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MEDIA RELEASE

LGMA National announces winners of the inaugural LGMA Federation Awards

The inaugural National LGMA Federation Awards were held at the 2015 LGMA National Congress & Business Expo Gala Dinner in Darwin recently. LGMA is local government's peak association, working on behalf of local government employees for more than 78 years to promote professional development, local government best practice, and partnership opportunities for Australian Councils.

Winners in each category are as follows:

Emerging Leader of the Year Award

Winner:

- Ben Ellison-Kubecka is the coordinator of Leisure & Aquatics at Bankstown City Council (NSW), where he has been for 4 years. He challenges the status-quo to look at new ways of improving the service and has shifted the direction of the recruitment process to a focus on attitude and leadership.

Criteria:

- Nominations for this category recognise the outstanding achievements of an emerging leader to the local government sector. People being nominated must be 35 years or younger and working in local government. This Emerging Leader of the Year Award is established to recognise leadership and management excellence as demonstrated by an emerging local government employee who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to their community and whose performance is worthy of special recognition. This award recognises leadership as evidenced by way of corporate process improvements, a particular project initiative, and innovation in management and leadership practices or demonstrated practicality and resourcefulness.

Nominees:

- Adama Kamara is the Community Projects Officer at Auburn City Council (NSW). She has 4 years and 10 months work experience at Council. Over the last 4 years she has developed Council's Community Grants Program, and has turned it into a best practice model.

- Amanda Tingay has nearly 4 years work experience at council, and she is currently the Manager Neighbourhoods of Greater Shepparton City Council (VIC). She works with the community to build their capacity by providing them with the tools and mechanisms that they need to facilitate positive change.
- Alexander Poulton is the Manager Business Services and Sustainability at the City of Whyalla (SA). He uses his resourcefulness and networking to arrange training, skill improvement and a job swap system at sites within South Australia, and has organised innovative events to facilitate the engagement of both locals and tourists and get them to experience the range of things Whyalla has to do.
- Jamie Goodwin is the Technical Support Supervisor at Devonport City Council (TAS), and he has 6 years and 4 months council experience. He manages the large and small construction projects from inception through design and documentation to construction and capitalisation, and in the process, welcomes and acknowledges employees' contributions to the organisation's success to enhance internal communication and team-work.

Innovative Management Initiative

Winner:

- City of Burnside, SA (metro nominee), created a succession plan for the CEO, that allowed all three General Managers to be "chair-ready". Each of the GMs undertook a rotation of roles in Community and Development Services, Corporate Services and Urban Services during 2014, which provided them with in-depth experience in the activities, processes, and programs of the whole of administration of the council, and resulted in better relationships and a more integrated decision making executive across the three divisions.

Criteria:

- Nominations for this category will recognise initiatives that demonstrate new ways of leading, facilitating, administering, controlling or ensuring a particular outcome is achieved and positive changes to the leadership and management of councils, processes, practices or projects are made. This award specifically recognises the use of superior management and leadership skills to achieve outstanding benefits for the council and/or for the community. The award identifies specific projects or initiatives that demonstrate innovative features and acknowledge those projects where excellence has been achieved.

Nominees

- Broken Hill City Council, NSW, created a sustainable change for Broken Hill. Council had a long history of delaying difficult decisions but has now made some difficult decisions and all staff participated enthusiastically in this cleansing process. In only one year, this process of co-operation and working better has reinvented the path forward for Broken Hill.
- Northern Grampians Shire Council, VIC, developed a new project, the Stawell Gold Mines Future Possibilities Feasibility, which delivered on its objective for the development of multiple agribusiness, landfill and training facility business cases. It also has delivered on a transformational opportunity that has commenced whilst the mine is still in operation and is independent of the timing of transition to mine closure.

- Alexandrina Council, SA (rural nominee), created an initiative to optimise technology for key corporate processes in work, health and safety and procurement. Easily accessible information is critical to the day-to-day operations of the Council, and through this process and website creation, it has not only maximised productivity but has created a culture that is visible and evident through the workers, their actions, beliefs, values and attitudes.
- Burnie City Council, TAS, initiated the Lean For Local Government training, which has demonstrated encouraging results at the works depot. The energy generated by the visual nature of the LEAN tools and the pilot program has created a base to build a strong LEAN Thinking discipline in the workplace. It is also an effective use of assets and resources, and provides a platform for expansion.
- Sunshine Coast Council, QLD, initiated a Public Development Information project, which is part of the council's growing ePlanning capabilities to support the local planning industry, including electronic lodgement, and statistical indicator publications. It has been systematically evaluated for effectiveness, and has been designed for re-use to provide tailored reporting for other business initiatives of council by virtue of the highly customisable report configuration files.

