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

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

**(Issue #254 -  20 March 2015)**

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**1.   Operator of the Year Awards – Nominate Now!**

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Nominations are still open for the annual ***qldwater*** sponsored water industry operators’ awards.  These awards will again recognise the achievements of operational staff employed in the Queensland water industry.   The award winners will be announced at the WIOA Annual Queensland Water Industry Operations Workshop Conference Dinner in Toowoomba on 18 June 2015.  The awards aim to encourage outstanding operational performance of Queensland water industry employees and will be presented to operators who showed excellent performance, initiative and all round attention to detail.  All employers are encouraged to nominate their operators for these awards.    Applications close on **1 May.**

The two categories available for nomination are for:

* 1. Queensland Young Operator of the Year
	2. Operator of the Year (Civil / “All Rounder”)

The **Queensland Young Operator of the Year** winner will receive an all-expenses paid trip to join the WIOA delegation on a tour of water and wastewater facilities in New Zealand as well as attending the Water Industry Operations Group New Zealand conference in May 2016, a perpetual plaque which their employer keeps for 12 months plus an individual trophy which is kept by the winner.

The **Operator of the Year (Civil / “All Rounder”)** winner will receive up to $1500 towards professional development opportunities such as attendance at other WIOA conferences, ***qldwater*** training or for funding expenses for exchange opportunities at neighbouring councils. The winner also receives a perpetual plaque which their employer keeps for 12 months plus an individual trophy which is kept by the winner.

It’s easy to nominate - please visit <http://www.qldwater.com.au/qldwaterAwards> for more information, application form and to see previous winners.

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**2.   IPWEA Queensland Excellence Awards 2015**

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Nominations are invited for the IPWEA Queensland Excellence Awards 2015! The awards recognise the outstanding achievements of engineers and public works practitioners and their organisations throughout Queensland.

There are various categories for entry in the People and Project Awards, including awards for water, waste water, sewerage and drought management and innovation or the introduction of new or improved techniques. Full details and entry requirements can be found at <http://www.ipwea.org/queensland/excellenceawards>.

Nominations close at 5pm on **20 July 2015.** All queries are welcome to Carlie Sargent on 07 3632 6801 or CSargent@ipweaq.asn.au.

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**3.   *qldwater* FNQ Regional Conference/ Taste Test -  8 May, Cairns – Call for Papers**

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Submissions are invited for presentations for the Far North Queensland Regional Water Conference and The Ixom Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test Regional Final to be held in Cairns on Friday 8 May 2015.

This opportunity is open to people from all levels of an organisation from new employees to CEOs as well as independent operators with information to share with the industry. We are particularly interested in technical papers from members, or organisations that can co-present relevant case studies with members, to fill 30 minute slots.   If you would like to provide a presentation, please email hgold@qldwater.com.au, with a title and a brief outline before Friday 27 March.

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**4.   *qldwater* CQ Regional Conference/ Taste Test -  16 April, Rockhampton**

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Register now to ensure your place at the Central Queensland Water Conference and the Ixom Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test being held in Rockhampton on Thursday 16 April. The conference is kindly hosted by Rockhampton Regional Council and is sponsored by Royce Water Technologies and Trility.

Information on the conference as well as the program and registration form is [available here.](http://www.qldwater.com.au/2015-water-taste-test-and-cq-conference-rockhampton)

Eligible members for the taste test are Banana Shire Council, Central Highlands Regional Council, Gladstone Regional Council, Gladstone Area Water Board, Isaac Regional Council, Livingstone Shire Council, Rockhampton Regional Council and Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council.  The taste test entry form including details of the entry requirements is [available here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/_literature_187374/2015_Taste_Test_Entry_Form).

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**5.   *qldwater* SEQ Conference and Taste Test – Gold Coast,  20 August**

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The ***qldwater*** SEQ Conference and Taste Test is being held at the Gold Coast on Thursday 20 August.  Our call for papers is open for this conference with this opportunity open to people from all levels of an organisation.

We are particularly interested in technical papers from members, or organisations that can co-present relevant case studies with members, to fill 30 minute slots.   If you would like to provide a presentation, please email hgold@qldwater.com.au, with a title and a brief outline.

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**6.   WSAA Members Meeting and Regional Forum – Gold Coast, 19 & 20 August**

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WSAA will be holding a Regional Forum on Wednesday 19 August at the Gold Coast which is open to all ***qldwater*** members.  This event has in part been moved to make it possible for delegates for the ***qldwater*** SEQ conference and taste test to participate – it’s a great opportunity to find out more about WSAA services and activities.

The Regional Forum is an initiative of the WSAA regional member representative Jim Grayson, Gladstone Area Water Board, and is intended to highlight good practice in regional water utility management. The forum will bring regional utilities together with larger members and private sector members. As well as looking at good practice, the forum will include case studies and lessons learnt through alliances and other partnering arrangements.

A dinner will be held in the evening for attendees of the Regional Forum and WSAA Members attending the members meeting the next day.

Final details and information about registering will provided closer to the date.

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**7.   *qldwater* Calendar of Events**

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The dates for our 2015 Regional Conferences and Taste Test regional events have now been finalised.

o   Rockhampton, 16 April (CQ Final)

o   Cairns, 8 May (FNQ Final)

o   Barcaldine, 15 June (SWIM Training + WQ Final)

o   WIOA Conference and Water of Origin Taste Test 18 June (2014 Qld Winner, Richmond, competes against NSW)

o   Ingham, 23 June (Water Quality Awareness and Distribution System Management Workshop and NQ Final)

o   St George, 31 July (LGAQ Bush Council Forum and SWQ Final)

o   Gold Coast, 20 August (SEQ Final)

o   Sunshine Coast, 4 & 5 November (Innovation Event and Taste Test Grand Final)

For details on these conferences and sponsorship opportunities, please see our website <http://www.qldwater.com.au/Mini-Conferences> or email hgold@qldwater.com.au for more information.

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