



MEDIA RELEASE

Water winners showcased

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Leaders in the local water industry were recognised at the ACT Water Awards, hosted by the Australian Water Association last night.

The Australian Water Association Awards recognise the vital work that organisations and individuals are doing to secure our water supplies for the future and ensure that water quality and sound environmental outcomes are maintained for the benefit of the whole community.

Australian Water Association CEO, Tom Mollenkopf, commended the nominees for this year's awards, stating that these awards were critical to encouraging and acknowledging water leadership.

"The individuals and organisations awarded last night demonstrate the innovation, courage, leadership and outstanding achievement that is needed to meet our nation's water needs in the decades to come. Australia has an outstanding reputation for its capability in sustainable water management and last night's winners are proof that this reputation is well deserved," said Mr. Mollenkopf.

National Water Commission Chief Executive, James Cameron, spoke at the Awards of the significant achievements, challenges and opportunities for the water sector in 2012 and reflected on some of the key issues that water professionals and water businesses will face in 2013.

All nominees were subject to a rigorous assessment process by a panel of experts before the final winners were decided. The ACT winners will now be considered for AWA's National Water Awards to be given at the Association's international conference, Ozwater'13, in Perth next May. A full list of winners can be found on the following page.

For more information visit www.awa.asn.au/awards

2012 ACT WATER AWARDS WINNERS

1. ACT Young Water Professional of the Year - Sponsored by PB Water

Anntonette Dailey

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Ms Dailey led the infrastructure reviews for the Taskforce assigned by the Commonwealth to respond to The Queensland Floods and Impacts from Tropical Cyclone Yasi. Ms Dailey was the focal technical point for the Commonwealth efforts and established a process of conducting value for money assessments of infrastructure and rehabilitation programs. Previously Ms Dailey was a Director in the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, leading a number of innovative water and energy efficiency demonstration projects.

Ms Dailey was a founding member of the AWA Young Water Professionals and an ACT Branch Representative for the Australian Water Association.

2. ACT Undergraduate Water Award - sponsored by ACTEW Water

Claudia Benham

Fenner School of Environment and Society, Australian National University

(The Social Network: collaborative water governance in the Upper Murrumbidgee catchment, South-Eastern Australia)

Collaboration between stakeholders is increasingly viewed as an integral component of Natural Resource Management (NRM). Advocates of collaborative approaches argue that they can foster the development of relational capital in stakeholder networks, facilitating the integrated and adaptive management of environmental systems. Collaboration is especially important for the integrated management of water catchments, which often span jurisdictional boundaries and are typically managed by multiple organisations. In Australia, the collaborative imperative looms large in the charters and activities of regional NRM bodies, whose staff are increasingly required to engage with communities, corporations and other government agencies. Yet despite the prevalence of collaborative approaches, and a large body of theoretical work espousing the benefits of stakeholder engagement, there is relatively little empirical research that evaluates the outcomes of collaborative NRM planning processes in the Australian context. In particular, little work has been done on the role of stakeholder engagement in facilitating ongoing relationships between organisations in Australian NRM governance networks.

This paper explores the development of relational capital in NRM governance networks through a qualitative evaluation of the Actions for Clean Water (ACWA) project.

3. ACT Postgraduate Water Award - sponsored by ACTEW Water

Walter Reinhardt

Fenner School of Environment and Society, Australian National University

(Trends in Residential Demand Management)

Conservation and efficiency in the residential sector is an ongoing concern to water and electricity utilities, governments and citizens. This study surveys existing literature on effectiveness of programs and measures for water and electricity demand management. A common measure, percentage change in household consumption, was used to infer trends in policy effectiveness. No statistically significant trends were found in either water or electricity across the forty seven scientific studies between 1977 and 2012. The policy and research implications are several fold: 1) demand hardening may still occur as constant efficiency gains are made, 2) potential conservation and efficiency gains are likely to remain at their current rate and 3) several promising research avenues have resulted from this early analysis.

4. ACT Infrastructure Project Innovation Award

Bulk Water Alliance (Murrumbidgee to Googong Water Transfer Project)

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The successful Murrumbidgee to Googong Water Transfer Project represents a significant milestone in providing water security to the growing population of Canberra and the surrounding region. The challenging regional project safely transfers water from the Murrumbidgee River to Burra Creek for storage downstream in Googong Dam for future use by Canberra and the region.

This project boasts a number of industry firsts including the design and development of the first fish egg filter of its type in Australia, the first use of 1 meter diameter DICL pipe for a water pipeline in Australia, and the implementation of Property Interaction Plans in consultation with impacted rural stakeholders to guide construction works.

ACTEW Corporation, in partnership with GHD, Abigroup and John Holland, successfully completed the construction works in September 2012 under budget and with a high degree of stakeholder satisfaction.

5. ACT Program Innovation Award

Bulk Water Alliance (Enlarged Cotter Dam Fish Management Program)

An enlarged Cotter Dam is being built downstream of the existing one to increase the Cotter Reservoir's capacity from the current 4 gigalitres (GL) to around 78 GL – almost 20 times its current size. ACTEW Corporation, in partnership with GHD, Abigroup and John Holland are undertaking a programme of work to secure water supply for the ACT and to address drought, climate change and variability.

As an integral portion of this programme the team has developed a comprehensive Fish Management Program to maintain bio-diversity within the Cotter Reservoir, particularly the endangered Macquarie Perch. This work includes building replacement fish habitats, measures to protect fish from disease and implementing long-term research projects to gain knowledge to help manage impacts of the new dam.

The Fish Management Program is the largest project to protect a natural eco-system in the ACT and represents a benchmark for co-operation between government agencies, research institutions, asset owners and construction organisations in the protection of the natural eco-system.

Notes to Editors

- The Australian Water Association (AWA) is Australia's leading water sector body, representing over 10,000 water professionals around the country and across all water disciplines.
- AWA provides leadership in the water sector on a wide range of issues, including skills shortages, climate change and water reuse and recycling.
- AWA works to enhance the skills and knowledge of water professionals and promote and disseminate best practice through an extensive range of technical seminars, courses and events.