

AUSTRALIAN WATER

ASSOCIATION

Qld YWP Election Nominee Statements 2018

Qilin Wang

Griffith University

I got my PhD from AWMC UQ (Dean's Award), and am currently an ARC DECRA Fellow and Lecturer at Griffith University. I have worked in the wastewater and sludge treatment fields for 15 years. I was a project manager of an industry-related ARC linkage project, and presented project progress, wrote project reports and discussed project progress regularly with the industry people. I am currently a Chief Investigator of the Queensland Government Advance Queensland Innovation Partnerships with 5 industry partners. I am an IWA and AWA member, and also have been a committee member and volunteer of a few International Conferences such as the 9th IWA Symposium on Modelling and Integrated Assessment. In 2018, I was selected as one of 10 honourees in the MIT Technology Review Innovators Under 35 Asia (QLD Minister Leeanne Enoch sent me a formal congratulation letter). I was also an AWA QLD Young Water Professional Finalist in 2016 and 2017 and a 2018 International 'Water' Young Investigator Award Winner. The technology I have developed during my PhD (with my PhD supervisor) is being commercialized throughout the world and has attracted direct industry funding. I have delivered a few water courses to more than 300 QLD students. I have been involved in the IWA/AWA activities since 2012. My vision is to promote the water industry as a viable career option to graduates and young professionals, and to raise a greater awareness of water and achieve sustainable water management. To this end, I will be actively involved in various outreach activities to enable a wider community to be aware of water industry. I will also continue to deliver a few water courses to the Australian undergraduates and postgraduates to inspire a new generation. In addition, I will be actively engaged in the organization of the AWA YWP related conferences and activities to promote knowledge dissemination, collaboration and provide a platform for YWP and a wider community. Also, I was selected as a top 10 MIT Technology Review Innovator Under 35 Asia and will continue to promote innovation within the YWP.

Josh Elliott

Xylem Water Solutions

I am Regional Manager of Xylem Water Solutions - QLD / PNG. As a business Xylem hold a strong sense of corporate responsibility, centred around sustainability and ongoing water cycle management I am exposed to global initiatives regularly in my employment, that I can help to share information with and around the AWA Networks. With a background in risk mitigation and asset life costs supported by a keen interest in providing outstanding customer / stakeholder engagement within the water networks for the Northern Region of Australia I am eager to be involved in this industry group. I believe we have a responsibility to provide a stronger awareness and understanding of the finite resource we deal in, to future proof for the next generations - we are the current water stewards, which is a position we hold through

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Xuli Meng

University of Queensland

For industry, I had achieved an Infill development project in Norman Creek with Brisbane City Council and CRC for Water Sensitive Cities (CRCWSC), Supervisor: Professor Steven Kenway (University of Queensland) For academic, in my master study period, I had: • University of Queensland Employability Grant in Semester 2, 2017; • International River Foundation - Emerging Water Professionals Program (EWPP) in Semester 2, 2017; • Chair of Integrated River Basin Management conference of International River Symposium 2017; • Poster presentation on 2018 AWA/IWA Young Water Professionals Conference • Poster presentation on Water Sensitive Communities, WSUD 2018 & Hydropolis 2018 Conference

Jake Robson

WSP Australia Pty Ltd

I am currently working with WSP in the Water Utilities section with 3 years industry experience. I have been on the AWA young water professionals committee for the last 2 years and currently hold the secretary position. In recent years I have felt that the young professionals committee has been establishing a name for itself in industry and identifying how best to serve its cohort of members. I would like to be able to help continue this journey and continue to improve on the previous successes. I look forward to having the opportunity to extend my current term on the young professionals committee and continue to support the team and AWA to service its members.

