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WIOA WORDS

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AROUND THE TRAPS

Congratulations to TasWater and the operators at their Barrington WTP in Tasmania for winning the **Ixom, Best Tasting Tap Water in Australia** competition at the recent Interest Day held in Marysville as part of Water Week. The winners of each of the State based Taste Test competitions were pitted against one another with both Interest Day attendees and the general public invited to taste the samples and cast their vote. The Barrington sample will now go on to represent Australia at the International Water Taste Test competition conducted in Berkley Springs in the USA in February 2017. We encourage all water businesses to enter their respective State based competitions in 2017, and we look forward to adding even more States to next year's national competition.



The Third Edition of the WIOA **Practical Guide to the Operation and Optimisation of Distribution Systems** has just been released with 20 pages of new material added. All content has been reviewed and updated with some sections expanded (e.g. management of treated water storages). Some new sections have been included (e.g. ice pigging). Chapter 7 on Mains Breaks, Mains Replacement and New Mains has been completely updated to incorporate changes occurring in the water industry both internationally and within Australia. At just \$33, it is great value and should form part of the tool kit for all distribution operators.



Water Research Australia needs the input of Utilities into project 1091/14 (pipe burst repair project) by completing an online survey. The project aims to develop a cost-effective risk based national framework for pipeline repair and renewal works for the protection of public health. The scope of the project involves researching the contamination risk from pipeline repair and renewal works in Australia, assessing the extent of current management practices and development of a risk based control framework. WaterRA is asking water utilities across Australia to take part in a survey developed to help understand the extent of the risk and the range of control measures being implemented nationally. Responses are needed to help develop a framework that is flexible and cost effective. Completion of the survey is requested by Friday 25 November 2016. All utility data will be treated confidentially and de-identified prior to reporting. Utilities can access the survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/waterra_pipebreaks



The Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) has advised that the Australian Government Minister for Vocational Education and Skills and state and territory Skills Ministers have agreed to **temporarily increase** the period allowed to **transition** students to updated training package qualifications. A list of Training Packages approved by the Australian Industry and Skills Committee (AISC) between 1 September 2015 and 31 March 2016 has been released, which includes the National Water Training Package (NWP). Registered training providers (RTOs) delivering water training will now have an 18 month transition period from the NWP endorsement date of 1 December 2015.

LAST CHANCE for Victorian Water Corporations to nominate operators for the **Networks Operator Development Program**. The closing date for applications is 20 November 2016 for the program which commences in February 2017. More details and the nomination form can be obtained from the WIOA website at www.wioa.org.au/seminars/NetworkOperator.htm



The November 2016 edition of WIOA's technical Journal **WaterWorks** will be distributed to members shortly. We are now on the lookout for technical articles for the May 2017 edition. We are always happy to help operators develop and write articles, so if you have an interesting topic that you'd be prepared to share with the industry, contact George in the office.



Did you know that Simmonds & Bristow offers **turn-key plant operate and maintain services**, as well as a **relief operator service**? S&B can provide relief plant operators to assist you with your water and sewage treatment systems. All operators have at least a Certificate III in Water and/or Wastewater operations, as well as extensive experience on water and sewage treatment systems. Book an experienced operator to cover permanent staff on leave, away at training, or awaiting replacement. They can also provide backup to your team if you need an extra operator during events and maintenance programs. More information is on their website at: www.simmondsbristow.com.au/plant-operate-and-maintain/plant-operate-page2/

2017 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Individual and Corporate Members are reminded that **annual fees for 2017** are due on 1st January and renewal invoices have been sent to all members. For those who have previously paid for multiple years, we will also send a confirmation that you are currently financial. Membership fees for 2017 are \$30 & \$260 (including GST) for Individual and Corporate members respectively. Please pay by 1 January 2017.



Royce Water Technologies are once again putting up a fantastic \$1000 travel voucher for one lucky WIOA Individual Member. Ensure you are in the draw by paying your membership fee for 2017 early.



A reminder to all our **Utility Corporate Members** - your employee lists have been sent out and need updating (if you have not already done so). For those who are unfamiliar with this membership category, it is a combination of both Individual and Corporate Membership. Utilities that employ operators can sign up and pay for each of their nominated staff at the individual member rate. The Utility receives free corporate membership and a number of other benefits including discounted registration fees for WIOA events. There are already 66 organisations that have taken up this opportunity. More information on Utility Corporate membership is available at: www.wioa.org.au/membership/index.htm

EVENTS

Exhibition sites for the **2017 NSW WIOA Conference and Exhibition in Canberra** went on sale on Wednesday 9 November and all 130 sites were sold out within a couple of days. A full list of all the exhibiting companies will be placed on the WIOA conference website shortly.

The Platform Papers side of the technical program has been finalised, but we are still looking for some **more Operator Poster** papers. If you are an operator and have an idea for a poster, contact us in the office ASAP and we'll send you all the details. The Delegate registration forms will be available very soon.

