



MEDIA RELEASE

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Winning waterways champion announced

Renowned waterways scientist and communicator, **Professor Bill Dennison**, has been awarded the 2011 'Queensland Urban Utilities - Waterways Champion Award' at last night's **Healthy Waterways Awards** for his commitment to the health of South East Queensland's waterways.

Bill's inspirational, politically astute and scientifically driven leadership has fundamentally changed the way we regard Moreton Bay and our waterways, as well as the readiness with which we can access information about waterway health.

As a founding member of Healthy Waterways, Bill's commitment to Moreton Bay is as strong now as it was in the peak of his involvement in the 1990s.

Bill's ability to engage the community in waterway issues is what sets him apart from most scientists. He pioneered the use of conceptual diagrams and was the first mainstream scientist in South East Queensland to grasp the power of the internet, developing a website with waterway information and resources.

Bill continues to bring water quality science to people through conceptual diagrams, books and online sources. He has also developed important scientific monitoring methods that allow us to track the environmental outcomes of changes in our waterway management practices.

Through his activities, Bill seeks to empower decision makers and reinvigorate the cause for healthy waterways in South East Queensland. He sees a bright future for Moreton Bay and is as determined as ever to drive towards the Healthy Waterways Vision.

Queensland Urban Utilities Chief Operating Officer, Mr Robin Lewis, said they are proud to sponsor the Waterways Champion Award.

"Queensland Urban Utilities recognises that healthy waterways are an integral part of ensuring sustainable water supply and is proud to sponsor the Waterways Champion Award; acknowledging the outstanding commitment and contribution of community members to improving waterway health," Mr Lewis said.

Now in its eleventh year, the annual Healthy Waterways Awards recognise the outstanding achievements of groups and individuals working to improve the health of South East Queensland's waterways and catchments.

The 2011 Healthy Waterways Awards category winners are:

- **eWater - Water Sensitive Urban Design Award:** Rain Bank - stormwater harvesting and reuse by South Bank Corporation
- **WaterSecure - Research Award:** Nuisance algae in Moreton Bay: symptom and cause of seagrass loss by Dana Burfeind from Griffith University and The University of Queensland
- **BMT WBM - Government Award:** Waterways Extension Program - Council partnering with landholders for waterways recovery by Redland City Council
- **Seqwater - Rural Award:** Rosevale floodplain reinstatement and land management project by SEQ Catchments in partnership with DERM, DEEDI, SEQTOA, Healthy Waterways and Griffith University
- **Humes - Industry Award:** Prefabricated fishway system for small waterway structures by Walaman Fishways, CM Concrete Products Pty Ltd and James Cook University
- **Brisbane Airport - Community Award:** Sustainable Communities by Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee Inc (B4C)



- **SEQ Water Grid - Clean Up Award:** Caring for Pumicestone Passage and Caloundra Foreshores by Night Eyes Association Inc
- **Veolia Water Australia - Education Award:** Bunya to the Bay 2010 by Stanley River Environmental Education Centre (Education Queensland)
- **Queensland Urban Utilities - Waterways Champion Award:** Bill Dennison.

The Rural category winner - *Rosevale floodplain reinstatement and land management project* - was chosen as the most innovative project by the independent judging panel, receiving the \$10,000 Minister's Grand Prize.

Minister for Environment, The Hon Vicky Darling, acknowledged the individuals and organisations involved in activities to protect and improve our waterways.

"I commend the Healthy Waterways Awards finalists and winners for undertaking projects to improve the condition of our local rivers, creeks and catchments," Minister Darling said.

"The Awards play a major role in engaging more people to contribute to a cleaner and greener South East Queensland," she said.

The Healthy Waterways Awards are hosted by Healthy Waterways, a not-for-profit, non-government organisation working collaboratively with government, industry and the community to protect and improve waterway health in South East Queensland.

For more information about the Healthy Waterways Awards, visit www.healthywaterways.org or contact Healthy Waterways on 07 3177 9100.

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