

Heads of Water acknowledged

AWA NSW Heads of Water Gala Dinner

Written by Matt Renshaw

'Oh what a night!' A sentiment sung anon at an AWA NSW Heads of Water karaoke after-party.

This year's Heads of Water Gala Dinner, hosted by the AWA NSW Branch and event partner TYCO Water, was held at the Dockside Cockle Bay Wharf on Friday 6 August.

The event has been running for over five years with nearly 500 professionals attending this year.

It was the largest attendance to date and provided a wonderful opportunity to network with water industry colleagues from the private sector and local, state and federal governments.

The program for the night was both entertaining and informative.

As the master of ceremonies, Tommy Dean provided a series of highly entertaining AWA (pronounced A-Waah!!!) introductions and thank yous, and reminded us of some of the peculiarities of Australian Sport and his love of everything Australian.

David Brady, Marketing Manager for Tyco Water welcomed attendees and spoke of the trusted and integral nature in which Tyco Water has contributed to the water industry over the last 50 years.

The Honourable Phillip Costa, Minister for Water and Minister for Corrective Services spoke of the NSW Government's recent achievements in water and its vision for the future of water in NSW.

Jason Hyland, Deputy Chief of Mission, US Embassy Canberra spoke of the USA and Australian joint interests in water and encouraged us to share our research and development with our US colleagues.

The branch awarded its highest honour, the 2010 Roger Pettit award, to Tony Cartwright of Sydney Water for his enormous contribution and undeniable passion for the water industry.

Tony has served on the NSW AWA branch committee for over 10 years and works closely with the NSW Young Water Professionals committee providing invaluable advice, support and guidance.

A further select few including Erin Cini, Andrew Kasmarik, Grant Leslie and Ken Matthews were honoured as inaugural recipients of the Five 5's 'Golden Shovel' award.

The raffle was a huge success with over \$5,000 being raised. In recognition of the AWA NSW's charity of choice, all proceeds from the evening's raffle have been donated to WaterAid.

A special thank you must be given to all who donated to the raffle through the purchasing of tickets and to all who donated the fantastic prizes on offer.

Your generosity will help WaterAid in their mission to provide access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene education to the world's poorest people.

A further thank you must go to Aquatec Maxcon for sponsoring the attendance of six AWA NSW Young Water Professionals who



thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to mix with their industry mentors and colleagues.

We look forward to next year's Heads of Water Gala Dinner.

[More photos on page 8 from the evening.](#)

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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/branches/nsw

Newsdrop contributions to:

Despina Hasapis
NSW Branch Manager
Tel: (02) 9467 8424
Email: dhasapis@awa.asn.au
or Jo McNarn
Tel: (02) 9365 9509
Email: jo.mcnarn@sydneywater.com.au

Editor's Note



Jo McNarn

My name is Jo McNarn. Along with Rachel Wisniewski-Jakuba, and under the guidance of Despina, I have happily agreed to hold the reins of Editor of Newsdrop in Sharmila's absence.

I'm sure you will join me in congratulating Sharmila and her husband on the safe arrival of their twin girls.

We will definitely bring you more details in the next edition of Newsdrop.

Rachel Wisniewski-Jakuba, PhD is Project Manager of the award-winning OurRiver – Cooks River Sustainability Initiative, which is a partnership

between eight councils and Monash University funded by the NSW Environmental Trust.

Rachel has been a member of the AWA and the YWP Committee since

moving to Australia in late 2009 and is the current YWP Publications Representative.

Rachel's focus is on water management and how our actions affect the local environment.

I am an engineer going into my third year with Sydney Water, and in the water industry.

I joined the AWA and the YWP when I started with Sydney Water and recently joined the executive of the YWP as one of the Event Co-ordinators.

I have a strong passion for the water industry and the environment.

I look forward to a fulfilling career in this industry, in this exciting time of progress and change.

Both Rachel and I look forward to bringing you the latest and brightest water industry news over the next 12 months and trust you will enjoy this edition of NEWSdrop.



