

# WATER DIRECTORATE news

## NOVEMBER 2013

*This newsletter is sent to General Managers and to Water and Sewer Managers in 103 regional Councils in NSW and also to over 140 contacts in government departments and private industry across Australia.*

### NEW MEMBER COUNCIL

It's very pleasing to announce that Lockhart Shire Council is our newest member Council. In fact Lockhart was one of our earliest members through to 2010 and has rejoined. Membership is entirely voluntary however the support that every Council brings to the association helps the NSW local water industry.

### PUBLICATIONS UPDATE

Two publications are progressing well and will be finalised and distributed in the new year. The next publication to be issued is completely new and is the Review of Environmental Factors (REF) Templates and Guidelines. This publication began life as a suggested project last year by Greg Mashiah from Clarence Valley Council. Project suggestions are always welcome.

The second project is an update of the Interim Blue-Green Algae Management Protocols issued in 2007 and includes the latest alert levels for the two most commonly occurring species of Blue-Green Algae, ie Microcystis and Anabaena. The estimated dates for these publications are February and March 2014.

### NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN FOR THE 2014 NSW OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

The Water Directorate is pleased to sponsor this prestigious award that recognises commitment to the job, innovation, initiative and achievements. Managers of NSW operators, who have the abovementioned qualities, are urged to nominate their staff by 28 February 2014.

The winner will be presented a set of trophies at the 8th Annual WIOA Conference on 3 April 2014 in Orange

- see also next item. In addition the winner will join the WIOA tour group and attend a New Zealand conference. A nomination form is included with the hard copy of this newsletter mailed to member Councils. George Wall, Executive Officer of WIOA, attended our November Planning Meeting to give an update on WIOA issues and advised that the NSW Operator of the Year Award has become very popular in recent years and receives more nominations than in other states.

### 2014 WIOA CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION, ORANGE, 2 – 3 APRIL

The 8th Annual WIOA NSW Water Industry Engineers & Operators Conference will be held in Orange at the PCYC.

Paper abstract submissions have closed but operators are strongly encouraged to submit a Poster Paper to share your experiences and knowledge with your fellow operators. Posters need to be submitted by 28th February. Contact George Wall for the details on 03 5821 6744 or go to [www.wioa.org.au/2014conferences/callforpapers.htm](http://www.wioa.org.au/2014conferences/callforpapers.htm). The conference program and registration details will be available soon.

The Water Taste Test will be held again in 2014 following the success of last year's inaugural event. To find out which council has the best tasting water in NSW, please send your water samples to the conference with your delegates. The test is a fun way of promoting friendly rivalry and we look forward to getting entries from as many LWUs as possible.

WIOA is a rapidly expanding national association with a primary role of facilitating the collection, development and exchange of quality information between people undertaking operational roles in the water industry.

If you're an operator, manager, engineer, consultant or professional or someone who is working in the water industry or just has an interest in water, then this is a must attend event.

### NEW ADWG INFORMATION SHEETS FOR OPERATORS

At the LGNSW, NOW and Water Directorate Liaison meeting in November, NOW advised that the Commonwealth will soon be releasing new Information Sheets for Operators as part of the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.

The sheets will include disinfection with chlorine; chloramine; chlorine dioxide; ozone; UV; and other disinfectants.

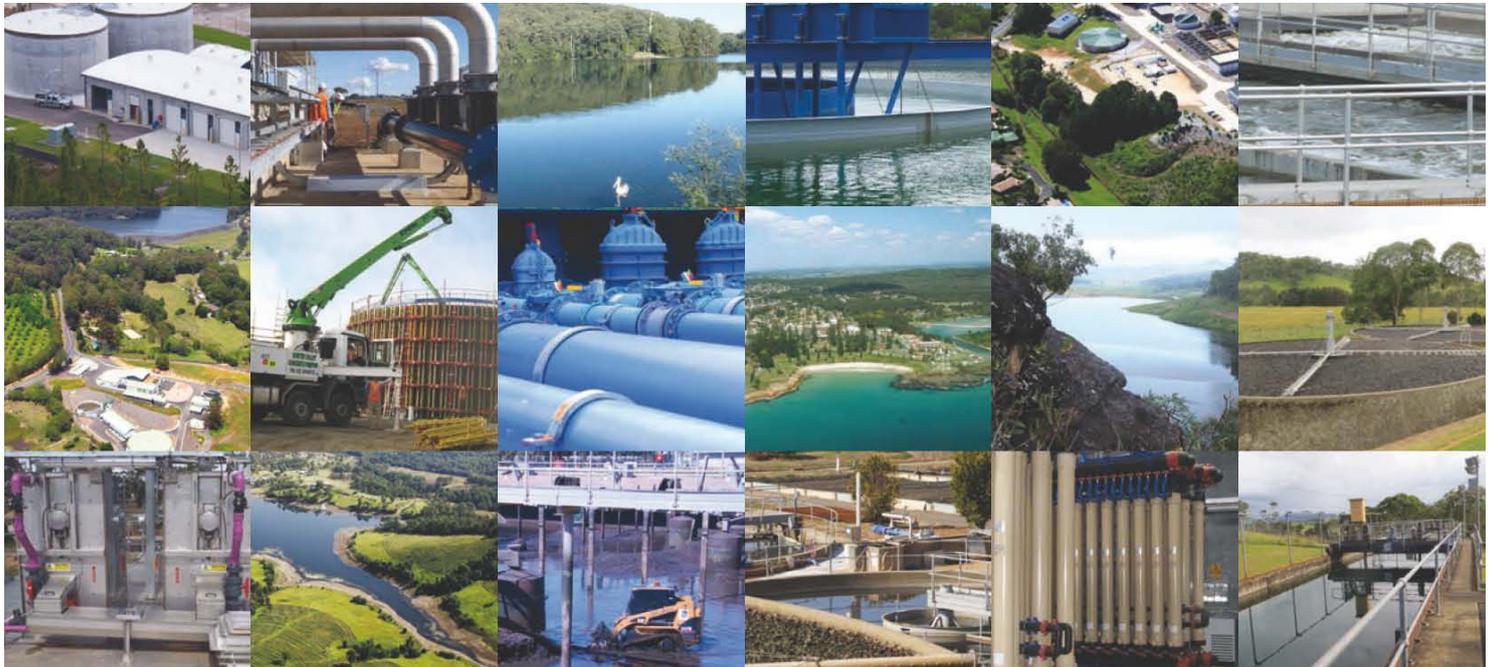
The sheets are not expected to impose any additional requirements on LWUs. NOW's Water Treatment Update Seminars will address the new Information Sheets.

