

## APRIL 2019

*This newsletter is sent to General Managers and to Water and Sewer Managers in 89 regional Councils in NSW and also to 80 contacts in government departments and private industry across Australia.*

### NEW EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Further to the announcement in last month's newsletter, I advise that Brendan Guiney commenced duties as the Water Directorate Executive Officer on 29 April. Brendan is only the second person in the role since the Water Directorate was formed in late 1998.

Brendan is a civil engineer with post-graduate qualifications in project management and business administration. He has 22 years' experience working in a LWU, most recently as Director Water Services at MidCoast Council.



"The opportunity to continue the fantastic work of the NSW Water Directorate was unmissable." Brendan said. "I look forward to working with the Executive Committee and meeting with our member Councils, fellow associations and regulatory agencies as we progress the NSW Water Directorate's new 5-year strategic plan."

Brendan notes that for the first time this year, the Water Directorate has 100 percent

membership of LWUs in New South Wales. "The impressive thing about this is that all 89 General Managers across the State have individually formed the view that the Water Directorate provides a valuable service to their organisation, Brendan said.

### THE JOINT WATER DIRECTORATE/AWA CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE AWARD

Congratulations to Amy Hart, Water and Trade Waste Technical Officer at Ballina Shire Council. Amy will attend AWA's Ozwater'19 in Melbourne from 7-9 May – see next item. The award comprises one registration to Ozwater'19 kindly provided by AWA plus travel and accommodation expenses reimbursed by the Water Directorate.

This award aims to provide an early opportunity for younger water industry professionals in LWUs with less than 7 year's work experience to enjoy this massive event.

I urge water professionals in this demographic to look for and read Amy's future report on our website and consider applying next year to attend Ozwater'20.

### LAST CALL FOR OZWATER'19, AUSTRALIA'S INTERNATIONAL WATER CONFERENCE AND TRADE EXHIBITION, MELBOURNE, 7-9 MAY

Ozwater'19, Australia's international water conference and trade exhibition is the

largest water conference and exhibition in the Southern Hemisphere. Ozwater'19 is the must attend event for policy makers, councillors and other water representatives. Ozwater'19 will be held in Melbourne on 7-9 May. For details see [www.ozwater.org](http://www.ozwater.org). For information and to register, please contact the AWA events team at [events@awa.asn.au](mailto:events@awa.asn.au).

### 2019 WIOA NSW OPERATOR OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED

Congratulations to Danny Roberts from Port Macquarie-Hastings Council who won this prestigious award. Chair Wayne Beatty and I presented Danny with a set of trophies at the Awards Dinner in April in Orange at the largest regional water industry exhibition and conference in NSW for 2019. Danny will join winners from other states in the WIOA tour group to attend the WIOG NZ conference.



Danny's manager nominated him advising that he is very knowledgeable and respected, has high levels of safety and commitment and is always looking for development opportunities. Danny is also seeking National Certification.

## SPECIAL WIOA AWARD FOR OPERATOR DEDICATION

Congratulations also to James Davis from Upper Hunter Shire Council for winning the NSW Operator Dedication Award. James receives registration, travel and accommodation to attend the 82<sup>ND</sup> Victorian WIOA conference in Bendigo on 4-5 September care of WIOA and the Water Directorate.

This is the first time in 13 years of WIOA conferences in NSW that the judges have recommended a special award be given for outstanding performance.



James has been recognised for his tireless dedication to maintaining a potable water to the small village of Murrurundi which has been suffering for years under its worst drought conditions ever.

## SHOALHAVEN WATER OFFICIALLY PRODUCES THE BEST TASTING WATER IN NSW & ACT!

Congratulations to the winner Shoalhaven Water in the **Ixom 2019 Water Taste Test** at the WIOA Orange Conference. Good luck when the Shoalhaven Water team represents NSW & ACT to compete in the *Water of Origin competition* at the WIOA Queensland Conference held in Bundaberg in June.

Hopefully they will go on to the national competition to find Australia's Best Tasting Tap Water at the WIOA Victoria Conference in

Bendigo on 4-5 September.



## LATEST PUBLICATION: WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Our latest publication was distributed to General Managers of our member Councils at the end of April. This update of our 2015 Guideline of the same name incorporates the *WHS Amendment Act No 12 2018* as well as the 2017 revision of the WHS Regulations.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **LGNSW Water Management Conference**, Albury, 2-4 September
- **12th National Aboriginal And Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health Conference**, Perth, 16-19 September
- **IPWEA (NSW Div), Annual Conference and Excellence Awards**, Crowne Plaza, Hunter Valley, 6-8 November

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting dates for 2019 are:

- Thursday, 16 May
- Thursday, 11 July
- Thursday, 12 September
- Wednesday, 13 and Thursday, 14 November

## THINGS HAVE CHANGED

In the September 2018 Newsletter I previewed my retirement in 2019. It has been a rewarding challenge over 2 decades to work with eleven successive Executive Committees to establish a new association and 100% membership in 2019 is a fitting milestone to leave on.

I've enjoyed working with 76 dedicated Executive Committee members from across NSW. Many valuable connections also have been formed with colleagues in associations, Departments and consultancies. Strong partnerships exist with IPWEA, LGNSW, QldWater, AWA, WSAA, WIOA, IWC and PSITAB. Similarly many thanks to staff at DoI and NSW Health.

To date our most notable achievement is the Water Loss Management Program, a 5 year program with LGNSW and the Federal Government from 2006 to 2011. Proof that our primary function is technical advice is the distribution of 85 publications including 7 WIOA publications. Many thanks to the 5 wise Executive Committee Chairs over the past 20 years: Mike Rayner, Daryl McGregor, Stewart McLeod, Jeff Sharp and Wayne Beatty. Thanks also to staff members Eloise Stanley and Juliet Cobb.

We've presented 57 awards so far...and speaking of awards, Nobel Prize for Literature winner, Bob Dylan also won an Academy Award for his song *Things Have Changed*. The following lines with a bit of imagination could possibly relate to someone retiring from the water industry:  
***A lot of water under the bridge***  
***A lot of other stuff too***  
***Don't get up, I'm only just passing through***

As I said at AWA'S 2018 fun Legends of Water event, I am pleased that as a 17 year old school kid, I chose to study civil engineering and to work in such a critical industry as the water industry. Thanks to all and welcome to Brendan.

Gary Mitchell  
Executive Officer  
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