Rachel Wisniewski-Jakuba

President's Bit



Cheryl Maxwell

Since I last wrote there have been two fantastic events held. The first was the free night of presentations of State AWA Award winners held in late July at the Zenith Centre at Chatswood. Katherine Marshall, one of the AWA Vice Presidents, did a great job as the MC for the evening.

I had lots of feedback that it was a wonderful night. For all those who missed it I can definitely recommend it as a must see next year.

Heads of Water 2010 has just been held. Despina managed to surpass herself and we had over 490 attendees.

That's the most we have ever had at Dockside and I think we have nearly outgrown the place. The room, however, looked wonderful with the blue theme carrying through where even the Tyco brushes matched. Thanks TYCO!

Tyco have been the sponsor of this event for at least the last five years. I want to thank them again for their support and mention David Brady in particular. You and Tyco have been fantastic to us David. This has been a very happy partnership and we know that we can count on you for other events in the future.

A new event partner is being sourced and anyone interested is welcome to contact Despina.

We managed to raise just over \$5000 for Wateraid from the raffle. Thanks to everyone who bought tickets, the money will be well spent on much needed water projects in third world countries.

Once again Minister Costa attended the evening. He has been a great supporter of us since coming to office and we thank him.

His love for his portfolio is obvious to see. Also enjoyed his unique use of his Tyco brush -who knew-and I thought it was a shoe brush!

How wonderful and funny was Tommy Dean. When you pick these people you never know how they are going to turn out but I think he has been the best I have seen in recent years. He was still at Dockside after 11.30 pm. He told me it's the most fun he has had in ages. Left with three Tyco brushes for his three children!

On a final note on 'Heads', special mention must go to Despina who not only organises everything within an inch of its life but when the photographer did not turn up, she rang her sister and had her attend to take photos for us.

Thanks to the Hasapis family for your dedication and service to the AWA!!

Can I recommend our next major event to you all?

It's the inaugural National Operations Conference to be held at Sydney Olympic Park in September.

The AWA Operations Specialist Network has put together an interesting and informative program for the event.

A full conference program and all the conference details are available on the website <http://www.awa.asn.au>.

This is a National event, so our state is on show. Hope to see lots of you there at our next function.

NSW Awards takes on great new format

AWA Award Night Presentations

Written by Tim Summers

Following the NSW AWA Branch awards presented May 2010, the Branch decided it would be of benefit to local members to be able to learn firsthand more about the award winning projects.

In a first for the Branch, a free seminar was organised where award winners were invited to present.

Local members, speakers and colleagues gathered in Chatswood on 21 July to hear the award winning stories firsthand.

Our master of ceremonies for the evening was Katherine Marshall who was ably assisted by Paul Freeman and Grant Leslie as our roving microphone attendants.

The first presentation for the winner of the NSW Program Innovation Award (WEMA) was given by Tony Paull on the Tallow Dam Environmental Flows & Fish Passage Project. Tony is the Sydney Catchment Authority's Senior Project Manager, Environmental Flows.

Tony described the unique solution to the problem of fish passage up stream of a major dam.

The project team overcame significant difficulties to deliver the project while solving a number of other problems with the dam spillway.

The second presentation was for the Winner of the NSW Water Research Merit Award, the

Strategic Approach to Carbon Mitigation – Sydney Water's Cost of Carbon Abatement Tool. This was presented by Matt Ferguson and Jessica Sullivan from Sydney Water.

The project addressed the specific goal of reducing Sydney Water's total carbon footprint in line with their stated sustainability goals.

The tool allows for direct comparison of options in scheme appraisal.

Other authorities are using the tool with great success and the team

would like to further develop its capability.

The next presentation was from a Finalist of the NSW Water Research Merit Award, the use of Bayesian Modelling for Risk Assessment of Indirect Potable Use, presented by Danielle Baker of ALS Environmental.

Bayesian modelling is a relatively new technique for assessing options in a project and not often used in the water industry.

Danielle's presentation provided an overview of the technique and how it was used successfully on the Indirect Potable Reuse project.

