



NSW Legends of Water and Christmas Party

By Erin Cini

To celebrate the end of another interesting, action packed year for the NSW AWA Branch, we were all flies on the wall at the Grace Hotel, Sydney as 2010 Legend of Water Will Strachan was joined on the couch by our three 2011 Legends of Water; David Barnes, Carmel Krogh and Chris Davis.

David Barnes delighted the audience with stories of his early days in water, as a chemist and academic, through to his roles as an engineering consultant, including his current role at SKM. It seems David has done almost everything from being a university lecturer for many of those in the room, through to writing five year plans in three days and dining with the Premier of China. David also gave a thoughtful and open insight into some of the personal struggles he has faced.

Carmel Krogh, the first woman to graduate in engineering from the now University of Technology Sydney, and the only female trainee at the "Board" (Sydney Water) when she started, was positive about her long and varied career in the water and wastewater sector so far. Whether it was at the Board, responding to a burnt down treatment plant in Queensland, working on overseas development projects or in her current role as the Director of Shoalhaven Water, we all got the distinct feeling that Carmel has always been someone who achieves excellence.

Chris Davis seems even busier now that he has retired, Chris is a National Water Commissioner and Chair of the Urban Water Security Research Alliance, as well as President of Parkinson's NSW. Taking us back to the early days of his career in Johannesburg, Chris amused us with stories of taking sewerage measurements in-situ while wearing shorts, and he and his wife Pam's scientific process of elimination in deciding to select Australia as their future home – we speak English and the weather is good. It is clear the Australia water sector is all the better for this decision.

When asked by Will the tough questions of career highlights and messages for their colleagues in the water sector, the consistent theme was that of interesting projects, be they local government or international; and all of the wonderful people you get to meet and work with in water.

With much food for thought thanks to our legends of water, there was lots of noisy discussion over a buffet dinner. The AWA NSW Branch Christmas Party continued well into the evening, and when we eventually all headed home it was with Legend Carmel Krogh's last piece advice ringing in our ears "never leave the water industry".

The NSW AWA Branch Committee thanks all of our members for another great year in water. We look forward to seeing you at one of our events in 2012.

INSIDE

- pg2 Waterwise Region Leads the Way
- pg3 Editorial
- pg3 President's Bit
- pg4 Sydney WaterAid Ball 2011
- pg4 AWA Mentoring Catch-up
- pg5 Grab Sample with Gudny Palsdottir
- pg6 Social Media Seminar

Australian Water Association NSW Branch:
Level 6, 655 Pacific Highway
PO Box 222 St Leonards NSW 1590
Direct line: 02 9436 0055
www.awa.asn.au

Newsdrop contributions to:
Despina Hasapis
NSW Branch Manager
Tel: (02) 9467 8424
Email: dhasapis@awa.asn.au
or Editor - Karen Eaton
Tel: (02) 8925 8925
Email: karen.eaton@ugllimited.com



From Left to Right: Will Strachan, Chris Davis, Carmel Krogh & David Barnes

WATERWISE REGION LEADS THE WAY

The new \$80 million Westdale Wastewater Treatment Plant and Reuse Farm cements Tamworth as a NSW leader in water sustainability

An extract from Tamworth Regional Council's, National Water Week Publication

While Tamworth has become known as the 'The Waterwise Region' because of its water sustainability awareness, education programs and water management initiatives, Tamworth Regional Council Mayor Col Murray explains that the new plant on Wallamore Road and the New Winton farm puts the region in a class of its own. "We are setting a benchmark with this new facility, and it's something the entire community should be proud of" Mr Murray said.

The Westdale Wastewater Treatment Plant and Reuse Farm has doubled the capacity for treating industrial, commercial and residential wastewater in Tamworth. The plant currently treats 11 megalitres of wastewater daily –from Westdale, Coledale, Taminda, Tamworth, Calala, Oxley Vale and Nemingha.

The treatment plant covers a 180 hectare site on Wallamore Rd which was originally the Tamworth City Council's Westdale Sewerage Treatment Works, opened in 1974. Following the augmentation project, the site now includes a 230 megalitre maturation pond, four intermittent decant aeration lagoons and five sludge lagoons.



Main Inlet Works



Pivot Irrigator at use on the farm

The reuse farm on New Winton Rd covers 1,400 hectares and includes a 1,500 megalitre storage dam. There are also a number of sheds, a pumping station and irrigation systems, including 13 centre pivot irrigators, irrigating an area in excess of 600 hectares.

Tamworth Regional Council General Manager Paul Bennett said that it is the single biggest project ever undertaken by Tamworth Regional Council.

"It is a key piece of infrastructure for growth and development," he said "We expect it to enhance Tamworth's appeal for major industry trade waste users and particularly food processing industries. The city is unique in the existing number of large food processors operating here, but the hope is that the upgrade will be an added attraction for other similar businesses looking to relocate due to the system's capability to handle increased wastewater flows."

Tamworth Regional Council Water Enterprises Director, Bruce Logan said the Westdale Wastewater Treatment Plant and Reuse Farm gives the Tamworth region a range of environmental and economic benefits.

