**Queensland Water Skills e-Flash #67**

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

**(Issue #67 – 20 June 2018)**

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1. **Draft Diploma of Water Industry Operations**

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A draft of the Diploma of Water Industry Operations is now available for review and comment. You can [review the draft qualification](http://www.australianindustrystandards.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/20180619_NWP5XX18_Diploma_of_Water_Industry_Operations.pdf) and [units of competency](http://www.australianindustrystandards.org.au/projects/nwp-national-water-training-package-project/).  [Your feedback is invited](https://austindustrystandards.sharepoint.com/:x:/r/WaterIRC/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?guestaccesstoken=2bfdmP6SECoOv6zS57QWjHVp%2bv0hXFS9IQORqcVobeg%3d&docid=1_1cd1a8e28c8354b898e6d5bd0f2bd3117&wdFormId=%7BF02408B5-4DB2-481F-A4D2-FA1BB9108B6B%7D&action=formsubmit) and should be submitted via the [Australian Industry Standards website](https://austindustrystandards.sharepoint.com/:x:/r/WaterIRC/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?guestaccesstoken=2bfdmP6SECoOv6zS57QWjHVp%2bv0hXFS9IQORqcVobeg%3d&docid=1_1cd1a8e28c8354b898e6d5bd0f2bd3117&wdFormId=%7BF02408B5-4DB2-481F-A4D2-FA1BB9108B6B%7D&action=formsubmit) by **Wednesday 4 July 2018**. ***qldwater*** will be providing feedback and is keen to see the updated Diploma approved and ready for enrolments as soon as possible after what has been a lengthy review.

The Water Industry Reference Committee (IRC) will meet again in August to discuss the updated Diploma along with the development of Skill Sets and the planned reviews of the Certificate II in Water Industry Operations, III in Water Industry Operations and Certificate III in Water Industry Treatment. The intention is for the Certificate IIIs to be amalgamated into one qualification and it is hoped the review will be completed by mid-2019 for release in October 2019. ***qldwater*** holds a position on the Water IRC and will be involved in the review of the qualifications. We have previously called for expressions of interest to participate in the Technical Advisory Committees (TAC) for these reviews and all nominations have been submitted for consideration by the Water IRC. Positions on the TAC will be limited so in an effort to ensure a broad representation of views, ***qldwater*** will be seeking input from stakeholders throughout the review process. If you are interested in being kept informed and providing feedback, please email [csargent@qldwater.com.au](mailto:csargent@qldwater.com.au) and we will keep in contact with you as the reviews progress.

Australian Industry Standards will also be hosting skills forums across the country to identify workforce skills priorities for training packages. ***qldwater*** will attend and represent the water industry but the forums are open to any interested parties. Places will be limited so please [register your interest online](http://www.australianindustrystandards.org.au/industry-skills-forum-2018/).

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1. **Congratulations to our award winners!**

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Once a year we get the opportunity to acknowledge the achievements of our operators and it was with great pride that we announced the 2018 ***qldwater*** Young Operator of the Year and Civil/Allrounder of the Year at the WIOA Queensland Conference recently.

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. Andrew receives a personal and perpetual trophy and an all-expenses paid tour to New Zealand with WIOA in May 2019.

The **2018 Operator of the Year Civil/Allrounder** was awarded to **Brad Milfull** 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. Brad’s award includes a personal and perpetual trophy as well as $1500 to put towards his own professional development.

View the [photos of our winners](https://www.qldwater.com.au/qldwaterAwards). Congratulations to both of these outstanding operators and thank you to all those who nominated colleagues.

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1. **WIOA Queensland Conference wrap up**

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***qldwater*** was pleased to be an exhibitor at the [Water Industry Operators Association of Queensland Conference](http://wioaconferences.org.au/qld/) (WIOA) in Logan recently, sharing our booth with Lutra to showcase the partnership between SWIM*Local* and Lutra’s Infrastructure Data program. It was a very successful event attended by more than 800 individuals, with high quality presentations and some great social events.

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.

TheIxom Water of Origin Taste Test saw Livingstone Regional Council rolled by Port Macquarie-Hastings Council. A sad day for all concerned particularly with Queensland’s loss to NSW in the other Origin Test later in the day.

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1. **Feedback on Skilling and Training**

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Thank you to those who responded to our request for feedback about skilling and training needs for the water industry. The responses highlighted common and significant challenges in attracting experienced operators, losing staff to other higher-paying industries and the high cost of training in regional areas. All of this input has been included in our report to Jobs Queensland and we will keep you informed of any future engagement with Jobs Queensland and the Department of Small Business, Education and Training (DESBT) regarding these challenges.

***qldwater’s*** contract to provide industry advice to DESBT has been extended to March 2019 so we will continue to advocate on behalf of the Queensland water industry for appropriate VET investment and support for skilling and training.

Please contact [Carlie Sargent](mailto:csargent@qldwater.com.au) if you require assistance with skilling and training or have feedback at any stage.

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

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