Community Partnerships and Collaboration

Winner

- Horsham Rural City Council, VIC, developed the Animal Rehoming Program, a key objective in the Domestic Animal Management Plan that Council has actively supported since its inception. Council provides administrative support whilst the Rangers enthusiastically participate and promote the service. All of this has created a sense of shared responsibility between all partners to ensure positive outcomes for the animals.

Criteria

- Nominations for this category will highlight genuine and effective partnerships and collaborations that have resulted in better outcomes for council, as well as initiatives that demonstrate a commitment to working with and/or in the community to achieve positive outcomes. This category recognises excellence in cross-council collaboration, community partnerships and partnerships created to provide or improve services that strengthen and enhance the physical or social infrastructure of a region, including integration with other spheres of government. This award specifically recognises the positive impact that the effective collaboration has had on the broader community, as well as the demonstrated benefits across a range of areas and initiatives. This award will also present an aspirational model for local government that will reflect broader industry trends.

Nominees

- Lismore City Council, NSW, created the Lismore Health Precinct Partnership, which is a model in best practice, as it provides a new integrated structure for the implementation of flagship projects across Council work-plans and deliverables, especially in the health field. An ability to 'do more with less' was created, together with a co-operative and collaborative approach, and a willingness to work inter-

departmentally for shared and enhanced community outcomes. The council also discovered that this requires a new management style and approach.

- The One Card Local Government Implementation Team, Public Library Services, SA, is a project that shows the benefits of partnering and collaborating on a grand scale – across the state and incorporating every council and all public libraries in South Australia. Differing funding levels, governance models and local drivers have led to different service models and technologies developing throughout the state. This project consortium has shown that state and local government collaboration can deliver best practice results to both spheres of government while at the same time delivering excellent service to South Australians.
- Burnie City Council, TAS, formed The Community and Economic Development Team to demonstrate adaptive leadership skills and project management skills and to mobilise the community and organisation to meet complex social challenges. The team is now working with Federal and State Governments and other Councils to share learnings and explore the means of scaling up initiatives to other communities.
- Redland City Council, QLD, together with the state government, have undertaken a collaborative approach to urban planning on in the Redlands region, resulting in enduring partnerships between State and Local Government departments. At its core, it is a revitalisation project that presents an opportunity to collaborate in order to celebrate the region's unique bayside location. Collaboration has delivered strong outcomes for the community and obtained their support. The community was engaged by council providing them with realistic, easy to understand, and fun to use tools, which they responded to.
- The City of Subiaco, WA, established the Books on Prescription program, which allows for GPs and patients to be encouraged to recommend books. The program fills a gap in existing services and programs available for people living with a mental health condition, and allows them to innovatively apply the biblio-therapy model to a metropolitan setting, which uses carefully selected self-help books on particular issues, such as depression, anxiety and panic. It has created a strong partnership between the City of Subiaco, general practitioners and the community members. The uptake and reach of the program is steadily increasing throughout the community.

About the Awards

- LGMA Federation Partners from each state (except the NT) submitted their state award finalists to LGMA National.
- LGMA National selected four judges: three former LGMA National presidents, plus the LGMA NT president as an independent from a jurisdiction not represented by any nominee. The four judges were: John Bennie (Vic), Ray Burton (Qld), Mark Ferguson (NSW) and Ricki Bruhn (NT).
- The summarised documents from each nominating state were then sent to each of the four judges along with selection criteria matrices.

LGMA is local government's peak association, working on behalf of local government employees for more than 78 years to promote professional development, local government best practice, and partnership opportunities for Australian Councils. We facilitate a range of professional development and training opportunities at a national level to attract the best and

brightest, and coordinate international partnerships with sister organisations to learn and share with our international peers.

For information about the Awards, please contact your local branch:

<http://www.lgma.org.au/lgma-federation-partners.html>

Media

For comments about individual award winners and photo opportunities, please contact the relevant Council directly.

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