The **Queensland Advisory Committee** is conducting an Interest Day on Thursday 24 November at the Innovations Centre at QUU's Luggage Point Sewage Treatment Plant in Brisbane. The day will incorporate a number of presentations highlighting innovations in technology along with a tour of the QUU Innovations Centre. For more information and to register, visit www.wioa.org.au/seminars/QldLuggagePoint2016.htm



The **2017 Queensland WIOA Operations Conference and Exhibition** will be held at the InSports complex in Logan on 7-8 June 2017. The Call for Papers will be distributed shortly. Keep in mind that we can accept abstracts for platform or poster papers at any time, so please get busy working on your topics.



RESERVE THE DATE – The **2017 WIOA AGM and Weekend Seminar** will be held at Holmesglen in Eildon on Saturday 25 & Sunday 26 February 2017. 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 via the website at www.wioa.org.au/seminars/WeekendSeminar.htm



The **Water Industry Operations Group NZ conference** will be held in Queenstown from 3-5 May 2017. As with previous years, there will be a tour of a number of water and wastewater treatment systems from around the 28 April to 6 May 2017 (dates and tour program being confirmed at present). If you or any of your staff are interested in being part of the tour, please let us know ASAP.

WIOA AWARDS 2016

WIOA is excited to report the introduction of three new awards in 2017. In conjunction with TasWater as the sponsor, we will seek nominations for the **Tasmanian Operator of the Year** as well as the **Tasmanian Young Operator of the Year Award**. In conjunction with TAFE SA as the sponsor, we will seek nominations for the **South Australian Operator of the Year Award**. The prize for all three Award winners will be participation in the WIOA led tour of water and wastewater facilities in New Zealand, including attendance at the WIOG NZ Operations conference. Nomination forms to allow us to determine the 2016 winners, who will go on the tour in May 2017, will be available from the WIOA website shortly.



A reminder to members that applications are being accepted for the **Problem Accepted, Solution Supplied (PASS) Award** with the annual winner receiving an all expenses paid spot on the WIOA tour to New Zealand in May to the value of \$2,000 courtesy of sponsor Aqualift Project Delivery. Applications close at the end of February 2017. Entry forms are on the website at www.wioa.org.au/awards/pass.htm

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

The **Engineering Training Institute Australia** in conjunction with the Concrete Pipe Association of Australia is offering a Concrete Pipes & Pipeline Design Workshop in Brisbane on 16 November 2016. For more information about this or other course topics and workshops OR to register online please visit their website: www.etia.net.au



The **International Centre of Excellence in Water Resources Management (ICE WaRM)** is offering a specially-designed two-day course on **Gas Policy and Water Management**. The course covers Environmental Assessment for extracting CSG and Shale Gas. Participants will be exposed to critical issues facing the industry and gain understanding on likely directions in the next few years. For more information or to register visit www.icewarm.com.au or contact Trevor Pillar on 08 8236 5200.

The next **IWES courses** will be held in Sydney from 13-17 February with 11 different courses on a variety of water and wastewater treatment topics. The full program of courses, including venue details and speaker profiles is available at <http://iwes.com.au/index.php>



The International WaterCentre is offering an **Introduction to WASH and WASH & Behaviour Change** online training course. This 9 week, interactive course commencing on 21 November 2016 will equip students with core principles for planning, designing and implementing activities to improve sustainable and equitable access to water supply, sanitation facilities and improve hygiene behaviours. The cost is \$845 and there are no prerequisites to enrol. For more information or to register, please visit the IWC website: www.watercentre.org/training/online-courses

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

The positions vacant section of our website currently has a number of jobs advertised including **Treatment Plant Operators, Water Resource Staff & some Engineering positions**. To utilise this FREE job advertisement service, please email your advert to sherryn@wioa.org.au

PEOPLE & CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

Boris Gabin has been appointed as the new General Manager / Managing Director of Emerson Process Management Australia and New Zealand, taking over from Karl Wigginton. Boris brings over 20 years' experience across multiple roles in the Automation, Instrumentation and Control industry. For more information visit www.emersonprocess.com.au



"Vision Personal's Sustainable balanced" is the cheapest sustainable **superannuation** option in Australia - as rated by independent super researcher, SuperRatings, on a \$50,000 account balance. Find out more about the option at love.visionsuper.com.au



A number of new companies have recently joined WIOA as Corporate Members. Details on companies including Luminultra Apac, Bluescope Australia & New Zealand, SWAN Pneumatics, Kobold Messring GmbH, RPL Trading, Water Treatment Services, Olympus Australia, Aegis, Glacier Filtration, Southern Commercial Divers, Vinidex, Turtle Tough, Burjen, Pentair Environmental Systems, AWS Services, Fitt Resources and Sudel Industries are available from the WIOA website.

COMING EVENTS 2016

- 20th November - **Victorian** Network Operator Development Program applications close
- 24th November - **Queensland Interest Day**, Luggage Point STP, Brisbane
- 30th November - **Show Us Ya Bag** photo competition closes

2017 EVENTS

- 25th & 26th February - **WIOA Weekend Seminar & AGM**, Eildon
- 28th February - **PASS Award** applications close
- 29th & 30th March - **11th WIOA NSW Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Canberra
- 7th & 8th June - **42nd WIOA QLD Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Logan
- 20th July - **Kwatye Applications** close
- 6th & 7th September - **80th WIOA VIC Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Bendigo



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.