



ACRA Award winners raise the bar yet again



President Andrew Dickinson told the hundred attending the presentations that the Awards set the standard against which all concrete repair work will be judged

The Australian Concrete Repair Association (ACRA) recently held their biennial Awards night in Sydney. This event was established back in 2000 to provide an opportunity for ACRA members to promote and showcase the great work they do in the field of concrete repair.

The Awards night is the biggest night of ACRA's event schedule and is always well attended—which it was

Paul Sweatman (second left) accepted the crowning award for BASF under the eye of judges Ian Godson (l.), David Mahaffey (r.) and Sharyn Machin

again on this night with over a hundred ACRA members, guests and their partners present at the fantastic venue in Darling Harbour.

Commenting on the Awards

night, ACRA's president, Andrew Dickinson, said, "The awards showed yet again that ACRA members have raised the bar in terms of innovation, professionalism and overall excellence in concrete repair.

Clients gain

"One of the most pleasing aspects of the award entries was the fact that ACRA members work closely together to provide a successful outcome for



their clients. This drives consultant, contractor and materials supplier members to achieve a high level of service and support and successful delivery of projects—thereby guaranteeing Australia’s asset owners and managers the most cost-effective solutions available anywhere in the world in concrete repair, rehabilitation and protection.”

Judges see trends

The judges agree. Commenting on the trends that emerged this year, the judges offered fresh insights, each from his or her own perspective: Strata Community Australia (NSW)’s Sharyn Machin from a strata management perspective, Mahaffey Associates’ David Mahaffey from a technical standpoint and Infracor Consulting’s Ian Godson as a long-time observer of the evolution of ACRA as an organisation.

Said Sharyn Machin: “I was impressed by the way the member companies took away the project brief but did their own investigations, enabling them to come back to the client with a better, more practical approach. The way they dealt with the client was incredible—in the high range of professionalism.”

David Mahaffey observed that “Newly emerged technologies since the first ACRA Awards in 2000 have come a long way. One such example is the up-scaling of carbon fibre strengthening from a repair technique to a

virtual construction technique on a scale many times greater than anything undertaken anywhere else in the world.”

While Ian Godson’s comment was: “I was particularly pleased with the number of entries this year from beyond Sydney. From Newcastle, Coffs Harbour, Fairy Meadow and Swansea in NSW as well as Dampier and Kalgoorlie in WA, North Haven in SA, Melbourne in Victoria and Cairns in Queensland. Showing that the organisation is truly coming of age as a national association, recognised around the country.”

And the entries were...

There were eight categories judged this year, with the following outcomes:

Industrial/water/wastewater—mega projects

Won by BASF Australia for the West Gate Bridge



FRP strengthening upgrade project in Melbourne worth \$240 million. Chosen by the judges because of “the use of carbon fibre strengthening, which has provided a highly cost-effective and innovative remedy to a potentially very costly problem”.

Industrial/water/wastewater—large projects

Won by Water Infrastructure Group for the rehabilitation of six maintenance holes,



three on Northern Main Sewer (NMS) and three on Southern Main Sewer (SMS), worth \$1,913,000. Chosen by the judges because “it is a complex project involving numerous repair processes as well as a very onerous requirement for client/public interface, which appears to have been managed well”.

Marine /industrial up to \$3 million—large projects

Won by Duratec Australia/ Rio Tinto for the Rio Tinto Dampier Salt Ltd mooring dolphin remediation in Dampier, WA, worth \$3



million. Chosen by the judges because “the contractor won the work on the basis of a well thought out alternative design that provided the client with significant cost savings”. **Also in this category, a merit award went to GHD for the**



Swansea Bridge rehabilitation worth \$3 million because “the entry provides good detail of depth of the investigation, design and implementation process [factoring in] the complexities of considering impacts on flora and fauna into the design and construction process”.

