**Queensland Water Directorate (*qldwater*)** ***e-*flash**

**Information for Water Industry Managers and Practitioners in the Queensland Water Industry**

**(Issue #322 – 12 June 2017)**

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**1.  2017 *qldwater* Operator of the Year Awards**

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Once a year we get the opportunity to recognise the efforts of some of the people in our industry who play a crucial role in keeping our drinking water safe and our wastewater collected and treated efficiently and it is with great pride that we announce the ***qldwater*** Young Operator of the Year, and Civil/Allrounder awards for 2017, presented at the WIOA Conference on 8 June 2017.

Starting as an industry trainee three years ago, Harry Coleman from Toowoomba Regional Council walked away with the 2017 Young Operator of the Year Award.

Harry jumped at the opportunity to become a full time Assistant Operator and after completing his Cert III in Water Treatment Operations, requested to complete extra modules based on Wastewater treatment which will set him up for Cert IV Diploma and Certification in the future. His technical skills allowed him to operate and optimise a new Water Treatment Plant fitted with the latest technology.

The 2017 Operator of the Year (Civil/Allrounder) has worked for many utilities around Australia. Glenn Cook from Gladstone Regional Council has a passion for learning, achieving a raft of qualifications since joining the water industry. Armed with a Cert IV in Water Operations and a Cert IV in Business Frontline Management, Glenn has significantly improved work culture among operators in his team, implemented an improved sampling regime at all wastewater treatment plants and overhauled a number of workplace health and safety requirements in his workplace.

A special commendation went to Andrew Watson from South Burnett Regional Council. Described as a valuable mentor who goes above and beyond in the operation of treatment facilities throughout the region, Andrew has been instrumental in the successful construction and commissioning new Water Treatment and Wastewater Treatment Plants in Kingaroy.

Photos of all the winners are [available here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/qldwaterAwards).

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**2.   2017 Ixom Water of Origin Taste Test – Queenslander!**

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Short and sweet – the blues have lost the taste test for the 4th time in a row with the panel of judges at WIOA’s 42nd Queensland Water Industry Operations Conference awarding bragging rights to **Toowoomba Regional Council’s** Mt Kynoch water sample over Icon Water (ACT).  The NSW Water Directorate’s Executive Officer was unavailable for comment despite the ***qldwater*** CEO trying to contact him (a lot).

We congratulate [Toowoomba Regional Council](http://www.qldwater.com.au/Water_of_Origin_2017_Winner) who will now go on to compete in the Best Tap Water in Australia Competition, with the winner going on to represent Australia at the International Water Tasting Competition to be held in the USA.

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**3.   2017 Queensland Mains Tapping Competition Winners**

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Six teams went head to head at the live mains tapping competition held at WIOA’s 42nd Queensland Water Industry Operations Conference on 7 June.  The City of Gold Coast teams, “[Tapping Tubbies](http://www.qldwater.com.au/Queensland_Live_Mains_Tapping_Competition_winners)” (Trent Roberts and Spencer Stacey) and “[Kool Tappings](http://www.qldwater.com.au/Queensland_Live_Mains_Tapping_Competition_winners)” (Matt Pochadyla and Daniel Lee) finished ahead of teams from Queensland Urban Utilities, Logan City and Redland City Councils.  The winning time of 1 minute and 47 seconds was marginally ahead of the Tubbies’ best effort to win the inaugural competition hosted by ***qldwater*** in 2016.  That’s right – they are the team to beat.

While mains for new developments these days typically come with fittings for property services pre-installed, live tapping still has a place in brownfield areas.  When rigged up above ground with an enthusiastic crowd cheering on, there is plenty of action (and this year in particular plenty of water for the crowd to dodge).

Thanks to Reece Civil as the equipment sponsor and Ixom as the trophy sponsor.  Ixom will also be providing a $1,000 donation to the Tubbies’ nominated charity, the Animal Welfare League’s shelter at Coombabah.  ***qldwater*** would also like to thank the people from Logan City Council (particularly Brad Milfull) and City of Gold Coast (Kent Weeden, Alan Batchelor and Ben Pennell) for their huge efforts in sourcing water and setting the gear up.

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**4.   First Wastewater Operators in Australia to be Certified**

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Six operators from south-east Queensland were awarded their certification against the Queensland Sewage Treatment Plant Operators Certification Framework at WIOA’s 42nd Queensland Water Industry Operations Conference on 7 June.

The six operators to be Certified took part in a ***qldwater***-coordinated pilot to implement and test the Framework in SEQ. The Queensland Framework will soon be superseded by a national *Certification Framework for Recycled Water and Wastewater Treatment Operators* (operators Certified under the Queensland Framework will be transferred to the national Framework when it comes into effect).

While duty called for Michael Oakey from Queensland Urban Utilities, Stanley McKercher and Amanda Murchison from Queensland Urban Utilities, Joel Warnes and Brendan Butler from City of Gold Coast and Matthew Ball from Unitywater received their Certification from WIOA Managing Director, George Wall – ([photo here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/skills_e-flashes)).

A further nine operators who participated in the pilot are currently completing gap training and will receive their Certification at another ceremony to be held later in the year.

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**5.   SWIM News**

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**Annual water and sewerage data reporting for 2016/17:** well it is coming up to that time of year again when annual water and sewerage data is collated by Water Service Providers across the State and sent to BoM, NPR, ABS and the Qld Govt (DEWS – KPIs). This month ***qldwater*** will be sending your SWIM representative important information regarding using the SWIM system and your required indicators. If you have had staff changes and the SWIM reporting person from last year is no long working in this position please contact ***qldwater*** at [swim@qldwater.com.au](mailto:swim@qldwater.com.au) so we can help set up new contact details so this information can be supplied to your organisation.

The SWIM system will be opened for reporting as soon as possible after July 1 – it will depend on ***qldwater*** receiving all the appropriate information from the relevant organisations involved in setting the indicators required.

An optional upgrade of the SWIM*Local* software will be released before the end of June.

The data is due by 1st October.

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