

VIC Branch Committee Elections 2022 Nomination Statements

Seyed Mohsen Samaei | Beca Pty Ltd

I am a Civil / Water engineer with more than 10 years experience in project engineering, industrial wastewater treatment, water quality analysis, research, and supervision. My skills include pipelines and sewer design, water tanks design, hydraulic analysis, wastewater treatment & recycling. I am currently working as a civil engineer-water at Beca Pty Ltd and working in a variety of major water-related projects for Greater Western Water and Fulton Hogan Delplant Beca (FHDB). Also, during My PhD, I designed and developed a robust nanofiltration ceramic membrane unit at Swinburne University of Technology for the first time to treat mining wastewater. It defines a new level in ceramic nanofiltration and industrial wastewater treatment. I was an Awards Finalist in the AWA's Victorian Water Awards (Student Water Prize) for 2020/2021 for this project.

My Vision for VIC Branch Committee:

- o To collaborate with other committee members to solve urgent problems in the water industry through innovation
- o To create development opportunities for university graduates and researchers by facilitating the collaboration between university and water industry.
- o To facilitate seminars & presentations for members to help network with various entrepreneurs

Tamar Haviv | Spiire

After moving to Australia four years ago from Israel, have worked in the private sector as a water engineer consultant in both South Australia and Victoria. While working in South Australia I ensured residents in regional South Australia had access to potable water. In Adelaide, Furthermore working on designing systems that ensure enough runoff in the mount lofty ranges, and the downstream of the mount lofty ranges to ensure the validity of the catchment. Upon moving to Melbourne have worked as a flood modeler and drainage system to reduce the risk of frequent flooding occurring across the Melbourne metropolis. In my two years in the YWP AWA subcommittee have been fortunate to coordinate the AWA mentoring program and coordinated the regional conference. As a branch committee member, I would like to continue developing a strong community of water professionals, by creating more networking events and PD series in addition to the great ones we have.

Samuel Skinner | Aurecon

The AWA Branch Committee gives so much back to the industry. One great example is the Merri Creek Women's Walk. It was wonderful to be involved in this project right from the start and contribute to the stories for the virtual map and then the launch event. I have been involved in the YWP committee for 4 years and was the Chair in 2021, including being on the organising committee for the upcoming ANZ YWP Conference, organising the Bushfire Hackathon and two years of professional development events. I'm hoping to continue to contribute to ongoing professional development events.

VIC Branch Committee Elections 2022 Nomination Statements (cont)

Simon Canning | TRILITY

Hello my name is Simon and I have been lucky enough to have been involved in the water industry for the past 18 years. In this time I have learnt so much but know there is so much more to learn and give back. I am hoping to be more involved in our water community by sharing my experiences as a service technician and also as a service manager I speak with all types of people in the water industry from customers, operators, engineers local councils and even friends and family. And I believe seeing different points of views gives me a stronger love for this industry. I would like to be apart of the AWA team because I would like to be more involved in the future in our water.

Stefano Freguia | University of Melbourne

I am a Senior Lecturer at the University of Melbourne, Department of Chemical Engineering. My expertise is in electrochemical technology applied to water monitoring, removal of contaminants of emerging concern and resource recovery. I have been an academic for 12 years and I have engaged in teaching, research and outreach activities in all aspects of water and wastewater engineering. I have led or co-led research projects with water utilities in Queensland and Victoria, including the recently awarded ARC Hub for Nutrients in a Circular Economy. I have been the Chair for the AWA Water Literacy and Education Specialty Network committee since June 2021. The committee has been actively connecting members with an interest in water education, through member circles and an involvement in National Water Week. I would like to join the VIC state committee to contribute to Victorian AWA activities and connect with the like-minded professionals.

Kerry Matthews | South Gippsland Water

I have been in the water industry for almost 15 years with experience in water supply catchment management and planning. I have a Bachelors Degree of Aquatic Science with a specialisation in aquatic ecology and freshwater river health which is where my story began with South Gippsland Water. Immediately following millennial drought, biological monitoring of the streams and waterways of the South Gippsland River Basin was required to determine the impact of the drought on the waterways. I have since this time taken on the management of South Gippsland Water's water resources and was instrumental in developing a catchment management plan in coordination with the local shire council for the Tarwin River water supply catchment in terms of planning and development. I currently am a committee member of the AWA Catchment Specialist group and would like to become a Victorian branch member of AWA to "share, connect & inspire" knowledge to address the need for future growth and development in the water industry.

VIC Branch Committee Elections 2022 Nomination Statements (cont)

Meredith Gibbs | Gibbs Advisory

Hi! I've been on the the Victorian Committee for 4 years and I'm re-nominating so that I can continue to lead the Merri Creek Women's Walk initiative. The Merri Creek Women's Walk trail acknowledges Wurundjeri's connection to the land and water and tells the stories of several inspiring women who have contributed to the restoration and community of the Merri Creek. In the last two years we have collaborated with the Wurundjeri, Moreland Council, Merri Creek Management Committee and the wider coimmunity to deliver an online trail map with stories, an online luanch event and an in-person trail sign reveal event. The in-person event was supported by Moreland City Council. We also applied for and received a generous grant from Melbourne Water's Liveable Communities, Liveable Waterways program and secured sponsorship from Water4Good and Eurofins. If re-elected I will continue this project with the other fabulous volunteers on the working group. We have plans for seating and planting around the permanent trail sign and another community event. This project closely aligns with AWA's core values SHARE, CONNECT and INSPIRE to drive a sustainable water future and I hope to continue to be part of that.