Banah Al-Saket

Stantec

I have been working for Stantec (formerly known as MWH) for 3 years working in both water planning and treatment, in addition to 6 months work with CDM Smith in Germany. As an engineer who worked in the water sector in different countries/cities such as Germany, Dubai and Brisbane, and despite the differences between these countries/cities, I noticed that water is always viewed as a critical element for national social, economical and cultural development. While studying in Germany, I came across the European Youth Water Parliament which brings together- through the engagement of young professionals- the general community and the private and public sectors in order to ensure the sustainability of water. This is a common pillar with AWA. I envisage that the YWP will be working together to build a similar platform focusing on knowledge, innovative partnerships and creativity which I look forward to be part of.

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Diana Gonzalez Botero

International WaterCentre

I am a Project Officer at the International WaterCentre, working on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) projects, particularly focusing on M&E, applied research, and capacity development of water sector practitioners in Pacific island countries. I am an environmental scientist with a Master's in water security and international development, and have experience working in universities, NGOs, government and research organisations in 11 countries around the world. I currently sit on the IWA Australia committee as a YWP representative and was part of the organising committee for the 5th IWA/AWA YWP National Conference in Melbourne (2018). My vision for the AWA YWPs in Queensland is for us to be actively involved in the water sector by adding value and gaining influence as water professionals. To realise this, I would like to support the mentoring program, organise networking events and support the involvement and representation of YWPs in all AWA QLD branch events.

Nicholas Convery

SMEC

I've been on the YWP committee for the past 2 years and am hoping to serve another 2 years. I've been responsible for organising the YWP Discussion Panel and assisting with other YWP events. I am a water resources engineer at SMEC, having worked the past 7 years for a range of consultants. I believe that we have to maintain strong quality events in order to add value to our member experiences. I see this as the most important way to reach out to our YWPs and encourage their continued support of AWA.

Sandrika Ryan

Unitywater

I am a resourceful and confident Graduate Engineer currently working at Unitywater. Nominated as a participant in Waterlution's 2018 Innovation Lab, a global program for young water leaders and entrepreneurs, I am committed to sharing my experiences from these alike programs to develop future plans for a growing YWP network. Ultimately, my goal is to focus on expanding and diversifying the committee's outreach and to facilitate stronger partnerships with universities. With my interests in resource recovery, I would seek to facilitate more challenge-based events for young water professionals to tackle issues that address our future water security challenges and resource recovery opportunities. I am an active member in QLD Branch and YWP committee events, including participating in the Amazing Race, the QWater Hack challenge and volunteering at WaterAid events. Beyond this, I am actively involved in volunteer project work, currently serving the rural indigenous community of Mornington Island.

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Leila Macadam

Australian National University

For the past 7 years I've explored an eye-opening diversity of water sector contexts, from engineering consulting in QLD, to a statutory authority in regional VIC, to PhD research in Cambodia. My passions are flood management, surface and groundwater modelling, and the socio-economic drivers of water demand. Previously I led the SEQ Engineers Without Borders chapter and volunteered with GHD's Young Professionals, so I've got strong committee experience. Whether it's for climate change or the SDGs, we know the water sector needs to collaborate more, and better. I believe YWPs are the key. We can build a local culture of collaboration to address our sector challenges. The QLD committee's events showcase cross-cutting topics that provide a platform for sharing knowledge and building relationships across organisations and sectors. I've recently returned to Brisbane and so hope to contribute my perspective and creativity to continue expanding this success.

Jannah Baker

Queensland Urban Utilities

I truly believe in creating a world where the environment no longer needs protecting, where economic growth and environmental sustainability can flourish hand in hand. Innovation (doing things better) is at the forefront of making this happen and I'm ecstatic to be a part of it within the water industry! My career started in sugar, coal and environmental laboratories where I gained experience and knowledge within the science industry. While working within an environmental laboratory, I completed a Bachelor of Business majoring in economics and minoring in management and international business. I often have the urge to improve systems and processes and enjoy supporting the business and watching it grow successfully. Since completing my degree I have gained invaluable experience working for a reputable water utility such as Unitywater as the Business Development Project Officer in the Strategy, Innovation and Business Development team. I have recently joined Queensland Urban Utilities as the Innovation and Research Program Officer to pursue my passion of innovation and driving change. I would like to support the AWA YWP's to empower influential young water professionals. I believe AWA YWP's will enable innovations through connections and collaborations within the industry. I can't wait to start supporting the AWA YWP's and help support their vision for people and organisations working together to achieve a sustainable water future.

