

# WATER DIRECTORATE news

## MARCH 2011

*This newsletter is sent to General Managers and to Water and Sewer Managers in 103 regional Councils in NSW and also to over 140 contacts in government departments and private industry across Australia.*

### JOINT WATER DIRECTORATE/ LGA WATER LOSS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

At the end of March there are just 3 months remaining in this program. The total water savings to date is approx 3,740ML. An update on the total water saved through this program can be viewed on the 'meter' at [waterloss.lgsa.org.au](http://waterloss.lgsa.org.au). All participating Councils should be finalising their projects and paperwork to get reimbursed from the Federal Government's Water Smart Australia Program before the end of the financial year on June 30.

Please direct all queries to Program Manager, Ian Maggs, on 02 9242 4127.

### WRAP UP FROM THE WIOA NSW WATER INDUSTRY ENGINEERS AND OPERATORS CONFERENCE AT NEWCASTLE

The Water Directorate was pleased to sponsor and support this practical conference for a fifth year. Chair of the Water Directorate, Stewart McLeod, was also pleased to present Allen Paul with the prestigious Water Directorate NSW Operator of the Year Award for 2011. Congratulations to Allen Paul, the Shannon Creek Dam Site Officer and congratulations to his employer,

Clarence Valley Council. Allen receives a personal trophy and in May he will join the WIOA delegation to attend the New Zealand Operators conference and study tour of various treatment plants in recognition of his excellent performance, initiative and all round attention to detail.

It was also very pleasing to see two previous recipients of the Operator of the Year Award - Ross Waugh and Les Potter - giving their poster paper presentations at this year's conference and winning more awards for these presentations.

The Water Directorate encourages all our member Council operations staff to consider attending this conference and exhibition next year to meet and share industry knowledge with your colleagues. For more information contact Cynthia Lim on 03 5821 6744, 0407 846 221, skype [cynthia.lim221](mailto:cynthia.lim221) or go to [www.wioa.org.au](http://www.wioa.org.au).

For those people who couldn't get to the recent WIOA Conference at Newcastle, the 36th Queensland WIOA Conference will be held in Toowoomba on 1-2 June. More details and registration forms are available from the website [www.wioa.org.au](http://www.wioa.org.au).

Member councils are encouraged to consider the benefits of WIOA membership. Thirty six councils are corporate members. We also urge water managers to now consider who you would like to nominate for the NSW Operator of the Year Award for 2012 so that nominations can be more easily prepared when called in about December this year.

### LAST CALL FOR YOUNG ENGINEERS CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE AWARD

Only a few days remain to nominate for this award valued at up to \$3,200 to enable a worthy junior water



Stewart McLeod congratulates this year's winner of the Water Directorate Operator of the Year Award, Allen Paul, Shannon Creek Dam Site Officer at the 5th WIOA NSW Conference at Newcastle.

professional from a member Council to attend OzWater '11 to be held in Adelaide on 9-11 May.

Water professionals from member Councils with up to 7 years experience should consider nominating using the nomination form on our website at [www.waterdirectoratesn.au](http://www.waterdirectoratesn.au). Nominations close on 8 April. The recipient will be notified by 15 April.

### **IPWEA (NSW DIV) ONE DAY FORUM AND EXCELLENCE AWARDS, PYRMONT, 17 MAY**

As mentioned in previous newsletters, the IPWEA is hosting a One Day Forum and Excellence Awards Dinner on 17 May at Doltone House, Darling Island Wharf, Pyrmont. The Forum features 3 components - a Water Directorate Forum, a Road Safety Forum and the Roads and Transport Congress.

The new Premier of NSW, Barry O'Farrell, has been invited to attend this function, as well as the new ministers responsible for water and road portfolios.

The Water Directorate is pleased to have organised a stream of technical papers for our members as part of the One Day Forum. Topics to be presented include:

- The Five Year Water Loss Management Program by Ian Maggs, Program Manager
- The Armidale Ozonation Plant by David Steller from Armidale Council
- A Riserless Bore Pumping System by Jason Ip from Riverina Water
- Corrosion of Sewer Pipes by Dr Ian Evanson from MWH
- An Overview of Developments at Bray Park in the Tweed Shire by Anthony Burnham from Tweed Shire Council
- Salty Lagoon Ecosystem Monitoring and Rehabilitation by Michael Mackenzie on behalf of Richmond Valley Council

In addition to these technical papers, a Forum Panel will be held with representatives from the Executive Committee.

