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WIOA WORDS

MAY 2022 Edition

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AROUND THE TRAPS

At the WIOA Inc AGM held online on 21 April 2022, **Mark Samblebe** was re-elected President, **Sally Shepherd** as Vice President and George Wall continues as Secretary/Treasurer. President Mark thanked outgoing Committee member, Bill Collie and welcomed the new Committee member in Jillian Busch.



WIOA strives to be an inclusive organisation and we want to ensure that no one feels offended by anything at our events. With that in mind, we are undertaking a review of the type of entertainers or speakers we engage for our conferences. We are seeking member feedback about anyone that you have seen that you believe would be suitable for the diverse audience at our events. Please let us know and we'll investigate whether they will be suitable. Equally, if you have any ideas about what we could do differently at our dinners, we are happy to hear from you as well.



On behalf of the Water Industry Reference Committee (IRC), its Technical Advisory Committee has considered all stakeholder feedback and revised draft **Training Package materials** for the **Flood Site Operations** project, including a new Unit of Competency and Skill Set. The draft materials provide a national standard for operational practices in flood management and flood warning sites. The new unit will be an elective in the Certificate III in Operations. The IRC is seeking industry feedback by Wednesday 1 June 2022. The draft materials can be viewed, and feedback submitted from <https://tinyurl.com/ythfbc4v>



The May 2022 edition of **WaterWorks** is now complete and will be distributed to members shortly. There are some really interesting articles on a wide variety of operational topics. We are now seeking articles for the November edition. Also, there is an opportunity for Corporate Members to advertise in the November edition. The advertising offsets the cost of producing and distributiong this valuable publication to members and the broader water industry. If you are intersted, please contact Ann - ann@wioa.org.au or download the 2022 Media Kit at <https://wioa.org.au/publications/water-works/>



AWA has recently launched a national survey titled '**The Future of Water - The Australian Context**' in partnership with Arup. This is a new survey to better understand Australians' perspectives on the challenges and issues for sustainable water management and is an opportunity for all Australians to have their say on the future of our water. AWA would love to hear the views of WIOA members and invite you to complete the survey at <https://tinyurl.com/4afde6ph> . They are hoping to get more than 5,000 responses to ensure a diverse range of voices is heard and will donate \$1 to WaterAid Australia for every response received. The survey closes on **12 June** and will take approximately 15 – 20 mins to complete.

Standards Australia has published the highly anticipated standard, **AS/NZS 5328, FLUSHABLE PRODUCTS**. AS/NZS 5328's publication follows years of contention around what can be flushed down a toilet, an issue that only worsened during Australia's COVID-19 lockdowns. The standard defines criteria for what material can be flushed down the toilet and, therefore, what products can be classified 'flushable.' AS/NZS 5328 was developed by technical committee WS-041, including experts from consumer interest groups, water utilities, local government organisations, suppliers, manufacturers, and associations, including WSAA and WIOA. Copies can be purchased via the Standards Store at <https://tinyurl.com/bde9wyut>

EVENTS

Time is running out to register for the **83rd WIOA Victorian Water Industry Operations Conference and Exhibition** to be held in Bendigo on 22 & 23 June. If you intend to come along as a delegate, please use our online event registration system ASAP. There is an excellent mix of paper and poster topics from a wide cross section of authors and organisations. Registration information and the program is available from the WIOA website at <http://wioaconferences.org.au/vic-2022/>. Support for the exhibition has already been phenomenal with all 170 available sites allocated and a long list of companies on the waiting list.

We understand that not everyone can attend the Bendigo conference as a delegate, so please keep in mind that entry to the exhibition is FREE. We encourage everyone to get a carload of people together and come and have a look through the exhibition, even for just an hour or so.



WIOA invites all Victorian Water Suppliers to participate in the **Ixom 2022 Best Tasting Tap Water in Victoria Competition** with heats to be held at the WIOA Victorian conference in Bendigo on Tuesday 21 June and the Grand Final at lunch time on Wednesday 22 June 2022. More details are available on the WIOA website <https://wioaconferences.org.au/vic-2022/vic-water-taste-test/>



The keenly contested **Victorian Main Tapping Competition** will also be held again at the Bendigo conference and we are currently seeking teams to compete. Will 2022 be the year that sees the trophy head somewhere other than to Wannon Water? Enter your teams via email with Sherryn at the office sherryn@wioa.org.au



The next **WIOA Talks** webinar will focus on **Realware/VR Technology** and will be held on Wednesday 15 June at 11am AEST. Narromine Shire Council staff will do a demonstration of the use of the Realware technology. There will be other presentations showcasing different types of technology being used in the water sector. Registration for members is now open at <https://wioa.org.au/realware/>

WIOA AWARDS 2022

We look forward with interest to the announcement of the VicWater sponsored **2022 Victorian Operator of the Year Award** and the IWA Victoria sponsored **2022 Young Victorian Operator of the Year Award**. The winners will be announced at the Conference Awards Dinner on Thursday 23 June in Bendigo.



