

## Ozwater 12 Attendance Award

I was fortunate enough to receive the 2012 Ozwater attendance award and travelled to Sydney for the full three day program including the Young Professionals Breakfast and Gala Dinner. In addition to the conference paper presentations, the trade exhibitor's hall contained a wealth of information and displayed various current technologies applicable to the water and sewerage fields.

Through various conversations with suppliers, and being able to see various technologies up close, I have been able to bring back many different ideas that will improve the design and delivery of upcoming capital works projects currently planned for Wyong. Some of these include Swagelining™ technology, pipeline spacers, aeration equipment, new pipe fittings and ventilation equipment. What better way is there to enable thousands of people to be exposed to hundreds of different products and services all in the one place?

A panel discussion led by various utility executives around the topic of "Managing the Perfect Storm: Rising costs, expanding infrastructure, but no price rises please" was one of the high lights of the program and shed light on issues affecting the majority of water and sewerage utilities and how they are responding. The ninety minute discussion painted the picture of the impacts of reduced water sales and rising costs and reinforced the need for robust business cases and options analysis to backup any capital works program. The discussion also drove home the need to avoid 'gold plating' and ensuring that each utility is providing a level of service that its customers are willing to pay for.

There were various papers presented on asset management topics including the management of odour and corrosion in sewers. Our team will look to make use of the work completed as part of the 'SCORE' project to bring a more holistic approach to managing odour and corrosion within our sewerage system. A presentation on Sydney Water's leak tight sewer program, which involves the use of welded poly pipe for gravity reticulation and a reduction of traditional concrete manholes, provided an insight into future techniques to minimise inflow and infiltration for new subdivisions. The follow-up results of wet weather flow gauging of these new sewers will be of high interest to our team.

The Young Professionals Breakfast presented a great networking opportunity with other people at similar stages in their career. The presentation by Sydney Water Managing Director Kevin Young showed what is possible for somebody willing to step outside their comfort zone, show initiative and fully apply themselves when opportunities are presented. He also highlighted the career potential of giving somebody a lift to the airport...

I would like to thank the Water Directorate and AWA for sponsoring this award and providing young professionals with the opportunity to attend a high quality conference event. I would encourage other young professionals to apply for this award in the future and recommend for employers to assist staff to attend future Ozwater functions as they provide a wealth of knowledge and an excellent networking opportunity.