

FROM UNCERTAINTY TO ACTION: *Building an AI Ready Workforce*

IWA Conference 2025

19 & 20 November

Support Partners



Conference Sponsors



Davidson



Building an AI Ready Workforce

19 - 20 November — IWA Conference 2025

Proud Sponsors of the IWA Conference

Peninsula Room - Novotel Geelong
10/14 Eastern Beach Rd, Geelong VIC 3220

Conference Program

Wednesday 19 November

Conference Details

Cost: \$282 + GST per person

Inclusions: Lunch and afternoon tea

12:00pm	Registration & Lunch
1:00pm	Welcome & Housekeeping Rob Murphy, IWA President 2025/26
1:05pm	Welcome to Country Wadawurrung Aboriginal Corporation
1:15pm	Sponsor's Address Francois Gouws, Managing Director, TRILITY
1:20pm	Keynote Presentation - From Uncertainty to Action: Building an AI Ready Workforce Professor Ujwal Kayande, Melbourne Business School, University of Melbourne
2:00pm	Skills 2030: What Capabilities Will Define the Next-Gen Professional? Tiffany Gray, Strategic Leadership & Execution Advisor, BRAWT
2:40pm	Water, Work and the Age of AI: Rethinking Skills for a Changing Sector Wayne Pales, General Manager, Digital Business, Barwon Water
3:15pm	Afternoon Tea
3:40pm	The Human Factor: Building Purpose, Capability and Confidence in the Age of Automation Panel Anna Lamont, Executive Manager Strategy, Coliban Water Seamus Scanlon, National Senior Partner, Davidson Fi Blackmore, Executive Manager, People, Culture & Safety, Westernport Water Facilitated by Jason Cotton, Program Director, Intelligent Water Networks
4:25pm	Inclusion, Equity, and AI: Ensuring No One is Left Behind Shae Abel, Manager Diversity, Inclusion & Belonging, People & Transformation, Melbourne Water
5:00pm	Close

Conference Theme

From Uncertainty to Action:
Building an AI Ready Workforce

As the water industry faces rising uncertainty—from climate extremes to shifting demographics and policy—the future of our workforce depends on its ability to adapt, innovate, and lead.

“From Uncertainty to Action: Building an AI Ready Workforce” puts a spotlight on the transformational role of artificial intelligence including automation, data analytics Generative AI in reshaping how we manage water, make decisions, and develop skills.

This conference will explore how you can harness these tools to build resilience—not only in infrastructure and systems, but in people. We'll delve into the practical implications of AI for the sector, highlight the emerging skillsets needed across all levels, and discuss how to future-proof careers in an era of rapid change.

Novotel Geelong

10/14 Eastern Beach Rd, Geelong VIC 3220

Conference Dinner & Accommodation

Wednesday 19 November

Peninsula Room

Level 1



Conference Dinner

Please join us for the conference dinner! Always a highlight on the conference program. A fantastic opportunity to catch up and network with the water sector.

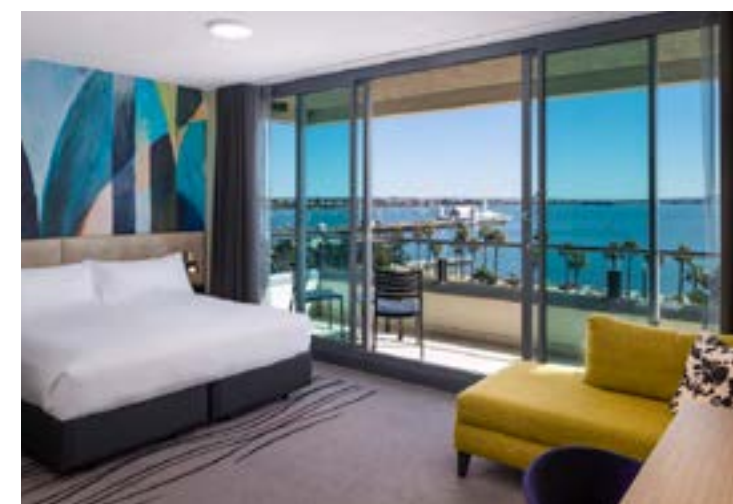
This year we will be acknowledging some of the innovative and inspiring pioneers of the water sector. Make sure you join us for an exclusive fireside chat! We'll also hear from WIOA Young Operator of the Year, Dalkeith McCallum-Hanley.

