**Queensland Water Skills e-Flash #85**

**Information for Water Industry Managers, Human Resources Personnel and Employees in the Queensland Water Industry**

**(Issue #85 – Thursday 20 February 2020)**

1. Join us for the Queensland Water Skills Forum in two weeks!
2. Nominations invited for ***qldwater’s*** Operator Awards
3. Developing Future Water Industry Leaders
4. Associated Organisations’ Announcements

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1. **Join us for the Queensland Water Skills Forum in two weeks!**

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We have a [great program of speakers and topics](https://ipweaq.eventsair.com/qwd-water-skills-partnership/agenda) with presentations by industry and workforce development experts and a keynote address from Gavin Leckenby, Executive Director Design, Investment Division, Department of Small Business, Employment and Training. Gavin is highly influential in funding for VET qualifications and has extensive experience working across industries to address workforce and skilling needs.

Registration is free for up to three employees of Water Skills Partners, $50 plus GST for all other ***qldwater*** members including affiliate members; and $100 plus GST for all other attendees. [Register online now to secure your place](https://ipweaq.eventsair.com/qwd-water-skills-partnership/registration)!

The forum will be held at the [Brisbane International Virginia](https://ipweaq.eventsair.com/qwd-water-skills-partnership/venueaccommodation) and will be followed by an optional dinner at a cost of $90 plus GST. We are very pleased to have Kenan Hibberd, Unitywater’s Executive Manager People, Culture and Safety joining us as our Guest Speaker for the evening. Kenan will talk about the need for our industry to identify the workforce it needs for the future and come up with innovative ways to attract them. As the Chair of the WSAA People and Culture Professional Network he’ll provide an update on national and local initiatives to promote the value of working in the water industry.

Thank you to [TAFE Queensland – SkillsTech](https://ipweaq.eventsair.com/qwd-water-skills-partnership/sponsors) for sponsoring the forum again this year.

Please contact [Carlie Sargent](mailto:csargent@qldwater.com.au?subject=Value%20of%20Operator%20Competency%20Research) on 07 3632 6853 if you have any queries about the event and we look forward to seeing you there!

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1. **Nominations invited for *qldwater’s* Operator Awards**

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Nominations are now open for ***qldwater’s*** Young Operator of the Year and Operator of the Year (Civil/All-Rounder) Awards, offered in conjunction with the Water Industry Operators Association of Australia (WIOA). These awards recognise the outstanding performance of operational employees of either ***qldwater*** full members or Water Skills Partnership member organisations and are a great way to reward your operators for the work they do for their community.

Nominees for the Young Operator of the Year Award must be under the age of 35 years and be responsible for operating community water and wastewater treatment plants or industrial water or wastewater plants, operation and maintenance or construction of water and wastewater reticulation networks etc. They must have been employed in their role for four years or less. The winner receives a paid trip to participate in the WIOA Utilities Tour of New Zealand including attendance at the WIOG Conference. [Read about last year’s trip](https://www.qldwater.com.au/qldwater-blog/2018-young-operator-tour-nz).

Nominees for the Operator of the Year (Civil/All-Rounder) must be responsible for the operation and maintenance or construction of water and wastewater reticulation networks. The winner receives a $1500 voucher to put towards professional development.

Nominations are due by **Friday 1 May 2020** to [csargent@qldwater.com.au](mailto:csargent@qldwater.com.au). Full details about the nomination process along with nomination forms are available at: <https://www.qldwater.com.au/qldwaterAwards>.

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1. **Developing Future Water Industry Leaders**

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Recent discussions by the Water Skills Partnership have acknowledged there is a need for water industry employees to build their leadership capabilities and provide future leaders with the skills to transition from operational to leadership roles. The International WaterCentre is developing an offering for industry to access development opportunities either as short course professional development programs or as part of a larger qualification. The IWC is keen to hear from you about your needs in relation to developing leadership capabilities and requests your input via a short survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QTLBV3M>.

For more information please contact Belinda Pritchard, Director, Strategic Partnerships, International WaterCentre on 0472 502 759 or [b.pritchard@watercentre.org](mailto:b.pritchard@watercentre.org).

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1. **Associated Organisations’ Opportunities**

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The **WIOA Queensland Advisory Group** is hosting the [‘McBerns’ Charity Bowls Day](https://wioa.org.au/nevent/queensland-2020-bowls/) at the Yandina Bowls Club on Friday 6 March. Previous events have proven to be a great day for all participants with networking and a relaxed game of bowls. Money raised from the event will be distributed to a charity at the WIOA Queensland Conference in 2020. Get a group together or sponsor a team for your chance to win the "Queensland Tradie's Cup". For more information or to register visit: <https://wioa.org.au/nevent/queensland-2020-bowls/>

The **Queensland Government** is inviting nominations for their annual training awards. The awards recognise excellence in vocational education and training and there are many great examples of water industry trainees worthy of nomination. Awards are contested at a regional level across a number of award categories. The closing date for nominations is **31 March 2020** with nominations judged and awards announced in August/September. More details are available at: <https://desbt.qld.gov.au/training/qta/about-the-awards/key-dates-events>. The awards are a great opportunity to showcase the success of trainees within the water industry and we would love to hear from you if you are considering submitting a nomination so we can assist where possible. Please contact [Carlie Sargent](mailto:csargent@qldwater.com.au?subject=Training%20Award%20Nomination) on 07 3632 6853.

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**This message may be passed on to interested individuals and organisations.**

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