

## DECEMBER 2016

This newsletter is sent to General Managers and to Water and Sewer Managers in 89 regional Councils in NSW and also to over 140 contacts in government departments and private industry across Australia.

### MERRY CHRISTMAS

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I wish a peaceful and safe festive season to all member Council staff and to all readers of this newsletter. Best wishes for a prosperous 2017.

### WATERAID AUSTRALIA

At all times and especially at Christmas, we should ponder the great work that WaterAid Australia does in addressing sanitation in developing nations. The Water Directorate encourages our member Councils to become WaterAid Australia members to support their cause. Subscribe to WaterAid Australia's free eNewsletter by going to [www.wateraid.org.au](http://www.wateraid.org.au). A donation was made recently to WaterAid Australia in accordance with a resolution made earlier in the term of the current Executive Committee. Our donation is equivalent to buying rainwater tanks for 4 villages.

### NOMINATIONS CLOSING FOR THE 2017 WIOA NSW OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

To reward your dedicated operators for doing great work protecting public health, please nominate them by 10 February 2017 to be the WIOA NSW Operator of the Year. The NSW WIOA Operator of the Year will be presented with a set of trophies at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual WIOA Conference on 30 March 2017 at EPIC in Canberra. The winner will also join the WIOA tour group and attend the WIOG New Zealand conference.



Attached is the [nomination form](#) that was mailed to member Councils with the hard copy of this newsletter.

Also included with the hard copy of this newsletter mailed to member Councils is the **Delegate Registration Form**. To read about the tour experience of Mark Gogala, the 2016 WIOA NSW Operator of the Year, go to <http://www.waterdirectorate.asn.au/News/OperatoroftheYear/stripofalifetime.aspx>.

### NSW PRIVATE WATER SUPPLY GUIDELINES

The requirements for water suppliers to develop and adhere to a quality assurance program (QAP) were introduced 2 years ago. The NSW Private Water Supply Guidelines were updated early in 2016 and are available at: <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/water/Pages/private-supplies.aspx>.

Member Councils and private water suppliers should:

- be aware of the responsibilities as drinking water suppliers, of available resources and to assess their training needs
- contact PHUs for support and advice
- forward their QAP to their PHU
- continue regular engagement with water suppliers through an annual letter, newsletter, email or similar activity highlighting the need to supply safe drinking water and implement a QAP

Resources are available online to assist. **Not tested or monitored** stickers and metal **do not use** signs (for in the case of algal blooms in surface water supplies) are available on request. **Do not drink** signs are available at hardware and plumbing supply stores. NSW Health has been working with the NSW Food Authority on resources for suppliers that are food businesses and will be producing a guide to simple and effective treatment systems that are available in NSW.

The *Public Health Act* has undergone a statutory review and recommendations were tabled in Parliament in November recommending that failure to establish or adhere to a QAP will be an offence. This change is not in force yet and NSW Health would like to continue to provide

support and guidance to assist suppliers in complying with the Act. For more information contact Dr Katrina Wall, Senior Project Officer, Water Unit, NSW Health on 9391 9894 or [katrina.wall@doh.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:katrina.wall@doh.health.nsw.gov.au).

### **NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2017 AND 2018**

The current two year term expires at the end of 2016. The election process is now complete for the Executive Committee for the next two calendar years. GMs were required to vote in two of nine Groups of Councils, ie the Orana and the Mid North Coast Groups. Six new representatives will join the Executive Committee and twelve current members will return.

Thanks to all the nominees and congratulations to the all those who were successful in forming the Executive Committee for 2017 & 2018. **I advise that there is still one vacant position on the Executive Committee for the Hunter Group of Councils.**

Welcome to new members Michael Herraman from Wingecarribee Shire Council, Matt Kidd from Shoalhaven City Council, Geoffrey Veneris from Goldenfields Water County Council, Rolly Lawford from Gilgandra Shire Council, Tim Wark from Warren Shire Council and Matt Fanning from Bellingen Shire Council. Welcome back to the twelve returning members Jeff Sharp, Wayne Beatty, Russell Deans, Jason Ip, Brett Corven, Alan Fletcher, Graham Gordon, Jim Collins, David Oxenham, Bruce Logan, Graham Kennett, and David Wolfenden.

Thanks to members Tony Holmes, Brendan Guiney and Stewart McLeod (see next item) who stepped down at the end of the two year term.

Congratulations and thanks to all the previous Executive Committee which met 14 times over the past two year term. The outgoing committee successfully published nine water management documents, part funded a set of two Centroc Practical Guides, part funded a Rous Water Practical Guide, facilitated 4 water managers' forums, and provided 8 awards for member Councils and individuals.

I thank all of our member Councils and I particularly thank Chair Jeff Sharp and Deputy Chair Brendan Guiney for their service over the past 2 calendar years. The new Executive Committee will meet for the first time on 9 March 2017 and the first duty will be to elect a Chair for the next two years.

### **RETIREMENT OF THE LAST CONTINUOUS SERVING MEMBER OF THE INAUGURAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

As mentioned above, Stewart McLeod retired in December thus ending his illustrious career. Stewart stepped down from the Executive Committee after exactly 18 years of service. This is in addition to 2 to 3 years in the mid 1990s working with a handful of colleagues to develop the concept of an association of NSW LWUs, into a reality.



Notably Stewart was Chair of the Executive Committee for a

record 7 years from 2007 to 2013 and he has been a passionate advocate for NSW LWUs. Stewart has been very influential in his community, Council, region and in the state of NSW for which he was granted a Public Service Medal in 2011.

Stewart will be missed however his retirement is well earned. I thank Stewart for his leadership, valuable contribution and tireless efforts on the Executive Committee over the past eighteen years. I thank him for his role in the success of the Water Directorate as a past Chair and particularly for his close involvement in many of the Water Directorate's 50+ publications, awards, forum panels, submissions etc.

### **AWA HEADS OF WATER GALA DINNER, NSW AWARDS & FORUM, FRIDAY 10 MARCH, HILTON, SYDNEY**

The Heads of Water Forum has been revived for 2017! Remember the original Heads of Water interactive Q&A session? Three leading 'heads of water' will bring perspective and insight to the key issues facing NSW. More information in January.

### **ANCOLD DAM OPERATORS FORUM 2017, 22-23 MARCH, JINDABYNE**

Registration opens in January, [www.ancolddamoperators.com.au](http://www.ancolddamoperators.com.au).

### **OPERATING TIMES FOR NSW HEALTH LABS OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD**

- NSW FASS: Closed after completion of testing on 23 Dec until 3 Jan.
- Pathology West: Closed 23 Dec until 3 Jan.
- Pathology North: Closed 23 Dec until 3rd Jan.

Gary Mitchell  
Executive Officer  
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