It was clear that the technique could find more widespread use in the water sector, especially given the software readily available in the market.

The final presentation was for a finalist of the NSW Infrastructure Project Innovation Award, the Grafton Maclean Lawrence Townsend Ilarwill Sewerage Projects, presented by Geoff Gorton of NSW Public Works.

Geoff provided a comprehensive overview of the programme of works undertaken and the way in which all parties to the contract shared risk.

The benefits of this long term partnering approach have been better placement of risk across the project and added value to the project.

During the construction phase, there was major flooding at one site delaying construction work several months.

The partnership provided a mechanism to minimise disruption to the scheme as a whole, as the contractor was able to re-programme works across other sites.

Presentations were followed by questions from the audience to all the speakers and by food and drinks in the foyer. Many attendees enjoyed healthy discussion on the topics presented well into the evening.

This was an event that all those attending enjoyed. It provided insight to some of the interesting work that has been developed in the sector and also a forum for networking and debate.



5th IYWP Conference

Written by Jack O'Gorman

The IWA recently held the 5th International Young Water Professionals Conference, hosted at the UNSW, which was by all accounts a great success!

The conference is a forum for young professionals and researchers from all around the world to network and share knowledge on a broad range of water and wastewater topics.

The conference sessions were comprehensive, informative and thought provoking. Technical presentations covered topics from climate change, water resources and water reuse, through to quality, treatment and socio-economics.

Of particular value was the Professional Development Day, which included an Australian project showcase, a careers panel and a "Future Water Leaders World Café". This World Café allowed delegates to share their perspectives areas for action by young water professionals to contribute to a sustainable water future. With water-passionate peers present from over 20 countries, this was an enlightening experience! Brainstorming with both engineers and non-engineers from all over the world was a great opportunity to see how varied the perspectives are on these truly global issues.

The key areas were compiled into a concise and visually impressive giant wall poster, which will be presented at the IWA World Water Congress in Montreal, September 2010.

The conference was interspersed with a variety of formal and informal networking and social events, such as the NSW YWP organised event sponsored by Andrew Kable from H2O Talent and the NSW Branch Committee. Held at the Cruise Bar at Circular Quay, the relaxed atmosphere and beautiful location treated the international delegates



to an authentic Sydney experience.

The conference concluded with technical tours on either water treatment or desalination (Prospect Water Filtration Plant and Kurnell Desalination Plant) or a focus on wastewater recycling and reuse (Rouse Hill and St Marys Recycled Water Plants). These showcased how Sydney Water is addressing the issues of alternate water supply and water reuse, both of which were key conference topics.

In summary, this conference was a great opportunity to gain a broader insight into the many challenges faced by the global water industry, as well as the current and future efforts underway to tackle these issues in a more sustainable manner.

The next Young Water Professionals Workshop will be held at the World Water Conference 2010 in Montreal, Canada, September 19-24, 2010.

YWP Mentoring Breakfasts

Written by Sally Rewell

During early July, the NSW Young Water Professionals (YWP) Committee hosted a Mentoring Breakfast at the Mercure Hotel.

Mentors and mentees had been matched and most were meeting for the first time. Whilst enjoying a cooked breakfast they had the opportunity to meet with other water professionals from different companies.

Nick Freedman, a professional coaching mentor, facilitated the session. The focus was on communication skills. Nick's interactive workshop gave both mentors and mentees tips and ideas on how to build mentoring relationships, set achievable goals, and get the best outcomes from the relationship.

This year's mentoring breakfast was even more successful than last year's, with

mentoring pairs finding great value in both the opportunity to learn from Nick and to have a chance to learn about one another.

The NSW YWP Mentoring Program gives an opportunity for professionals in the water industry with more than five to ten years experience to share their learning experiences and career advice with young professionals starting their career.

The model of the NSW YWP Mentoring Program is now being trialled in other AWA branches.

A special thanks goes to Despina Hasapis the AWA NSW Branch Manager, Jaques Ostrowski the NSW YWP Chair, and Chitwandeep Jawanda NSW YWP Event Coordinator for such a well organised and successful event.

