**Queensland Water Skills e-Flash #77**

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

**(Issue #77 – 19 June 2019)**

1. Congratulations to our Award Winners!
2. New Workforce Planning Toolkit
3. Training and Development Webinar

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1. **Congratulations to our Award Winners!**

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***qldwater*** was privileged to present awards for the tenth time for the Civil/All-Rounder Operator of the Year and Young Operator of the Year at the recent WIOA Conference in Bundaberg.

Spencer Stacey from City of Gold Coast took out the Civil/All-Rounder award. A great team player, respected by colleagues and customers alike, Spencer is one half of the recently retired “Tapping Tubbies” mains tapping champions. Spencer received a trophy and funding towards professional development.

Ali Sacipovic from Fraser Coast regional council took out the Young Operator award.  Responsible for the Aubinville STP in Maryborough, Ali has demonstrated great initiative, a commitment to process improvement, teamwork and customer service.  Ali receives a trip to NZ in 2020 with WIOA visiting a number of utilities and attending the WIOG conference. A highly commended award was made to Daniel Hales from Mareeba Shire Council, who will receive a QWRAP scholarship to attend the upcoming ***qldwater*** event in Townsville as well as spend time with experts at the Mt St John STP.

Other main awards from the event going to employees of ***qldwater*** members went to:

* Best Poster – Winner Mark Tosh, QUU, Highly Commended Leah Jones QUU
* Best Papers –
  + Overall (Brian Davis Award) – Kale McLean, Unitywater
  + 1st – Andrew Watson, South Burnett Regional Council
  + 2nd – Marcus Boyd, Terry Henness, Toowoomba Regional Council
* AWA Leon Henry Operator of the Year Award – John Van Ryt, Mareeba Shire Council

Another regular feature of the WIOA conferences is the Mains Tapping Competition and a City of Gold Coast team did it again, with Dan Lee and Gavin Stacey (Kool Tapping) taking out the competition with a time of 1 minute and 52 seconds.  QUU’s Daniel Marshall and Tom Pilcher finished second with 2:24, ahead of a Cairns team, two from Fraser Coast and 3 from Bundaberg. The champions have donated the $1,000 prize, sponsored by Reece Plumbing, to “Buy a Bale.”

Unfortunately, Shoalhaven City Council beat Mackay Regional Council in the Water of Origin Taste Test but we hear it was a close result!

***qldwater*** is proud to continue its strong partnership with WIOA and congratulate them on another fantastic event. This year, ***qldwater*** supported 3 new trainees (from North Burnett, Bundaberg and Gympie Regional Councils) to attend the conference as part of a regional traineeship trial and we hope to continue this in future years. As part of our exhibition booth, we hosted a Lego Masters competition, which was won by Anthony Lipsys, Banana Shire Council, for his creation of the water recycling plant of the future, closely followed by an interpretation of a wastewater inlet by Gary Fenwick, QUU. Enjoy your gift card prizes and thanks to everyone who participated in our competition. Also at the event, Bill Collie from QUU was inducated as the latest WIOA “IDIOT,” or “Inducted as Delegates of the Inextricably Obstructed Tap Society”, and Brad Milful from Logan City Council chose to use his prize as Civil Operator of the Year 2018 to attend this year’s conference and was made a paper judge for his trouble.

[Check out the photos from the event!](https://qldwater.smugmug.com/WIOA-2019/)

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1. **New Workforce Planning Toolkit**

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Jobs Queensland has released a new workforce planning toolkit designed for Queensland small and medium-sized businesses. [Workforce Planning Connect](https://www.vision6.com.au/ch/58221/17h6p/2710653/hFPf2OVVLsFew8_PfWQ9Zw5aq0xvH8z5ywNKJ22s.html) provides a range of [practical tools](https://www.vision6.com.au/ch/58221/17h6p/2711238/hFPf2OVVLsFew8_PfWQ9oQsJy5ucBjOTV62xj5Mf.html) designed to help organisations understand and plan for their workforce needs now and into the future. The toolkit includes the following resources:

* a [website](http://www.jobsqueensland.qld.gov.au/wpc) providing an overview of workforce planning
* an [introductory guide to workforce planning](https://www.vision6.com.au/ch/58221/17h6p/2711239/hFPf2OVVLsFew8_PfWQ9ybf.ODNnmYy9Q30nkPgm.html)
* an [extensive workforce planning toolkit](https://www.vision6.com.au/ch/58221/17h6p/2711240/hFPf2OVVLsFew8_PfWQ9LmdUbGqOo_dA7jyGFEPW.html) to step businesses through the full process
* a range of templates, fact sheets and guides.

To download the Workforce Planning Connect Toolkit, visit [www.jobsqueensland.qld.gov.au/wpctoolkit](https://www.vision6.com.au/ch/58221/17h6p/2711241/hFPf2OVVLsFew8_PfWQ9eec7gMvSyHS67CLZjKIe.html).

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1. **Training and Development Webinar**

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[Water Skills e-Flash #76](https://www.qldwater.com.au/e-flashes-2019) highlighted the release of the new Technical Competency Handbook for the Water Industry.

The handbook and a discussion of training and competency development in the water industry will be the focus of the next WIOA Talks Webinar on Friday 5 July from 2:00pm-3:00pm AEST. The webinar will also feature an overview of WaterRA’s research into the Value of Operator Competency and ***qldwater’s*** Carlie Sargent will be highlighting the work of the Water Skills Partnership.

Registration is available to WIOA members at: <https://wioa.org.au/nevent/td-2019/>.

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