

AUSTRALIAN WATER

ASSOCIATION

MEDIA RELEASE

QLD Water Awards winners announced

11 September 2017

Australian Water Association Chief Executive Jonathan McKeown congratulated the winners of the 2017 QLD Water Awards at the annual Queensland Gala Dinner & Awards Night last Friday evening.

“The awards recognise the outstanding contribution of individuals and organisations in the water industry across innovation, research, infrastructure and delivery of water projects,” Mr McKeown said.

“This year saw a record number of award submissions across all categories from a range of water utilities, universities, research institutes and local councils. This is testament to the great work being carried out across all areas of the water sector in Queensland.

“As an industry we congratulate the dedication, passion and enthusiasm shown by our Queensland members who are genuinely making a difference to the sector and to our communities as a whole.”

The winners of the QLD Water Awards will automatically be entered into the equivalent National Australian Water Awards category, which will be presented at Ozwater’18 in Brisbane next year.

Winners:

Research Innovation Award

Purple Phototrophic Bacteria for Resource Recovery from Wastewater – The University of Queensland and CRC for Water Sensitive Cities

This project is developing a world-first technology for a next-generation resource recovery process which will be able to replace existing wastewater treatment technology in the not so distant future. This technology has the potential to recover vital fertiliser compounds, bioplastics and provide a sustainable animal feed source.

Program Innovation Award

Cyanotoxin Based Recreational Water Quality Management Program – Seqwater

Seqwater has better aligned recreational cyanobacterial water quality monitoring with the actual cyanotoxin public health risk to more accurately represent the risk posed to recreational users so that Seqwater recreational lakes can be utilised safely while still supporting both local economic prosperity and regional liveability.

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Infrastructure Project Innovation Award

Kingaroy Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade – Aquatec Maxcon Pty Ltd and South Burnett Regional Council

Aquatec Maxcon and South Burnett Regional Council successfully delivered Australia's first aerobic granular sludge, Nereda, wastewater plant at Kingaroy. The plant achieved exceptional effluent quality, significant reduction in both capital and operating expenses, resulting in project recognition by the Dutch Government which issued a postage stamp celebrating the relationship between Australia and The Netherlands.

Student Water Prize

Understanding the ecological basis for human health risks associated with drinking water drawn from a sub-tropical freshwater catchment – Adam Rose, CQUniversity

Following Adam's undergraduate degree in Environmental Science, he went on to complete his Honours project, and is currently in the final stages of his PhD. Adam's thesis involved undertaking research for Gladstone Regional Council's smaller water supplies. The aim of the study was to determine the ecological basis for human health risks associated with drawing drinking water from this catchment. Data and information obtained from Adam's doctorate has already been used to help design an appropriate drinking water treatment plant at Miriam Vale.

Young Water Professional of the Year Award

Katrin Doederer, Research Fellow, The University of Queensland

Katrin is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Advanced Water Management Centre at The University of Queensland with a close partnership with Seqwater. Katrin is an expert in water treatment technologies and has a passion for the socialisation of research outcomes and industry implementation strategies.

Water Professional of the Year Award

Colin Hester, Manager Commercial Water & Trade Waste, Queensland Urban Utilities

Col has thirty plus years' direct and indirect experience in the water industry. His career began as a Cadet Chemist in 1980 with Brisbane City Council's Department of Water Supply & Sewerage. Since 2004, Col has worked with Queensland Urban Utilities, previously Ipswich Water. Col's proudest achievement to date has been launching the formative water recycling scheme that led to the Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme, a \$2.5 billion scheme to recycle water from metropolitan sewage treatment plants in Ipswich and Brisbane.

Regional Service Award

Steve Tansley, Director, Tansley Consulting

Distinguished Service Award

John Betts, Principal, Betts Advisory

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Interviews and photos available.

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About the Australian Water Association

With a membership of over 5000 individual and corporate members, the Australian Water Association is Australia's biggest water network promoting sustainable water management and connecting members through three core principles of information, networking and recognition.

www.awa.asn.au