Emma Milburn | Iota, South East Water

Since joining the water industry I've sat on both the YWP and then the Branch committee in Victoria. Jointly managing the YWP Regional event in my first year, working with Digna in my second year to attract event sponsors and set-up agreement and proposal templates. Since joining the branch committee I've worked to deliver several events and taken on a standing role leading the communications sub-committee. My day job in Marketing to global utilities and partners brings a unique perspective to the committee and I'm keen to continue my contribution to the water industry by shaping communications and events that the Australian industry are seeking. I'd like to nominate for the VIC Branch VP position for the next term.

Savalan Pour | Yarra Valley Water

With great pleasure, I write this statement to nominate myself for the AWA Victorian Branch Committee member for the next two years. I am a current member of the AWA Victorian Branch Committee, and in the last two challenging years, I was able to contribute to the AWA's progress in several directions. I have over 20 years of work experience. Currently employed by Yarra Valley Water, I manage standards and products with my counterparts in MRWA. I have a B.Sc. in civil engineering, an M.Eng in water engineering and a PhD in water planning. I am a CPEng in the Engineers Australia in two Civil Engineering and Engineering Leadership. I hope to be a facilitator in strengthening the link between the AWA and the Victorian water industry, utilising my network of professionals. In addition, I wish to attract the attention of water professionals to AWA in a more significant manner.

VIC Branch Committee Elections 2022 Nomination Statements (cont)

Frederic Blin | AECOM Australia Pty Ltd

Having been involved in the water sector throughout my 20+ year career (as a researcher, PhD and consultant) including now as AECOM's director for Water in Victoria, I am very passionate about our sector and the impact we have on our most precious resource, the planet and our communities. Leading teams that span water infrastructure, water resources, dams and asset management I would welcome the opportunity to represent the diversity of our membership and the work we do. I would bring by client/customer focus to the role combined with my interest and experience in collaborating to achieve sustainable outcomes. Thank you for your consideration.

Madeleine Greenlee | Melbourne Water

Madeleine is Project Director of 'Water for Life', responsible for delivery of the joint Greater Melbourne Urban Water System Strategy on behalf of Melbourne's four metropolitan water corporations. With experience in the public and private sectors in both Australia and USA, her roles have spanned Infrastructure Operations, Research and Innovation, Engineering Design, Organizational Strategy, and Project Delivery. She brings passion to lead and implement strategic, effective and equitable water management solutions. Madeleine has been on the AWA VIC Branch Committee since 2020 as co-lead of Memberships and Sponsorships. During this time, COVID-19 has prompted the opportunity to creatively connect with others and extend AWA's reach, establish new partnerships and strengthen those we have existing. Madeleine would love to continue work with the Committee to integrate knowledge across sectors and inspire collaboration for water management through technical events, site tours, and networking events which provide inclusive, inviting platforms for various backgrounds.

Joseph Elderkin | Mott MacDonald

Following an enlightening and positive 2 years on the VIC YWP Committee I've decided to nominate for the Branch Committee in part because whilst I'd like to stay involved and part of the AWA VIC organisation whilst providing more room for new and younger YWPs to become involved with the YWP, so I see the Branch committee as providing both these possibilities. Further whilst I feel on the upper end of the YWP age range, I feel more representation of younger age ranges on the branch can only be positive. I feel the water industry is brilliantly connective and open community, with so many different avenues to grow and contribute more to society, which the AWA strives to add to through both it's committees across Victoria and wish to continue my ability to add my efforts to the rest of the AWAs.

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James Gong | Deakin University

I am passionate about the water industry. Joining the AWA VIC branch committee will provide me the opportunity to facilitate broad collaboration and knowledge sharing. I teach Civil and Environmental Engineering students at Deakin University's Geelong campus, and I conduct research on Smart Water Systems. Prior to Deakin, I worked as a Data Analytics Engineer in SA Water for the Adelaide Smart Water Network project. I have been the Membership Representative for Deakin in WaterRA since 2020. From 2019 to 2021, I was a member in the Executive Committee in the Early- and Mid-Career Researchers Forum – a national advocacy body sponsored by Australian Academy of Science. My focus will be strengthening partnerships between the higher-education sector and the water industry to inspire positive changes. I will facilitate the development of industry-relevant teaching materials for job-ready graduates, and the creation of high-quality professional development opportunities for water professionals.

Peter Carroll | GHD

I am a Water Process Engineer at GHD and VIC Branch Committee member. I am pleased to seek a second term on the committee, to carry on work in support of our great industry so that we may continue to excel for our community's benefit. By day my professional focus is primarily on treatment of water supplies to provide high quality and safe water for urban, industrial and agricultural use. Within this, my work involves an emphasis on strategic planning. Both within and outside of this professional space I am passionate about sustainability and seeking to achieving broad social benefit wherever I can – the AWA is uniquely placed to enable our industry to achieve these worthy objectives in what is a challenging world. I hope you will support my nomination so that I may continue to assist AWA strive for such outcomes.