"It will stop the discharge of treated wastewater into the local river systems, except during exceptionally wet years, with all of it now to be used to irrigate the farm at New Winton to produce stock feed, creating an income for the Council and its ratepayers," he said.

"Most importantly, it has the capacity to handle projected population growth and its associated increase in wastewater for years to come."

Construction of the new Westdale plant started in February 2009. It was undertaken by the Westdale Alliance group, a joint partnership between Tamworth Regional Council, global design firm MWH and specialist design and construction company UGL Infrastructure. At the height of construction, up to 120 workers were on site.

A 7.5 kilometre pipeline which takes treated water from Westdale to the reuse farm at New Winton was completed early last year. The new plant and reuse farm was officially opened on October 27, 2011.

Editors Comments

Karen Eaton



Christmas is rapidly approaching so we bring you the final edition of NEWSdrop for 2011. I hope you are enjoying the festive season with family, friends and colleagues.

This edition's lead story summarises the NSW Legends of Water Christmas Party held on the 1st December at the Grace Hotel in Sydney. Hearing from our

'Legends' was very inspiring, and gave many of us new aspirations of what can be achieved within the water industry.

Erin Cini has kindly authored a story regarding the recent social media seminar held in October. Members were given a valuable education on the uses of social media both personally and professionally. You can connect with the AWA online following the links listed.

Included in this NEWSdrop is a story regarding the newly completed Tamworth Westdale Wastewater treatment plant and Reuse Farm, the largest project ever undertaken by Tamworth Regional Council. We also check in with developments within the Young Water Professional Mentoring Program.

I wish to thank everyone for their support of NEWSdrop this year, especially those who have assisted with stories, photos and collating. We hope it has represented relevant issues for the diverse NSW AWA community. We are always looking for more features, so please send submissions through to myself or Despina for inclusion in 2012! Thank you and have a very happy Christmas.

Presidents Bit - December 2011

Murray Thompson



It is hard to believe that another year has almost passed, Christmas is now upon us and 2012 is just around the corner.

The NSW Legends of Water Seminar & Christmas Party was held on 1st December 2011 at the Grace Hotel, with over 80 people attending to enjoy an interesting evening of discussions with our three legends; Dr David Barnes, Carmel Krogh

and Chris Davis. Will Strachan did an excellent job facilitating these discussions, which provided many interesting insights and perspectives of the careers and life experiences of our legends.

Thank you to the evenings sponsor Reed Group and also to Annalisa Contos, Erin Cini and Despina Hasapis for organising such a good event. Further details on the evening have been provided in this edition of NEWSdrop.

My first few months as President have passed very quickly and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the NSW Branch Committee members, Branch Manager and Past President for their ongoing support and assistance. Particularly, with my regional home location and also my recent four week holiday in Nepal, a number of people have been required to attend, organise and conduct events in my absence.

Having spent the last month in a country where you cannot simply drink the tap water or any other water source for that matter, and sanitation is about digging holes where ever you go!!! Such an experience really does focus your attention upon how fortunate we are in Australia to have safe drinking water and centralised sanitation systems. In contrast countries like Nepal the current major public health initiative is about getting people to wash their hands with soap after going to the toilet.

It was very good to see evidence of a number of WaterAid projects in Nepal and I would encourage members to continue supporting and sponsoring the efforts of WaterAid Australia in this regard www.wateraid.org/australia/

Nominations have now closed for the NSW Branch Awards, which include the Infrastructure Project Innovation Award, Program Innovation Award, Undergraduate Water Prize, Water Professional of the Year and Young Water Professional of the Year. The sponsors for these awards include; Sydney Water, UGL Infrastructure, Tyco Water, Reed Group and Leighton. The presentation of these awards will be made at the Awards Evening Event to be held in Sydney on Thursday 16th February 2012.

The NSW Branch and YWP's Committees are currently finalising the NSW 2012 Events Calendar, including the popular Seminar Series. Details of these events will be available shortly on the NSW Branch website

The major AWA event for 2012 will be OZWATER'12, in Sydney from Monday 7th May to Friday 11th May 2012 and registrations are now open.

Finally I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas/New Year and I'm looking forward to working with the Committee and our members during 2012 to provide an interesting and informative programme of events and activities.

AWA Mentoring Catch-up

By Sinduja Sritharan

On Wednesday 7 December, The AWA held its annual mentoring catch up for existing mentoring pairs. CH2M Hill sponsored the event which took place at The Menzies. The aim of the event was for pairs to participate in exercises on development goals as well as learn from other mentors and mentees. Chris Morris from CH2M Hill gave a presentation on the company as well as encouraging the mentoring relationship.

While enjoying delicious canapés and drinks, the mentoring pairs listened to a presentation by Tony Cartwright about the benefits and value of being a mentor. Tony has been a mentor for several years and was able to share his experiences and key learnings.

Steven Lin later presented about his experience as a mentee. Steven met his mentor at the AWA Mentoring Breakfast this year and has found it a rewarding experience to date. He spoke about the need for young professionals to have support in their career, and about the benefits he has achieved from his mentoring relationship.

An activity was held for the pairs to discuss their current goals and how to achieve, mark any progress and create new goals.