Time: 6:00pm pre-dinner drinks for 6:30pm start

Dress: Corporate attire

Cost: \$147 + GST per person

Inclusions: Three course meal with beverages



Accommodation

Special accommodation rates have been arranged for IWA Conference delegates at **Novotel Geelong** Room and breakfast for one.

[Book Here](#)

Car Parking

Car parking at the hotel is a valet service only and charged at the rate of \$45 per car for in house guests and day guests.

Building an AI Ready Workforce

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SIG Meetings Thursday 20 November

Novotel Geelong
10/14 Eastern Beach Rd, Geelong

Royal Geelong Yacht Club
25 Eastern Beach Rd, Geelong

Barwon Water
55-67 Ryrie St, Geelong

The following Special Interest Groups will be meeting on **Thursday 20 November**. The meetings will be spilt over three locations: **Novotel Geelong, Barwon Water** and **RGYC**.

Novotel Geelong

SIG	Meeting Room	Convenor
Communications	Bellarine Room	Eddie Wilson ewilson@newater.com.au
Environment	Limeburners Room	Wil Haskard wil.haskard@chw.net.au
Finance	Ceres Room	Darren Collins & Jack Reilly darren.collins@barwonwater.vic.gov.au - jack.reilly@lmw.vic.gov.au
Human Resources	Restaurant	Kate Montgomery katem@gvwater.vic.gov.au
Energy and Greenhouse	Peninsula Room	Elaine Mowat EMowat@egwater.vic.gov.au
Technical Services	Flinders Room	Simon Perrin simon.perrin@wannonwater.com.au

Barwon Water

Information Technology	Room G09	Wayne Pales wayne.pales@barwonwater.vic.gov.au
Executive Assistants	Room 508	Julie Douglas & Ros Shipton julie.douglas@gww.com.au - Roslyn.shipton@yvw.com.au
Educators	Room 509	Natalie Laugeni & Nicole Bovezza natalie.laugeni@gippswater.com.au - nicole.bovezza@gww.com.au
Development Services	The Hub	Adam Heaton & Nigel Gerreyn adam.heaton@gww.com.au - nigel.gerreyn@gippswater.com.au

Royal Geelong Yacht Club

Customer Service	West Lounge	Alison Flintoff Alison.Flintoff@yvw.com.au
Corporate Governance	Boardroom	Courtney Matthew & Tim Scholtes courtney.matthew@wannonwater.com.au - tscholtes@westernportwater.com.au

SIG Meeting timings

Arrival tea/coffee 9:00am

Meetings commence 9:30am

Morning Tea 10:30am

Lunch 12:30pm - 1:30pm

SIG Agendas and Registration

Agendas for each SIG is arranged by the Convenor. View [SIG Agendas](#) here.

Please register for each SIG you wish to attend via Eventbrite.

Register



Institute of Water
Administration

Building an AI Ready Workforce

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Tickets & Registration

Paid Tickets

Conference

Cost: \$282 + GST

Time: 12pm arrival - 5pm finish

Inclusions: Conference, lunch, afternoon tea & networking

Dinner

Cost: \$147 + GST

Time: 6pm pre-dinner drinks for 6:30pm sit down

Inclusions: Pre-dinner drinks, three course meal with drinks, awards and exclusive fireside chat with water industry legends.

Conference & Dinner Package

Cost: \$399 + GST

Going to both, then choose the package ticket that combines the conference and dinner for a discounted price.

Registration

SIG Meetings - FREE

SIG Meetings are open to Victorian water corporations and are FREE to attend.

AGM

All IWA Members are welcome to join the Annual General Meeting.

When: 8.30am, Wednesday 19 November **Venue:** Barwon Water

To register for any component of the 2025 IWA Conference, including the Conference, Dinner, AGM or SIG Meetings, please register via the button below.

If you need to cancel your place, please refer to our **Cancellation Policy** for further details and advise so we can adjust for catering and capacity purposes accordingly.

Register

Registrations Close on **Wednesday 12 November**

Please note invoices for paid components will be sent after the conference.