

# WATER DIRECTORATE news

## MAY 2012

*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.*

### NEW MEMBER COUNCIL

It's always pleasing to announce a new member Council. In May MidCoast Water joined and raised our membership to 97 out of 102 potential members or 95%. All LWUs in the mid north coast regional group are now members and that also makes seven out of nine regional groups of Councils with full membership.

### WRAP UP FROM THE WATER DIRECTORATE FORUM AT THE IPWEA NSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Water Forum at the May IPWEA NSW conference featured five interesting presentations. Many thanks to the following five presenters and their Councils for their efforts and participation at relatively short notice: Andrew Murdoch from Wingecarribee Shire Council; Adam Wilson from Coffs Harbour Council; Roger Reynolds from Dubbo City Council; Bruce Logan from Tamworth Regional Council; and Stewart McLeod from Dubbo City Council.

If you didn't get the chance to go to the Water Directorate Forum then you can see the presentation papers on the Water Directorate website at [www.waterdirectorate.asn.au](http://www.waterdirectorate.asn.au) by going to News and to May 2012.

Thanks also to Forum attendees for your questions and comments. If you have some interesting project, topic or advice that you would like to share with your peers then please consider giving a 20 minute presentation at next year's conference.

### INNOVATION IN WATER SUPPLY AND WASTEWATER AWARD AT THE IPWEA NSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE

This award is the longest running of the four awards that the Water Directorate sponsors throughout the year and was first presented in 2000.

The 2012 *Innovation in Water Supply and Wastewater Award* was presented at the IPWEA NSW Engineering Excellence Awards to Eurobodalla Shire Council for the construction of the \$24

million Eurobodalla Northern Water Treatment Plant. Warren Sharpe from Eurobodalla Shire accepted this award on behalf of his Council and project partners, construction contractor - Water Infrastructure Group and project manager - NSW Public Works.

Water Infrastructure Group's 'Virtual Control Room' concept is ideally suited to regional facilities, providing substantial safety and productivity benefits for operators, as well as operational cost savings and flexibility. The operations team can monitor and control the facilities with Smartphones from literally anywhere in the world.

The 2012 Highly Commended *Innovation in Water Supply and Wastewater Award* was won by Cooma-Monaro Shire Council and accepted by Ross Lawley for their Water and Wastewater Strategic Planning Review. This report is a comprehensive review of the services and planning required for Cooma's community over the next 30 years.

Work undertaken for the towns of Cooma, Michelago, Nimmitabel and Bredbo includes a water security Safe Yield Analysis, Demand Management Plan, Drought Management Plan, Integrated Water Cycle Management Evaluation Study, Water Quality Management Plan, Business Continuity Plan, Strategic Business Plan, Development Servicing Plans and Enterprise Risk Assessment.

The Water Directorate strongly encourages all our members to nominate for the 2013 Excellence Awards which is a great opportunity to showcase your staff and projects. Nominations will open in November later this year.

Finally, congratulations to the IPWEA organisers and everyone involved in the hosting of this successful event.



Gary Mithcell congratulates the winners of the Water Directorate's Innovation in Water and Wastewater Award at the IPWEA Excellence Awards in Coffs Harbour.



Luke Drury, Wyong Shire Council, Conference Attendance Award Winner at OzWater'12 in May.

## WRAP UP FROM AWA OZWATER'12

Australia's most important annual event for the water industry organised by the water industry ran faultlessly as usual and as promised featured great speakers, papers and opportunities to network and socialise with industry leaders.

At the Gala Dinner the Joint Water Loss Management Program didn't pick up a national gong but it was pleasing to get recognition and be lined up against and compared with all the other state award winners.

Ozwater'13 will be held in Perth on 7 to 9 May 2013. The Call for Papers is now open for and submissions to present papers, workshops and posters are welcome. AWA invites you to submit an extended abstract that presents a challenging perspective on any of the identified themes for this conference. For further information, visit [www.ozwater.org/call-for-papers](http://www.ozwater.org/call-for-papers). Submissions close 30 August 2012.

As announced in the March newsletter, the AWA/Water Directorate Conference Attendance Award was won this year by Luke Drury, Team Leader at Wyong Shire Council, shown above at OzWater'12 in May.

This is the ninth year that the Executive Committee has offered this award and funding, to assist a worthy engineer with up to 7 year's experience from a member Council water business, to attend AWA's national water conference.

The Water Directorate provided up to \$1,600 towards the cost of Luke's travel and accommodation and AWA again generously donated a conference registration at the same value. Four nominees were judged on the benefits to themselves and their councils from attending this peak water conference. Luke's report on his attendance will be posted on our website for the benefit of future nominees. LWU managers should start to consider who they would like to nominate for next years' attendance award to go to Ozwater'13 in Perth on 7 to 9 May 2013. Unsuccessful nominees are also strongly encouraged to re-nominate for this award next year.

## AUSTRALIA'S DECADE-LONG DROUGHT ENDS

I'm sure that everyone knows from the amount of rainfall or from dam levels that the drought is over. According to a news item it is official that Australia's decade-long drought ended in the first week of May. The official end of the "Big Dry" came when meteorologists declared the country's two remaining drought-hit areas – Bundarra and Eurobodalla in New South Wales – free of drought. "We should expect droughts to become more severe and more frequent," says Bill Young, a leading hydrologist at CSIRO.

*Item courtesy of APESMA news email 4/5/12 & NewScientist magazine issue 2863.*

## PUBLIC WORKS LEADER OF THE YEAR

In the April newsletter I wrote a tribute on the resignation of Mike Rayner whose vision and drive conceived and helped to create the Water Directorate. It was very

fitting that Mike was presented with the IPWEA (NSW Division) Public Works Leader of the Year Award in May at Coffs Harbour.

This award acknowledges Mike's achievements in the NSW local government industry. Few people know that Mike has also made an outstanding contribution to NSW and even overseas.

In 2005 Mike co-proposed a state-wide water loss management program to measure/fix leaks using detection equipment. An award winning 5 year program resulted saving 5.5 GL of water yearly.

Earlier, in 2003 a chance meeting inspired Mike to initiate the Tweed/Kenya Mentoring Program within Tweed Shire Council which, through council and staff, has financed many improvements in water, sanitation, hygiene and education in and around Nairobi.

On behalf of the Executive Committee I thank Mike for his leadership and initiatives over the past 14 years and I thank Tweed Shire Council for its support.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The remaining 2012 meetings are 12 July, 13 September and 7, 8 November.

Gary Mitchell  
Executive Officer  
May 2012  
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Greg Moran, President of the IPWEA (NSW Division) with Mike Rayner, recipient of the Public Works Leader of the Year Award, and Stewart McLeod, Chair of the Water Directorate.