurie Gleeson) Dinner** held at Etihad Stadium in Melbourne on Thursday 25th June. The event is timed to celebrate Men's Health Week and pay tribute to the late Victorian water industry stalwart Laurie Gleeson. WIOA has a long history of supporting worthwhile causes and we are pleased to be involved with such an important event. All profits from the night will go to the Australian Prostate Cancer Foundation.



All the exhibition sites for the **78th Victorian Water Operations Conference and Exhibition** have sold out in less than one day and preparations are underway for another great event. To see the list of companies exhibiting, visit the conference home page at: www.wioa.org.au/2015conferences/vic.htm

The technical platform paper program has been finalised for the **78th Victorian Water Operations Conference and Exhibition** but there is still room for **a couple more Operator Poster Papers**. If you have an idea or topic that could be presented, please contact EO George ASAP george@wioa.org.au and we will send you the requirements. The delegate registration form can be downloaded from the WIOA website.



WIOA invites all Victorian Water Corporations to participate in the **2015 IXOM Victorian Water Taste Test** to be held as part of the Victorian conference in September. We know organisations will be keen to knock off the reigning title holder East Gippsland Water and win bragging rights as having the best tasting tap water in Victoria. Check out the WIOA website for more information.



The Victorian Advisory Committee recently staged an excellent water interest day covering **Maintaining residual in your network**, hosted by Central Highlands Water in Ballarat. The next Victorian event will be a wastewater interest day to be held in the Gippsland Region later in the year. More details to follow.



The Victorian Advisory Committee is providing everyone a heads up that the **17th WIOA Victorian Charity Golf Day** will be held at the picturesque Camperdown Golf Club, on Sunday 18th October. We are looking for a strong turnout of operational people to help make the day a success and sponsorship opportunities exist for companies that would like a chance to win the Tradies Cup. Get the date into your diary now.



The Tasmanian Advisory Committee also recently staged an informative day on **Taste, Odour and Activated Carbon** at the Campbell Town water treatment plant. The next event is the **Water Interest Day and IXOM Tasmanian Water Taste Test** to be held on Wednesday 5th August 2015 in Bicheno. The full program and further information will be released shortly.



The inaugural WIOA event in South Australia will be the **Water Interest Day and IXOM South Australian Water Taste Test** to be held on Tuesday 21st July 2015 at the TAFE SA Tonsley Campus. We invite all our South Australian members and supporters to come along. The full program and further information will be released shortly.

TRAINING COURSES

The National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training (**NCGRT**) is offering the opportunity to attend a free lecture presented by **Dr Peter Dillon** on “Progress in managed aquifer recharge and the water banking frontier” followed by an interactive session: “Listening to local MAR progress, plans and implementation issues”. The remaining lectures for 2015 will be in Melbourne, Hobart, Perth and Darwin in June and July. For bookings visit www.groundwater.com.au/events/82



The National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training (**NCGRT**) is also offering their **Australian Groundwater Modelling School** in Sydney from 13-16 July. An extensive 4-day groundwater modelling course presented by world-class experts, the school will introduce attendees to the art and science of groundwater modelling. It will include a brief discussion of groundwater flow before examining the details of the process of modelling. Each step in the process will be thoroughly examined with practical applications as the focus. Extensive tutorials will allow attendees the opportunity to gain hands-on experience with using MODFLOW, the industry-standard groundwater modelling code. Other codes will be introduced and discussed. To register for the school, or to obtain the course flyer, visit www.groundwater.com.au/events/97

The next **IWES 2015** event will take place on the Gold Coast throughout the week of 13-17th July. The program incorporates a wide range and number of course offerings for professionals to choose from. Courses on offer include Principles of Wastewater Treatment; Biological Nutrient Removal; Membranes; Drinking Water Treatment; Asset Planning; Anaerobic Digestion as well as a number of others. For more information or to register, visit the IWES website at www.iwes.com.au/index.php



Water Research Australia (**WaterRA**) is staging their annual research symposium “**Unlocking the Value of Research**” on 15-16 July in Adelaide. For a program or to register visit the events area of the WaterRA website at www.waterra.com.au WaterRA has also announced the appointment of Dr Paul Pretto as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the company.

PEOPLE & CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to **Colin Haynes** from Unitywater on being elected the new **Chairperson of the WIOA Queensland Advisory Committee** at the meeting held at the conference in Toowoomba. Colin takes over from Marcus Boyd who has done a sterling job over the past few years. A number of events are currently being planned with details to be released shortly.



UV-Guard's latest product enhancement - a new power supply controller that works on 12V and 24V DC power - meaning that off the grid and mobile customers can now use UV to disinfect their water supplies, has recently been released. This product is ideal for customers in the mining, food and beverage, and water treatment industries. For more information, contact 02 9631 4900 or email sales@uvguard.com.au



A number of companies have recently joined WIOA as Corporate Members. Details on Water Infrastructure Services, Hunter H2o, Ridgeback Service Bodies, Spray Nozzle Engineering and ANDZAC Group to name a few, are available from the Corporate Member section of the WIOA website.

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

Current positions vacant include jobs in NSW, WA and Victoria including a Water and Sewerage Coordinator, Water Treatment Operators, Senior Project Manager and CCTV Operators. To utilise this FREE job placement service, email your job ad to sherryn@wioa.org.au

COMING EVENTS

- 25th June The Inagural **Biggest Ever (Laurie Gleeson) Dinner**, Etihad Stadium, Melb
- 14th July **Distribution Seminar**, Yeppoon and Brisbane (via *qldwater*)
- 16th July **Distribution Seminar**, Gold Coast and Logan (via *qldwater*)
- 20th July **Kwatye Applications** close
- 21st July **Water Interest Day and IXOM South Australian Water Taste Test**, Adelaide
- 5th August **Tasmanian Water Interest Day and IXOM Tasmania Water Taste Test**, Bicheno
- 2nd & 3rd September **78th WIOA Victorian Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Bendigo
- 18 October **Victorian Charity Golf Day**, Camperdown Golf Club



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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.