

RBMS Annual General Meeting 2015/16 ***Presidents Outlook for 2016/17***

The 2016/17 year got off to a flying start with the 8th Australian Stream Management Conference held in August 2016. This was the first time that the RBMS led the organisation of the conference – with support from the Integrated Catchment Management Foundation – and the outcome was very rewarding. Over 200 delegates attended over the three-day event. The feedback from those who attended was very positive; as was the financial contribution it has provided the Society.

The profit made from 8ASM is allowing our committee to consider new initiatives for the RBMS to provide to the sector. I'm pleased to announce that the first such initiative is an RBMS sponsored position in the Waterway Management Twinning Program for 2017. More details on this important program will be hitting your inbox early next week - I encourage you all to think about whether you or someone you know is a good candidate to be a mentee or mentor in 2017.

On this note, I would ask all members to think about good ways that the RBMS can invest financially to achieve our objective of boosting the capacity of the catchment management sector. Our volunteer committee has our own ideas and enthusiasm, but we would certainly welcome hearing yours also.

As I mentioned earlier, the RBMS events are a core part of our offering. The 2016/17 year will include the following showcase events:

- Our 30th birthday party, at Riverland on Friday 25th November 2016. Tickets are on sale at early-bird rates for a few more days and are likely to sell fast, so get yours early.
- Fieldtrips in Victoria and South East Queensland in early-mid 2017.
- Planning for the third Awards Night, likely to be held in Melbourne in late 2017.

In recent years all of our showcase events have been a huge success, often exceeding our target involvement, attendance and revenue. However, at the same time we've been experiencing low attendance figures at some of our reading groups and seminars. In response, the RBMS committee is keen to adopt a fresh approach to such events in 2016/17. We'll try new formats, frequency, themes and locations. Again we would certainly love your feedback on ideas on this front!

One such change will be a move of many of our Melbourne events to Ross House in Flinders Lane. The RBMS has recently taken up a tenancy at Ross House to provide us with a more consistent and convenient venue for our regular events, including committee meetings. We hope you'll come along to an event soon to see our new 'home'.

Mark Stacey
President, RBMS