

# AUSTRALIAN<sup>®</sup> WATER

ASSOCIATION

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Australian Water Association announces 2016 NSW Water Awards winners

Embargoed until 10pm, 11 March, 2016

Innovative excellence, creative solutions and exceptional leadership are the consistent themes across the distinguished recipients of the 2016 NSW Branch Water Awards presented last night.

Announced at the annual NSW Heads of Water gala dinner, the Australian Water Association NSW Branch Awards recognised the outstanding work of individuals and organisations in the water industry across innovation, new technology, business and delivery of water projects.

Along with the prestige of being recognised as ‘the best in New South Wales’ winners of a number of the NSW Water Awards will automatically be entered into the equivalent Australian Water Awards category, which are presented on 11 May at Ozwater’16 in Melbourne.

#### **Winner of Kamal Fernando Mentoring Award – Rita Henderson, UNSW**

Dr Rita Henderson leads the bioMASS lab, part of the UNESCO Centre for Membrane Science and Technology (UNSW), and is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Chemical Engineering. Rita undertook an MSc in Water Pollution Control Technology at Cranfield University, UK. She remained at Cranfield to undertake a PhD before joining UNSW.

Rita has directly mentored many young water professionals in New South Wales, including 7 PhD students, 23 honours students and 4 postdoctoral researchers.

Rita is based in Kensington, Sydney.

The Kamal Fernando Mentoring Award is a lasting legacy of Kamal Fernando, former Principal Engineer of Water Supply, NSW Water Solutions, NSW Public Works who sadly passed away suddenly and unexpectedly in August 2014. The award is intended to encourage and recognise excellence in mentoring in the water industry and is a fitting memory of Kamal’s tireless and generous efforts to share his knowledge for the benefit of his colleagues, the industry and the community.

#### **Other winners include:**

**Water Professional of the Year** – Dr Fang Chen, Data61

**Young Water Professional of the Year** - Kathryn Silvester, Sydney Water

**Program Innovation Project** – Lake Macquarie Sports Field Improvement Program, Lake Macquarie City Council

**Infrastructure Innovation Project** – Treating high sugar wastewater – BioGill Operations Pty Ltd

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**Research Innovation Project** – Advanced Condition Assessment and Pipe Failure Prediction Project, Sydney Water

**ENDS**

**Interviews and photos available.**

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**About the Australian Water Association**

AWA represents over 6,000 water sector professionals across all disciplines. Our membership includes water utilities, consulting firms, research institutions, service providers, technology companies and other stakeholders, including government agencies.

AWA is independent and plays an essential role in supporting the Australian water sector in the delivery of effective and sustainable water management practices. Our mission is to foster knowledge, understanding and advancement in sustainable water management – its science, practice and policy –through information dissemination, professional development and the promotion of water capabilities both domestically and internationally.

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