Nominations for the **2022 Queensland Operator of the Year** are 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 a plaque and an all-expenses paid opportunity to join the WIOA operator tour to New Zealand in 2023. Applications close on Thursday 30 June 2022 and a form is available from <https://wioa.org.au/awards/state-awards/queensland-awards/>

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 opportunity to join the WIOA New Zealand tour in 2023. The Civil/All Rounder will receive up to \$1,500 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 or other 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 Thursday 30 June 2022, nomination forms are available from <https://wioa.org.au/awards/state-awards/queensland-awards/>



Applications are being sought for the **Kwatye Award**, sponsored by **TRILITY**. The award recognises an initiative involving any cultural or diversity and inclusion-based activities within a project or community in which our members serve. The award focuses on those who have gone above and beyond to further inclusion, connection and belonging for co-workers, members of the community and people from disadvantaged and marginalised groups. Applications close on 3 June 2022 with more information available at <https://wioa.org.au/awards/national-awards/kwatye-award/>

TRAINING COURSES

The annual **IWES event** on the Gold Coast is back in 2022 and will be in person. The IWES Gold Coast program is scheduled for 18 to 22 July 2022 at the Mercure Gold Coast Resort and will feature an exclusive IWES industry meet-up on Tuesday 19 July 2022. There are three new courses in 2022 – Wastewater Treatment Design; Process Modelling for Water Treatment Professional; and Best Practice Drinking Water Quality Management. For more information or to register, visit <https://iwes.com.au/events/iwes-gc-2022/>



The **Australian Water School** is offering a **Groundwater Time Series Analysis** training course, a deeper dive into how the Python language can be used to obtain additional insights from existing groundwater hydrograph datasets. The expert presenters are also the developers of the newly-developed HydroGeoSines (HGS) package and they will demonstrate how HGS and Python language allow an easy way to pre-process and interpret standard groundwater monitoring datasets. The course will run from 10am-12pm AEST on 14, 21 & 28 June 2022. Register at <https://awschool.talentlms.com/catalog/info/id:236>



The operator training course **Monitoring and Optimisation of Activated Sludge and Nutrient Reduction** presented by A/Prof Helen Stratton and Peter Griffiths is returning this year. The course will be held over the week of 24 June to 1 July 2022 at the Mantra on the Sunshine Coast. The updated course presents the latest research findings and developments in optimisation and trouble-shooting activated sludge processes. Registration of interest is open through Griffith University- <https://tinyurl.com/y63pwttz> By registering, you will be notified once full registration is available. Numbers are limited to 25 delegates and, those that missed out over the past few years due to COVID, are reminded the course books out rapidly.

POSITIONS VACANT - For information on these positions visit <https://wioa.org.au/positions-vacant/>

There are several vacant positions in ACT, Queensland and Victoria currently advertised on the WIOA website. **Current vacancies** include positions for Water and Wastewater Treatment Operators, several Managers in Water and Wastewater fields and a Coordinator of Network Operations. To utilise this FREE job advertisement placement service, please email your advert to sherryn@wioa.org.au

PEOPLE & CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

Xylem was recently named “Net Zero Carbon Champion” at the 2022 Global Water Awards, recognising their work to advance the decarbonisation of the water sector. The award is a major milestone in their mission to accelerate progress towards a more water sustainable future. More information on the award is available at <https://tinyurl.com/ytuvxns6>

2022 EVENTS Check out the events calendar online, visit <https://wioa.org.au/wioa-events/>

- 3 June **Kwtaye Award**, applications close
- 15 June **WIOA Talks – Realware/Technology**, online
- 22 & 23 June **83rd WIOA Victorian Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Bendigo
- 30 June **Qld Operator of the Year; Young & Civil/All rounder Operator of the Year**, close
- 3 & 4 August **46th WIOA Queensland Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Logan
- 24 August **WIOA Talks – SCADA**, online
- 7 October **Team of the Year Award**, nominations close
- 9 & 10 November **3rd WIOA SA Water Industry Operations Conference & Expo**, venue TBC



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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.