

WATER DIRECTORATE news

APRIL 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.

ANNUAL WIOA NSW WATER INDUSTRY OPERATIONS CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

This conference continues to go from strength to strength and has improved in all areas since start up in 2007.

In April over 650 individuals attended the 7th Annual NSW WIOA Conference and Exhibition in Canberra. The 110 plus trade site exhibition showed the latest in equipment, services and process technologies.

The event concluded with the official awards ceremony and the presentation of the Water Directorate 2013 NSW Operator of the Year Award – see next item.

NEVILLE WOODWARD FROM COFFS HARBOUR CITY COUNCIL WINS OPERATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

It was my pleasant duty to present the 2013 Water Directorate NSW Operator of the Year Award to Neville Woodward at the WIOA Awards Dinner in Canberra.

Neville is the third winner from Coffs Harbour City Council in seven years which shows that a clear trend of operator excellence is emerging at Coffs Harbour City Council.

Neville received trophies and will join WIOA's delegation to attend the NZ Operators conference and study tour. Congratulations also to the three other finalists, Glenn Clifford from Dubbo City Council, Wayne Watson from Tweed Shire Council, and Noel Weldon from Clarence Valley Council. WIOA and Water Directorate judges noted how close the result was for the four best scoring nominees.

Best Paper by an Operator went to Leigh Trevaskis from Riverina Water County Council; second prize went to Chris Carlon from Wingecarribee



Gary Mithcell congratulates the winner of the NSW WIOA Operator of the Year Neville Woodward from Coffs Harbour City Council.



Herman D'Souza congratulates Garry Northam from MidCoast Water, winners of the inaugural Orica NSW 2013 Water Taste Test.

Council; and third prize went to Wes Trotter from ACTEW Water.

Best Poster by an Operator went to Brendan Bates from Riverina Water County Council; second prize went

to Mick Piggott from Coffs Harbour Water; and third prize went to Troy Bostock from Kempsey Shire Council. Congratulations to all the 2013 NSW Award winners.

MIDCOAST WATER WINS INAUGURAL ORICA TASTE TEST AT WIOA NSW CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

It is pleasing to announce that nine water utilities from NSW plus ACTEW Water from the ACT accepted the challenge and provided drinking water samples for this inaugural taste test. Only water utilities with operators attending the conference were eligible to enter the taste test so why not bring your drinking water sample next year?

The taste test recognises operators' pride and efforts in delivering high quality drinking water and public health services to regional communities. The three finalists were Shoalhaven Water, MidCoast Water and Actew Water.

Congratulations to MidCoast Water for winning the inaugural Orica Taste Test with bragging rights for the best tasting water for the next year. We challenge all LWUs to compete in Orange in 2014 to see if MidCoast Water can defend its title.

TRACEY HAMER FROM MIDCOAST WATER WINS WATER DIRECTORATE/AWA CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE AWARD

MidCoast is in the news again with the announcement that the winner of the 2013 Water Directorate & AWA Conference Attendance Award is Tracey Hamer. Tracey is a Planning Engineer at MidCoast Water and graduated from Wollongong University in Environmental Engineering (Hons) in 2006. The award enables Tracey to attend Ozwater'13 in Perth in May and comprises a registration valued at \$1,600 courtesy of AWA plus expenses to \$1,600 from the Water Directorate.

WATER DIRECTORATE WEBSITE UPDATED AND RELAUNCHED

In April the Water Directorate updated its website with a new look and new exciting features including a bookshop and easy to use discussion forum. The new members' area is for staff of member Councils only and includes an online library of our technical publications and submissions as well as a section for members to upload their own documents to share with colleagues in the local government water industry.

Recently all member Councils were emailed a user name and password for the members' area. Please contact estanley@waterdirectorate.asn.au if you need those details again. Also, to remain on our discussion forum please follow the instructions on the website to resubscribe. We hope you find the new look website more dynamic and we welcome feedback at info@waterdirectorate.asn.au.

WSAA ANNOUNCES THE PUBLICATION OF WSA 05 CONDUIT INSPECTION REPORTING CODE OF AUSTRALIA VERSION 3.1

The Water Services Association of Australia recently published WSA 05 Version 3.1 for CCTV condition assessment of sewers, stormwater drains and their maintenance structures. The revised Code reflects the considerable experience of asset managers who have adopted the Code, as well as service providers, operators and training practitioners. Technological innovation in new inspection systems has been addressed in this simplified Code and WSAA has collaborated with the IPWEA whose members use the Code extensively in their management of stormwater systems. To purchase this document, please go to www.wsaa.asn.au/Codes/Shop/Pages/Bookshops.aspx. For more information contact Wendy Cramley, Standards Administrator on 02 9221 5977 or 0404 256 655.

ENERGY SUPPLY, COSTS AND THE CARBON TAX: IMPACTS ON THE WATER INDUSTRY SYDNEY, 6:00PM, 15 MAY

AWA will explore the key issues for the water sector from rising energy costs and the Carbon Tax in July 2012. Contact Peta Owsnett on 9436 0055 or powsnett@awa.asn.au

2013 ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA NEWCASTLE DIV REGIONAL CONVENTION PORT MACQUARIE, 24-26 MAY

The Regional Convention will be hosted by Mid North Coast from Friday to Sunday around the topic, "Understanding our Future: the engineering landscape." Eight keynote speakers will address current and emerging regional Australian issues and the Saturday night Gala Dinner guest speaker will be Dr Karl Kruszelnicki. Registration and details are available from www.engineersaustralia.org.au

NSW HAS TWO CATEGORY WINNERS IN THE NATIONAL AWARDS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

In April, from 192 entries, eighteen of Australia's 565 Councils and Shires were category winners in this year's National Awards for Local Govt. Since 1986 these awards have recognised the great work that local govts do in supporting communities through creative and innovative programs. The winners highlighted great local ideas, best practice and get the chance to share information and new solutions to old problems. A national winner will be announced.

In the Asset and Financial Management Category, the Small Council Winner (under 15,000 rateable properties) is Liverpool Plains Shire Council for the Quipolly Dam Upgrade. In the Regional Collaborations Category, the Small Council Winner (under 15,000 rateable properties) is Warren Shire Council for the Lower Macquarie Water Utilities Alliance.

STATE OF THE WATER SECTOR SURVEY OPEN

This survey, developed by AWA and Deloitte, provides unmatched insight into the views of water sector professionals about their own industry. Respondents can win a \$1000 Flight Centre voucher.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW

In April an independent review panel chaired by Professor Graham Sansom unveiled plans for a radical restructure of local government across NSW.

Local Government Minister Don Page reaffirmed the government's policy of no forced amalgamations. There will be further consultation before the panel presents its final recommendations in September.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting dates for 2013 are:

- 2 May, 11 July, 5 September and 6,7 November

Members are welcome to forward issues for consideration at these meetings.

Gary Mitchell
Executive Officer
April 2013

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