The topic for discussion during the Forum Panel is our recent response to the Infrastructure Australia report into *Regional Towns Water Quality and Security* and the forthcoming release of the Productivity Commission's *Inquiry into Australia's Urban Water*

*Sector*. Members are welcome to contribute to the Panel discussions and raise issues for consideration by the Executive Committee.

Following the One Day Forum the annual IPWEA Excellence Awards will also be held at Doltone House, Pyrmont. Once again this year we have sponsored the *Innovation in Water Supply and Wastewater Award* and we wish our nominees in this category good luck.

More information and registration packages are available by contacting Michelle Burgess, Events Manager, IPWEA on 02 8267 3013 [michelle@ipwea.org.au](mailto:michelle@ipwea.org.au).

### **INFRASTRUCTURE AUSTRALIA REPORT**

As previewed in last month's newsletter, the Water Directorate has emailed its submission disproving key findings in Infrastructure Australia's report entitled *Review of Regional Water Quality & Security*. This report is essentially a vehicle for recommending that NSW and Qld LWUs should be amalgamated into catchment based, State owned regional water corporations. Please view the submission in the March News on our website at [www.waterdirectoratesn.au](http://www.waterdirectoratesn.au).

### **NWC PROFESSOR PETER CULLEN EUREKA PRIZE FOR WATER RESEARCH AND INNOVATION.**

Entries are now open in the NWC Professor Peter Cullen Eureka Prize for Water Research and Innovation.

The Eureka Prize, one of 24 prizes on offer, is for research and innovation in the sustainable use and management of Australia's water resources. Ten thousand dollars will be awarded to an individual, team or organisation for a project that has the potential to lead to substantial change in the way Australia manages, uses or protects its water resources, particularly in rural Australia.

Entries and nominations are encouraged in this important prize. You may consider nominating someone or entering yourself! Entries close midnight AEST Friday 6 May. Prize details can be found at [www.eureka.australianmuseum.net.au/eureka-prize/water-research-and-innovation4](http://www.eureka.australianmuseum.net.au/eureka-prize/water-research-and-innovation4).

For further information please contact Ruth Carr, Manager, Australian Museum Eureka Prizes on 02 9320 6483 or [eureka@austmus.gov.au](mailto:eureka@austmus.gov.au).

### **CALL FOR PAPERS – 2011 LGSA WATER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE, GRAFTON, 14 -16 SEPTEMBER**

The LGSA are calling for papers for the Water Management Conference being hosted by Clarence Valley Council at Grafton from 14-16 September. Information about the conference is available on the conference website at [www.waterconference.lgsa.org.au](http://www.waterconference.lgsa.org.au). Papers should be emailed to Sascha Moege, Senior Policy Officer, [sascha.moege@lgsa.org.au](mailto:sascha.moege@lgsa.org.au) by the closing date 15 April 2011.

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATES**

The new Executive Committee met for the first time on 10 March and Stewart McLeod was re-elected unopposed as Chair for the next two years. Stewart is Director Technical Services at Dubbo City Council and is a well known, tireless worker and champion for local water utilities.

Stewart is one of 5 inaugural Executive Committee members who have served continuously on the Executive Committee since formation in December 1998. Carmel Krogh was elected as Deputy Chair for the next two years. Carmel is Director Shoalhaven Water and is also an inaugural member of the Executive Committee.

Newly elected members include Greg Finlayson, Riverina Water, David Steller, Armidale Dumaresq, Angus McLean, Eurobodalla and Greg McDonald, Wyong Shire. A full list of the 18 Executive Committee members is available at [www.waterdirectoratesn.au/members.html](http://www.waterdirectoratesn.au/members.html)

Meeting dates for 2011 are 18 May, 14 July, 8 September and 9-10 November. Members are welcome to forward issues for discussion at any of these meetings.

Gary Mitchell  
Executive Officer  
March 2011