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

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

**(Issue #356 – 8 June 2018)**

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**1.   Important WIOA Conference announcements - Mains Tapping, Water of Origin and Awards!**

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[***Tapping Tubbies do it again…***](https://www.qldwater.com.au/qldwater-blog/operator-awards-2018)

The Ixom Mains Tapping competition was completed on Wednesday, involving five teams going head to head in a bid to tap a live water main in the shortest time. Trent Roberts and Spencer Stacey, also known as The Tapping Tubbies from City of Gold Coast, will be hanging on to the title for another year edging out Cool Tapping.

Plenty watched the spectacle with many suggesting they could do better – time to follow through and get organised for the 2019 competition!  Special mention to the Logan ladies team (Hot Tappers) of Madison Hilleary and Zoe Nelson – in their first heat against the Tubbies the blokes were so keen to win that they broke the equipment to register a no result!

Thanks to Ixom and the Tubbies, the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary Animal Hospital receives a $1,000 donation.  Our thanks to the fantastic people at Gold Coast and Logan for all their efforts to organise this great event again.

***Pipped by the blues…***

TheIxom Water of Origin Taste Test saw Livingstone Regional Council rolled by Port Macquarie-Hastings Council.  A sad night for all concerned. 

***Awards for Awesomeness***

Once a year we get the opportunity to acknowledge our operators and it is with great pride that we can announce the 2018 ***qldwater*** Young Operator of the Year and Civil/Allrounder of the Year.

Described by his peers as the go-to liaison for “challenging” customers, an excellent role model for his team and a regular contributor to his employer’s ideas portal, the **2018 Young Operator of the Year** - **Andrew Hanifin** from **Unitywater** - sets an excellent example at work and out in his community.

Andrew coaches kids’ sports and acts as a crisis phone councillor for the Salvation Army when he finishes his day job. He also makes time for further studies having completed all his water industry worker training requirements as well as a Cert IV in Plumbing and Drainage.

The **2018 Operator of the Year Civil / Allrounder** was awarded to **Brad Millful** from **Logan City Council**.  Brad has been in the water industry for 24 years and a champion for learning and development for much of that time.

As a leader for the SEQ water industry worker program Brad has been a mentor for over 75 field staff, a contributor to training materials and a representative on various industry and technical advisory groups. Aside from trade qualifications, Brad has achieved a Cert IV Training and Assessment, Diploma of Water Operations and Diploma of Project Management. With a focus on continuous improvement, Brad instigated a range of business improvements above and beyond the requirements of his role. Above all, Brad is a much-loved bloke and a fantastic contributor to his organisation and the industry more broadly.

Congratulations also to **Tony Cover** from Goondiwindi Regional Council who won the AWA Leon Henry Operator of the Year award and **Gary Fenwick** from QUU who was highly commended for the same award.  Tony has supported our footy tipping and helped us with a few tours over the years, and Gary was one of the first operators certified under the national Wastewater/ Recycled water framework.  **Glenn Twite** from Townsville City Council also picked up best paper by an operator.

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**2.   *qldwater* SWQ Conference Goondiwindi 18 July – Draft Program and Registrations Open Now!**

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[Registrations are now open](https://ipweaq.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/qldwater-swq-conference-goondiwindi/swq-conference) and we have a draft program for the ***qldwater*** South West Queensland Regional Water Conference to be held at Goondiwindi Community Cultural Centre on Friday 18 July 2018 in Goondiwindi.

The conference is being hosted by Goondiwindi Shire Council.  We are thrilled to welcome both returning and some new sponsors:

Principal Sponsor - Challenger Valves & Actuators Pty Ltd

Gold Sponsors - Royce Water Technologies, Aquatec Maxcon and

Silver Sponsors - Aqseptence Group.

along with Dial Before You Dig and Ixom.

**An Ixom Best of the Best Water Taste Test is also being held at the conference with all *qldwater* members eligible to enter.**  Don’t forget to bring along or send 2 litres of tap water to enter into the competition.    
  
Water samples will be judged by conference attendees, with the samples being judged remaining anonymous.  Further information including entry form and rules of the taste test competition are [available here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/Water_Taste_Test).  
  
The event will be a great opportunity to network with your peers in the region and hear some excellent technical presentations. There will be an optional dinner on the night prior to the event (additional cost applies).

Please register promptly to secure your spot and to take advantage of the Earlybird rate which finishes on 4 July.

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**3.   Water Connections Tour Blog, Cloncurry Conference and a win for Burke Shire**

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Check out our [blog post](https://www.qldwater.com.au/qldwater-blog/burke-water-wins) about the Cloncurry Mini-Conference, Dial Before You Dig Water Connections Tour and Burke Shire’s big win in the Ixom Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test for the region.

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**4.   Survey winners**

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Congrats to our two random draw winners of recent surveys Ben Godford from Maranoa Regional Council for the disinfection survey and Matthew Cook from North Burnett Regional Council for the Jobs Queensland survey.  A couple of Livingstone Lager stubbies and a highly sought after Sewer Lid polo shirt are on their way…

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**5.   QUICK LINKS – ASSOCIATED ORGANISATIONS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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The Queensland Police Service has released the latest security information which is now available in the members area of our website -  <http://www.qldwater.com.au/Counter-terrorism>.   The information contained in the QPS documents may be viewed and circulated internally, however it should not be provided to the public / media or forwarded to external third parties.  Members must log in first to access this information.

**IWA Nutrient Removal and Recovery Conference, 18-21 November 2018**

**ABSTRACTS DUE 11 JUNE**

 Have you been involved in some awesome work involving the removal and/or recovery of nutrients? We are looking for excellent case studies or innovative ideas for the 2018 International Water Association Nutrient Removal and Recovery Conference. With the traditional aim of protecting the environment, nutrient removal has become one of the key challenges all over the world. This conference will be an international meeting point for operators, scientists, engineers, managers, and entrepreneurs. It will provide an opportunity to review and assess research and management practices on nutrient removal, in particular planning, operation, performance, and economics. Visit the website to see the latest keynotes announced and submit your paper before the deadline 11 June (no extensions beyond this date).

[www.nrr2018.org](http://www.nrr2018.org)