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Mike Meng

Advanced Water Management Centre (UQ)

I am a wastewater engineer currently in the final year of my chemical engineering PhD program at advanced water management centre in the University of Queensland. I have previously worked for wastewater consultancy and SA Water as assistant engineer. The work experience in conjunction with other university placement programs have allowed me to expose to the broader Australia water industry. I have been an AWA member for 6 years during which I got to attend various water conferences and technical seminars. In particular, I have been part of the YWP mentoring program this year and I have been enjoying the experience as a mentee and communicate with my mentor who possesses invaluable experience to share. I think that the Queensland YWP committee should be a good medium that bridges more young engineers/university students with the broader water industry. This is important because as a young engineer and a student, I am well aware of the importance and difficulty to make that first career step out. I am passionate about helping more young engineers like myself to make that critical professional step out and explore more potential in the YWP mentoring program. Therefore, I would like to nominate myself to take a role in the YWP mentoring program.

Charlene Wong

Engeny Water Management

Charlene is a water planning engineer at Engeny Water Management with three years of professional experience. Charlene has demonstrated a high interest in water supply planning and water quality optimisation for Queensland's bulk and reticulated water supply systems. Charlene has also been a committee member of Engineers Without Borders Australia (EWB) since 2013, currently as the President of the Queensland Region Chapter. Charlene is committed to creating social change through humanitarian engineering. Charlene is an active member of AWA, and is inspired by the passion and dedication demonstrated by the YWP committee members to broaden the learning and networking opportunities for the AWA members. If Charlene was elected as a committee member, she will be interested in working with other committee members to ensure smooth organisation of the existing events, as well as looking for opportunities to broaden the audience of these events through her existing networks (e.g. EWB).

Jessica Fraser

Stantec

I have worked in the water industry for 1.5 years as a Planning Engineer and for 2 years prior to this as an intern as I completed my degree. While studying engineering I was involved with Engineers Without Borders as a general committee member and while studying a Design degree prior to that I was on the Graduate Committee to organise a portfolio exhibition for the graduating class. Since graduating from engineering and entering the industry full time I have had the opportunity to attend many AWA YWP run events and am keen to become involved in the committee. In particular, events like the Amazing Race and the QWater Hack that I have participated in have been fun and interesting opportunities for networking and learning that I would like to become involved with and help to grow.

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Hayden Brigg

AECOM Australia Pty Ltd

I have been working in the water industry at AECOM for the past 4 years, primarily as a full time undergraduate whilst completing my BEng part time. Since completing my studies last year I have been striving to develop my technical skills in the water industry through networking and involvement in professional bodies such as the AWA. My main area of interest is hydrology and catchment management, but I am keen to broaden my fields of expertise through my AWA membership. Being based in Mackay, promotion of professional bodies is not as prominent and young professionals who don't seek the opportunities are not exposed to the potential development and networking events. I would like to use the opportunity if I were elected to the QLD YWP Committee to spread the word regionally and share these events with other young water professionals like myself.

Ella Hingston

Cardno

In 2012, I commenced my career in the water industry as a Cadet Engineer at Brisbane City Council, where I was involved in the management of water sensitive urban design assets. Since joining Cardno in 2014, I have become an Asset Management Engineer, and my water industry experience has expanded to include projects such as renewals planning and regulatory work across Australia. While at Cardno, I have demonstrated a commitment to developing both myself and others in the organisation. This is illustrated through my active membership in Cardno's Young Professionals Committee, and my roles as the Secretary of Cardno's Social Committee and our team's Quality Representative. By drawing on the event planning and continual improvement responsibilities entailed in the above roles, my vision for AWA YWPs is to:

- Increase awareness of the AWA brand
- Enhance soft and technical skill development pathways for young professionals
- Improve inter-company connections