Residential—large projects

Won by RM Watson for Nathan Towers in Neutral Bay worth \$1,660,000. Chosen by the judges because of “the management aspects of the project [given that], whilst



it appears to be a relatively straightforward project from a technical point of view, the way in which the project was run required well-planned interactions and scheduling

to ensure that the needs of all parties were met”. **Also in this category, a merit award went to Dapcor Building Services**



for Marine Parade remediation in Maroubra worth \$1 million because “it illustrates the opportunity that exists to do more than just concrete repair, thereby adding significantly to the value of a building”.

Marine /industrial—medium projects

Won by Marine & Civil Maintenance for Brooks Creek & Fairy Creek Bridges concrete repair and cathodic



protection in Fairy Meadows, worth \$968,500. Chosen by the judges because “even though it appears to be a normal concrete repair/CP project, there was a need to adapt to adverse conditions and apply a wide range of repair and protection systems”.

Commercial/residential up to \$1 million—medium projects

Won by Diagnostech for Miramar Apartments in Sydney worth \$700,000. Chosen by the judges because of “the care taken in the investigation



and planning of the concrete repair work to a heritage building”. Also impressive was “the use of the expertise that exists within the ACRA network”.

Small projects

Won by Volumetric Concrete Australia for the Taxiway A1 trial slab replacement at Sydney Airport worth \$43,140.



Chosen by the judges because “it displays an innovative approach to the problem of timely completion in airport pavement repair work”.

Long term performance

Won by Consolidated Quality Projects for the United Dental Hospital in Surry Hills worth \$680,000. Chosen by the judges because “this project is a fitting recipient



of the award as testimonials by the membrane supplier and original consulting engineer confirm the project is performing well after eight years”.

And the award of awards

Repair Industry Excellence Award (chosen from among the winners of all categories): Went to BASF for the West Gate Bridge FRP strengthening upgrade project in Melbourne worth \$240 million. This the judges described as heralding a new era, not only in the sheer scale of the project, but also because of the emergence of carbon fibre strengthening from a repair technology into the mainstream of construction work. As to the scale, the work represents a quantum leap in the size of project in which carbon fibre strengthening figures, and is many times bigger than anything undertaken anywhere in the world—effectively taking Australia to the forefront in the use of this technology in such applications.

Strong entries

The standard of all entries was high, say the judges. Spectacular projects entered included:

- Metrocorp Technologies’ NOOS Sewer rehabilitation
- Savcor ART’s Eastern Drop Structure rehabilitation
- Savcor ART’s Cairns Bulk Sugar Terminal Shed 2 pile repair works
- Duratec Australia’s acid bund remediation for BHP Billiton’s nickel smelter
- Marine & Civil Maintenance’s HMAS Platypus
- Fluid Building Services’ Oceanworld sedimentation tanks
- RM Watson’s The Astor facade conservation project
- RM Watson’s St James Centre remedial works
- BASF’s Fisherman’s Co-op Wharf
- Crest Restoration’s repair of balconies and associated works
- Preservation Technologies’ Casa Madrona remedial facade works
- Marine & Civil Maintenance’s Kamesburgh Mansion
- Dapcor Building Services’ HMAS Watson Project S5312 conservation of gun emplacements
- Water Infrastructure Group’s Cluster Wastewater Pumping Station upgrade
- Andersal’s Lane Cove Aquatic Leisure Centre bleachers repair

- Australian Concrete Repair Group’s Shortlands Wastewater Treatment Plant inlet, and
- Australian Concrete Repair Group’s Mortdale Rail Maintenance Centre rail track refurbishment.

Wrap-up

President Andrew Dickinson presented the awards at a cocktail party in Cockle Bay on October 11, 2012 attended by members, their families, friends and, most importantly, many of their satisfied customers.

He wrapped up the evening by thanking all who attended, but particularly those who made submissions and the judges who sweated over the task of making the hard choices between them.

“As a showcase of how good teamwork between consultant, materials supplier and contractor can achieve best possible outcomes, the ACRA Awards for Excellence have once again set the standard against which all concrete repair work will be judged,” Andrew concludes. “At least, that is, until the next Awards in 2014, when we expect ACRA members will raise the bar yet again.”

For blow-ups of all awards for 2012 as well as for past years, click [here](#).

