

» ozwater'19 conference award report



Attending Ozwater'19 in Melbourne was an invaluable professional development opportunity. The three day conference, the Young Water Professionals workshop and the gala dinner was an amazing experience which allowed me to meet other water industry professionals and attend presentations on innovative solutions and new technologies available to the water industry.

The Young Water Professionals Program on day one was a fantastic way to commence the week and provided me the opportunity to meet so many other likeminded young water professionals. I was fortunate to meet international YWP delegates who offered valuable insights into the challenges the water industry faces in their home countries.

The workshop on unconscious bias was a highlight. Discussions on inclusion, layers of diversity and types of bias continued well into the spectacular welcome reception and networking event that night.

One of my main objectives from attending Ozwater'19 was to gain insight into the broader issues faced by the water industry that that I am not exposed to in my daily role.

The theme of Ozwater19, **Transforming Our World** and focus on the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals, taught me that this 'broader issue' is very applicable to my role at Ballina Shire Council. The presentations each morning by keynote speakers highlighted many inspiring initiatives each presenter is taking to contribute to achieving the UN's SDGs. The presentations were delivered in exciting and innovative ways in particular the hologram presentation from Professor Jeffery Sacs.

Going into Ozwater'19, I was eager to increase my knowledge of technologies and solutions available to improve network and asset management, water loss and trade waste management. The Trade Exhibition contained an overwhelming amount of information and displays of current technologies available to the water industry. I attended technical presentations on asset management, pipeline leakage and smart metering.

I particularly enjoyed the data and smart metering presentations and learning how other water utilities are using smart metering technology and sensors in their networks to monitor flow, pressure and acoustics to capture data to pinpoint leaks. It was interesting to hear of the strategies and programs other water authorities have implemented to increase engagement and to provide value to their customers to reduce levels of non-revenue water. The ideas and information contained within these case studies will assist with Ballina Shire Council's Water Loss Management Program.

I am very grateful to the Water Directorate and Australian Water Association for awarding me the Ozwater'19 Attendance Award. I thoroughly encourage any young water professional to apply for the opportunity to attend Ozwater as it is a fantastic experience.



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