### FLUORIDATION UPDATE

The *Daily Telegraph* reported on 22 November that Byron Shire councillors voted five to three to not fluoridate its water supply. Australian Dental Association spokesman and Lismore based dentist, Brendan White, said councillors had not considered the consequences and consigned the children to the worst rates of dental decay in NSW.

When dealing with fluoridation queries, the Centre for Oral Health is happy for councils to use their standard wording below and can help with more complex responses if needed.

'NSW Ministry of Health's policy on water fluoridation is that it is a safe, effective and equitable means of reducing dental decay



at a population level. In 2007, the National Health and Medical Research Council, after evaluating the latest scientific evidence, concluded that water fluoridation should continue as a primary tool in the prevention of dental decay.

The overwhelming weight of scientific evidence does not link water fluoridation at optimal levels (one part per million) to any health related problems. Your concerns have been noted; however NSW Ministry of Health remains committed to the promotion of water fluoridation as a public health measure in preventing tooth decay. If you would like more information on water fluoridation I encourage you to visit the website [www.fluoridenow.com.au](http://www.fluoridenow.com.au)

For useful references that Councils may wish to include in their responses, see the NSW Health Fact Sheet or see [www.health.nsw.gov.au/factsheets/general/water-fluoridation.html](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/factsheets/general/water-fluoridation.html). For information on community support for fluoridation see [www.health.nsw.gov.au/resources/cohs/pdf/fluoridation\\_support\\_repo.pdf](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/resources/cohs/pdf/fluoridation_support_repo.pdf). For the Australian Dental Association information on the benefits and safety of fluoridation see [www.ada.org.au/oralhealth/fln/fluoridation.aspx](http://www.ada.org.au/oralhealth/fln/fluoridation.aspx).

### PARTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR IWC EDUCATION PROGRAMS

To support future water leaders, the International WaterCentre (IWC) is offering partial scholarships of up to \$2,000 per semester for students who want to join the next intake of the

integrated water management suite of postgraduate degrees offered through the University of Queensland and Griffith University. Partial scholarships are available to support self-funded students who do not benefit from any full-tuition funding or scholarships from other sources.

Master of Integrated Water Management, Graduate Certificate or Graduate Diploma courses are provided at the University of Queensland, St Lucia. Full time programs are available for international students and full-time or part-time/distance programs are available for domestic students. Ten partial scholarships are available for the program starting 2014. Go to [www.watercentre.org/](http://www.watercentre.org/) to apply for the scholarship by 31 January for domestic students.

### LOUIE THE SINGING LOO!

As mentioned in the last newsletter, World Toilet Day was celebrated on 19 November. World Toilet Day raises awareness of the sanitation crisis faced by millions every day where incredibly 40 percent of the world's population don't have a toilet. To see what toilets do, go to [www.youtube.com/watch?v=hYZIj6EuTVs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hYZIj6EuTVs)

WaterAid Australia is raising awareness of these terrible conditions that trap people in a life of disease and indignity

The Water Directorate encourages our member councils to become WaterAid Australia members to support their vision. For more information, please contact CEO Adam Laidlaw on 03 9872 1732.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In November the Annual Planning Meeting, AGM and Executive Committee Meeting were held and completed the series of 7 meetings for 2013. Thanks to those people who forwarded suggested projects for consideration at the Annual Planning Meeting.



At the AGM I presented Stewart McLeod and Doug Hill with medallions recognising their 15 years of voluntary service on the Executive Committee. Congratulations to Stewart and Doug who have been exceptionally generous with their time given to the Water Directorate commencing with the inaugural meeting in December 1998 till the present time.

Thanks also goes to Stewart's and Doug's respective councils of Dubbo City and Tamworth Regional for their long term support of the Water Directorate thereby contributing to the NSW local government water industry.

Gary Mitchell  
Executive Officer  
November 2013