Everyone continued to network over drinks and more canapés and those who attended found it a valuable experience.

Big thanks to CH2M Hill for sponsoring the event and also to Despina Hasapis.



Sydney WaterAid Ball 2011

Sydney's first WaterAid Ball has raised over \$120,000, with funds going towards helping some of the world's poorest communities get access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene education – changing lives forever.

The event was held on 3 September at the Overseas Passenger Terminal at Circular Quay, Sydney and hosted by Peter Fitzsimons. This is the first time the event has been held in Sydney with similar events established in Adelaide and Melbourne.

Over 400 people attended the formal event, bringing together Australia's leading companies involved in the water industry for an evening to support WaterAid's initiatives with some of Australia's closest neighbours including East Timor and Papua New Guinea.

Gold sponsors of the evening included Interflow, Sydney Catchment Authority, Sydney Water, Veolia Water and Hunter Water.

WaterAid is a leading international development agency dedicated to this cause.

Net funds raised: \$120,000



Over 400 people attended the event, raising funds for WaterAid.



Left to right: Fiona Quigley (GHD), Adam Laidlaw (WaterAid), Fergus McCulloch (Transfield Services) and Kurt Dahl (Permeate Partners) presenting the Sydney WaterAid Ball cheque.

Grab Sample – Gudny Palsdottir



Gudny is the Wastewater Process Engineer, City Water Technology P/L with over 10 years' experience in water and wastewater and has focussed almost exclusively on the preparation of recycled water management plans for Queensland utilities in the last year. Before joining CWT, Gudny worked as a proposals and process engineer for Hydro International PLC in the UK where she was involved in both industrial and municipal treatment works – water and wastewater.

Most vivid childhood memory involving water?

On the ferry crossing Hvalfjord in Iceland.

What was your first job and how did you get it?

My first job was stocking the shelves at the first large supermarket in Iceland.

How did you end up involved in the water industry?

During my first year of Uni studying Environmental Engineering.

Favourite part of your job?

Analysing sewage treatment plant operational problems and implementing solutions.

Worst part of your job?

Leaving the Omega crossword incomplete after my lunch break on Mondays.

Most boring job you've ever had?

Summer job cleaning and packaging lobsters for export (from Iceland to the highest bidder...)

Most bizarre job you've ever had?

Another summer job as an assistant in the legal office at the US Naval Air Station in Keflavik, Iceland. The military world was so different from anything else I'd experienced it seemed surreal.

Pastimes / hobbies?

Sewing and knitting to name just a couple.

What's the riskiest thing you've ever done?

Rafting down the Rio Reventazon in Costa Rica and flipping the boat. I surfaced 15m below the rapids much to the delight of the guide.

What are you currently reading?

The Prophet by Kahil Gibran, and about to start Andre Agassi's autobiography *Open*

Favourite food?

Sushi, hrutspungar, and black pudding

Favourite book?

Perfume by Patrick Suskind

Favourite music?

Coldplay, U2, Duran Duran, Nirvana, Suede ...

Favourite film?

Pulp Fiction

What's your vision for the water industry in 10 years time?

Indirect reuse and increased demand for better effluent quality.

What are your views on indirect potable reuse?

It's a normal part of the water cycle.

What's your greatest asset?

My adaptability, tested over the years working in the USA, Germany, UK, and now in Australia.

What's your greatest liability?

I like to make sure my work is perfect the first time around, so I spend a lot of time researching and checking.

Best advice you've ever been given?

At the end of the day make sure you leave your projects ready for someone else to take over the next morning.

Who inspires you and why?

My father, he gets me to push my boundaries and be a better and kinder person every day.

If there were one thing you could achieve in your lifetime, what would it be?

World peace.

Name 3 people you'd like to be stranded with on a desert island?

Heston Blumenthal, Bear Grylls, and a kitchen gofer.

If you had a time machine and could choose a date to go back to/forward to, what year would you pick and why?

My second birthday to get a chance to get to know my mum.

What is one thing that not many people would know about you?

I have 4 kids.

Interview compiled by Leonie Huxedurp

Social Media Seminar

By Erin Cini

Are you confused by all the talk of tweets, friends, wikis and connections by your colleagues, friends and children using social media and social networks? We were too, so the NSW AWA Branch organised a Social Media Seminar in October to provide an introduction to social media to our members.

Bianca Wirth, from Wirth Consulting facilitated the seminar, and was able to translate the jargon of social media into something we could all understand. Bianca took us through the way social media is used, from sharing of information, to creating networks, reaching new audiences and improving public relations.

Social media tools, including websites, blogs, microblogging, social bookmarking, social news, multimedia sharing, brand monitoring, social network aggregators and review sites, were introduced. We then focused on three popular social media sites – Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.

The seminar was informative and easy to understand for even the most technically challenged of us! Throughout the evening everyone was keenly taking notes and asking questions. Many were inspired to consider the opportunities for social media in their professional and personal lives, and much of the discussion over the AECOM sponsored drinks and canapés was about our own plans for taking advantage of social media.

The NSW Branch Committee would like to thank AECOM for hosting and sponsoring this event.

The Australian Water Association is online!