Thanks also to the NSW YWP volunteers for their help.



Grab Sample



Kate Miles,
Senior Engineer, AECOM (Sydney)

Most vivid childhood memory involving water?

Spending summers swimming below the waterfall on my grandparent's property

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

My first job was helping my dad and grandfather muster cattle on

horseback every school holidays. You can't be lazy growing up on a property - everyone is put to work!

How did you end up involved in the water industry?

Serendipitously - I was working in project management at NSW Public Works when I was introduced to a senior manager in the water group. I applied for a vacant position, and while I missed out on that position, I was hired anyway. Now I could not imagine doing anything else.

Favourite part of your job?

Working with and meeting so many other passionate people who also want to play a role in the future of water in Australia.

Worst part of your job?

Not having enough time to be involved in everything I want to be involved in. Oh, and meetings!

Most boring job you've ever had?

While I generally enjoyed my school/uni job as a sales assistant in a clothes store, on those days when I was working alone and there was no one out shopping, it could get mind numbingly boring. Clothes on racks can only get so tidy...

Most bizarre job you've ever had?

I did my Year 10 work experience with the Biology department at Newcastle University. I assisted on a project looking for a humane, medical way of reversing the possum plague that was then taking over New Zealand. I had to centrifuge a lot of possum blood to take plasma samples.

Pastimes / hobbies?

There are so many! At the moment I am training for the Oxfam Trailwalker, so going on long hikes is one. I also love scuba diving, running, boxing, cycling, live music, movies, travelling and spending time with friends at the pub.

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

Scuba diving on antibiotics - absolutely not advisable!

Your ideal weekend consists of ...?

Going to the gym for a couple of hours on a Saturday morning, then catching up with friends over brunch, before heading to a gig on Saturday night. On Sunday I would wake up late and meet friends at the pub for a lazy Sunday late lunch.

What are you currently reading?

The Almost Moon by Alice Sebold, who also wrote The Lovely Bones

Favourite food?

It is a toss up between spaghetti bolognese and sushi

Favourite book?

In The Skin of a Lion by Michael Ondaatje

Favourite music?

My favourite artist is Jeff Buckley, but generally love any grunge/rock borne out of the 90s - Soundgarden, Radiohead, Muse, Snow Patrol, The Tea Party, Nine Inch Nails, Tool, Faith No More, Ash, Garbage, No Doubt, You Am I, Something For Kate... I could keep going.

Favourite film?

This is a tough one. It is probably a tie between Reservoir Dogs, Shaun of the Dead and The Usual Suspects

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

That it will be an industry governed by efficient and progressive policy and regulation, with our resources managed sustainably and decisions made based on informed analysis and not politics, assumptions or "palatability".

How much value does community participation add to our industry?

The community is impacted by all what we do, so it is imperative that their interests are at the core of all major decision points. I think engineers, scientists and politicians often underestimate the community and the significance of popular public opinion, and as such we often hold their views in contempt. In fact, it is our responsibility to ensure the community is well informed in the first place.

What are your views on indirect potable reuse?

IPR is already being done in an informal manner in many communities across Australia. I think that with the right education, the public is ready for it and may be implemented successfully. However, I think Toowoomba taught us a valuable lesson in the need to develop improved engagement and education with the community on the topic.

What are your views on desalination?

Desalination of sea water is a valid component of the solution mix for coastal communities. However, desalination plants should not be constructed at the expense of more financially, socially and environmentally sound solutions simply because a precedent has been set.

What's your greatest asset?

My adaptability, willingness to take on a challenge and constant desire for learning

What's your greatest liability?

My need to multitask - I have gradually begun to realize that multitasking is definitely not necessarily the most efficient means of getting jobs done!

Best advice you've ever been given?

If you're eager and not afraid to take on new opportunities, people will always want to work with you. This is also the same advice I give new graduates. - Continued on following page...

Grab Sample (continued)

Who inspires you and why?

