

Water Industry Operations Group NZ 2020 AGM Chairman's Report

The WIOG year started with the Christchurch conference. The conference was a success with an outstanding number of conference delegates attending. The conference was well supported by our sponsors. The annual IXOM Taste Test competition had an amazing number of entrants from water suppliers from around the country and it was also the inaugural Hynds live tapping competition.

Unfortunately, at the AGM, the Committee farewelled Murray Clayton, Murray was an original committee member, he is a Life member of the Group, and is an IDIOT. His service to the industry and the Group has been inspirational. As a committee member he organised and managed the conference trade displays and also maintained contact with our sponsors, a job he performed extremely well.

On a positive note, at the AGM we welcomed Mark Proctor and Josh McIndoe to the committee

Shortly after the Christchurch conference, for personal reasons Tony Oschner stood down from the committee. Tony was our committee member that looked after the Ixom Taste test competition, another loss to the Group.

The committee held three face to face meetings since the last AGM. All were held here at the conference venue. We have started using Teams to maintain contact each other when Face to Face wasn't an option, and of course numerous contacts through email and individual phone conversations.

Last year, we the committee made a commitment to hold more workshops. We ended last year with two workshops and had one at the start of this year. However, with Covid-19, we had to put these on hold. A special mention to the host councils have hosted the workshops to date, as well as the suppliers who gave up their valuable time to share their knowledge and products with us.

Moving forward, the committee is currently looking at the potential to run short webinars.

Covid-19 has obviously has had a big impact on our Country, and our industry. Lockdown meant that we could no longer hold our annual conference. This wasn't an easy decision to make however, as it turns out,

the decision would have been ultimately made for us. We did have a full complement of papers and a programme, unfortunately circumstances got in the way. Obviously our Group depends on the revenue from the conference to enable us to meet the objectives and goals of our organisation and missing this conference has come at a cost. However, forward planning by previous committees has meant that the loss to the Group from Covid-19 has been minimal.

From an Industry perspective, WIOG members have been represented on a number of groups and committees. These include the Connexis Water Industry Group (an industry advisory Group to Connexis), the WIPA Registration Board, and a number of other advisory groups.

We also aim to Support our members through good times and bad. Our welfare fund was put in place a number of years ago so we could deliver on one of our key goals, caring for our members. Bruce, our welfare officer, has had busy year this year. We have supported members during difficult times. The monetary value is unimportant and feedback to the Committee says that the recipients were truly grateful that somebody was thinking about them during a difficult time. Please keep an eye on each other and get in touch with us if you see there is a need in your area.

Our committee is a voluntary group, who all are very busy in their jobs. It is an amazing effort by the lads to get this ready every year, so I would like to go on record stating my thanks for all your hard work.

The committee also met to try and put together a strategic plan that will help us set ourselves a direction to where WIOG should be going and some KPIs to make sure we get there. This is still a work in progress; however, it will be a priority in the year ahead to ensure we get a draft out for comment.

Just before I sign off, once again I would like to acknowledge the assistance that Craig Hiddleston and the rest of the committee has given to me over the last 12 months. I can assure you that the committee is as enthusiastic and dedicated as ever.

This ends my Chairman's report for 2020 and I look forward to seeing you all in Napier in May next year.



Nick Hewer-Hewitt
Chairman