

RBMS Annual General Meeting 2015/16

Presidents Report for 2015/16

The 2015/16 year was another successful year for the River Basin Management Society. The RBMS has long been known as providing a solid calendar of events, and our events remained the cornerstone of our operations in 2015/16.

When looking back at the outlook I provided at the last AGM, I'm pleased to report that we achieved our stated ambitions of:

- Hosting our second biennial Awards Night in October 2015, and in doing so surpassing the inaugural event in the number of attendees, nominations and sponsors.
- Preparing for the 8th Australian Stream Management Conference held in August 2016 in the Blue Mountains. This conference received very positive feedback from our delegates and provided an important funding injection into the RBMS.
- Hosting seminars and reading groups in Melbourne and Brisbane, though at a frequency a little less than expected.
- Running a fieldtrip on waterway management in the upper Brisbane River catchment in November 2015.

Beyond our events the RBMS committee worked hard to provide a more consistent and comprehensive input to government policy review, which was rewarded through the invitations we received to host and attend industry stakeholder events like the draft Victorian Water Plan release, Victorian environmental watering matters forum, and the consultation session for the Yarra River Act. We also sought to undertake a review of our membership fee model, which has resulted in the proposed fee changes being put forward tonight.

For the sake of clarity, there were also a few endeavours that we pursued but didn't quite attain, and remain on our agenda for this year and beyond. These include:

- Hosting the fieldtrip to Northern Victoria. This has been rescheduled for later in this financial year, in autumn 2017.
- Building stronger links with other industry bodies, which is being assisted with the President of Stormwater Queensland on the 2016/17 committee.
- Navigating the on-going challenge of providing a meaningful and active social media presence.

From our committee's perspective, the end of 2015/16 was particularly momentous, as our long-standing Secretary and Treasurer both finished up. Johanna Slijkerman's and Marty Hillemacher's remarkable contribution in these roles for the last five years deserve special recognition.

Thanks again to all our volunteer committee for their hard work throughout the year. It's rewarding to see that interest in the RBMS and our offerings continues to grow, both interstate and with our student members in particular.

Mark Stacey
President, RBMS