Mostly people that I work with and meet every day. I'm inspired by people who are passionate, driven and successful at what they do and strive to challenge themselves both mentally and physically.

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

To cross every country I want to experience off my "places to see" list. I'm making terribly slow progress at the moment.

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

Jeff Martin (to provide the acoustic 12 string guitar soundtrack), Neil Perry (to prepare our exotic seafood meals) and Jack from Lost (as the resident doctor and also because he has prior experience in getting off

deserted islands).

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

I'd go forward about 200 years into the future to find out whether we ever do take climate change seriously. I'd also go forward in time to check out all the cool tech we would be using. How will we be travelling, communicating, living? Will we have solved all the mysteries of the universe? Is string theory the solution to it all?!

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

That I LOVE to play Guitar Hero!

Interview compiled by Leonie Huxedurp

AWA NSW Branch Upcoming Events

Mon 13 – Wed 15 September	National Water Operations Conference/ Exhibition
Wed 29 September	NSW YWP Water Seminar Series – Climate Change Adaptation
Wed 27 October	NSW YWP Water Seminar Series – Water & Society
Sun 7 – Tue 9 November	NSW Regional & Source Management Conference - Bathurst
Fri 19 November	YWP Site Tour - Woronora Plant
Thur 25 November	Legends of Water Seminar & Christmas Party

What Water Means to You Art Competition

Thank you to all those who participated in the recent NSW AWA Branch Art Competition. Well done to all entrants – the judges were impressed with the creative ways people expressed the significance of water to them.

Congratulations to Andrew Phillips who submitted the winning entry 'Float Your Boat.' 'Float your boat' was drawn in coloured pencil on paper. Andrew's aim was to capture the delicate sunrise reflecting off the bow of the boat and the water.

Water is something that has fascinated Andrew since childhood, "When I was a young boy, I took great delight in throwing cupfuls of water into the air so I could watch it form 'sheets'.

I loved riding water slides in summer and running from crashing waves at the beach."

Andrew has worked in the water industry for 30 years and is currently a System Operations Officer for Sydney Water. Andrew is located in Technical Services at Prospect where he works on technical projects aimed at improving drinking water quality.

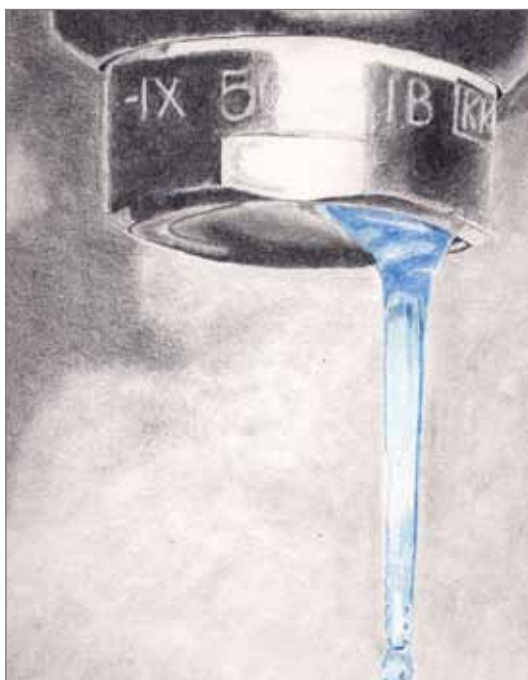
As a scientist, Andrew may now think of water on a more technical level, "For me, water is molecular weights, surface tension, chlorine to ammonia ratios, and a wonderful breeding ground for microbes."

However, Andrew continues to appreciate the beauty of water, "When I saw a reference photo of a rowboat at sunrise I couldn't resist drawing it. I was new to colour pencils and thought it might make a challenging drawing."

As winner, Andrew received two tickets to the Heads of Water Gala Dinner at Dockside Darling Harbour.

We would also like to thank the preschool children from ABC Warringah Mall Child Care Centre who entered two great pieces of artwork for the competition.

It is great to see some creative input from our very young water professionals.



Heads of Water Gala Dinner 2010

