

MARCH 2017

This newsletter is sent to General Managers and to Water and Sewer Managers in 89 regional Councils in NSW and also to over 140 contacts in government departments and private industry across Australia.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

WATER UTILITIES & STAFF RECOGNISED AT THE 2017

AWA NSW WATER AWARDS

In March, it was very pleasing to see local government water utilities and personnel feature prominently in four of the seven Australian Water Association NSW Branch Awards.



Congratulations to all seven award winners. In particular I mention the local government related awards below:

Water Professional of the Year – awarded to Carmel Krogh, Director, Shoalhaven Water (centre of photo)

**Student Water Prize
(formerly Undergraduate Water Prize)** – awarded to Kaitlyn Bell, Shoalhaven Water / University of Wollongong (third from right)

Infrastructure Innovation Award – awarded to *Yamba Sewerage Augmentation*, Clarence Valley Council, Public Works Advisory and DPI Water accepted by Greg Mashiah, Manager Water Cycle Clarence Valley Council (right)

NSW Kamal Fernando

Mentoring Award - Andrew Francis, Director Infrastructure, Parkes Shire Council (third from left)

Thanks to AWA for presenting these awards and promoting the outstanding work by individuals and organisations in the water industry and recognising innovation and excellence in the technology, business and delivery of water projects.

Along with the prestige of being recognised as 'the best in New South Wales', the winners of a number of these NSW Water Awards will automatically be entered into the equivalent Australian Water Awards category. The national awards will be presented this year at Ozwater'17 in Sydney on 16-18 May at the new International Convention Centre.

Some of the awards are for individuals and some are for joint efforts. However all of the award winners have in common an exemplary personal and professional contribution in their field and are held in high esteem for the mentoring roles they play to junior water industry. All of the award winners are recognised for their leadership and influence amongst colleagues and peers; raising the profile of careers in the water industry professionals; and for their contribution to water awareness in the community.

SHOALHAVEN WATER STAFF WINS WIOA NSW OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

In March, Shane Kimber, operator at Callala STP, was named the winner of this prestigious award and was presented with a set of trophies at the 11th WIOA Conference in Canberra. Congratulations to Shane who will join the WIOA tour group to attend the WIOG New Zealand conference.



Shane was nominated by his manager because of the pride he takes in his work, strong work ethic, knowledge, fastidiousness and mentoring ability. Commiserations to excellent finalists Paul Gregg from Cowra Shire Council and Daniel Ross from Central Coast Council. The Water Directorate is very pleased to have sponsored this award since it commenced 11 years ago to recognise the important work done by operators like Shane.

March was a very good month for Shoalhaven Water with two AWA awards and a WIOA award going to Carmel, Kaitlyn and Shane.

JOINT ORGANISATIONS UPDATE

The legislation for the creation of JOs was expected to be tabled during the February sitting of Parliament. As a result of the Ministerial reshuffle the legislation was delayed and it was then anticipated to be considered in late March. However the JO legislation did not make it to the March sitting of Parliament and the latest advice is that the JOs won't happen until after the September elections for the merged councils.

ICON WATER WINS THE BEST TASTING TAP WATER TEST

In March, the Ixom Water Taste Test for water providers in NSW & ACT took place at the WIOA NSW Conference & in Canberra. Congratulations to Icon Water, formerly Actew Water. Icon Water will now compete in the **Water of Origin competition** held at the WIOA Queensland Conference in Logan in June in the national competition to find Australia's Best Tasting Tap Water.

NOMINATIONS CLOSE 7 APRIL FOR THE 2017 WATER DIRECTORATE/AWA CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE AWARD

The winner will attend AWA's Ozwater'17 in Sydney from 16-18 May. The award comprises one registration to Ozwater'17 valued at \$1,845 courtesy of AWA as well as travel and accommodation expenses to \$2,000 excl. GST provided by the Water Directorate. This award aims to promote young water industry professionals with less than 7 year's work experience. Nominations from final year graduates who are working in the local government water industry are also welcome. To nominate go to [the website](#).

OZWATER'17, AUSTRALIA'S INTERNATIONAL WATER CONFERENCE AND TRADE EXHIBITION, SYDNEY, 16-18 MAY

Ozwater'17, Australia's international water conference and trade exhibition, is this year's must attend event for policy makers, councillors and other community reps. Returning to NSW for the first time in five years, Ozwater'17 will be held in Sydney, 16-18 May. For full details [see this website](#).

Ozwater brings together water professionals and those responsible for sustainable water management at a local, national and global level. Find out what are the issues facing communities in the future and what local Councils can do to address those issues. For information and to register, please contact the AWA events team [here](#).

WATER MARKET IN NSW

In late March the *Water Market in NSW* report was launched by the Minister for Primary Industries, Niall Blair. The report highlights the development of the water market since its inception and opportunities for both Government and the water industry to drive further growth. The report was produced by Aither and their presentation is available on the [DPI Water website here](#).

Aither was engaged to produce the *Water Entitlement Guidelines* for the Water Directorate which was distributed to member Councils in September 2016.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER NOTCHES UP 15 YEARS' VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Congratulations to Jeff Sharp, Director Infrastructure & Asset Management at Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

for his dedicated support of the Water Directorate. It was my pleasure to present Jeff with a 15-year medallion at the March Executive Committee meeting. Jeff's first attendance at a Water Directorate meeting was in March 2002.



Jeff is only the fifth Executive Committee member to achieve this great milestone and it will be almost a decade before any current Executive Committee member is eligible to receive this award should they continue to represent their group of Councils. Jeff very capably chaired the Executive Committee for the previous two year term and was re-elected unopposed in March for a second term. Thanks to Jeff and Port Macquarie-Hastings Council.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **IPWEA CivEnEx**, Civil works exhibition, Hawkesbury Showground, 17-18 May
- **LGNSW Water Management Conference**, Dubbo, 4-6 September

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The new Executive Committee's meeting dates for 2017 are:

- 11 May
- 13 July
- 14 September
- 8,9 November

Gary Mitchell
Executive Officer
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