

2010 Westpac Community Treasurers' Awards Judges' Comments

Winner, Large Organisation Category

Toni Lawler, Treasurer, Newcastle and Hunter Community Access Inc. (NSW)

The judges were impressed with the strong leadership Toni has shown in taking the organisation to a new level of financial maturity and sustainability. This has involved sensitively leading the board and the organisation to an understanding of current financial challenges and overseeing a process of fundraising diversification, introduction of service efficiencies, and the development and implementation of more rigorous financial management and budgeting mechanisms. The judges noted Toni's work in helping to inculcate a level of financial sophistication within the organisation, a process that has helped stakeholders develop a clear understanding of what is necessary to keep the organisation financially healthy, while maintaining standards and serving clients to the best of its ability.

Winner, Medium Organisation Category

Bernadette Stewart, Treasurer, Buckingham Rowing Club (Tas)

The judges noted the significant contribution Bernadette has made to turning around the club's fortunes, helping to take it from a struggling club with an uncertain future to a thriving, successful one. Under Bernadette's stewardship, the club has undergone a modernisation in record-keeping, introduction of financial safeguards, and development of a strategic plan that has led to a tripling of turnover in five years. Among Bernadette's many achievements has been the introduction of a diversified fundraising strategy, ensuring the organisation is tapping into all possible areas of fundraising, from sales to sponsorship to special events to memberships – a strategy well-recognised as one of the keys to success for a modern community group.

Winner, Small Organisation Category

Ian McLaren, Treasurer, Bribie Island Orchid Society Inc. (Qld)

The judges noted Ian's commitment to financial stewardship, transparency and succession planning, and his diligence in ensuring that all Committee members are fully informed about, and understanding of, the organisation's finances. They noted Ian's entrepreneurial approach to fundraising and his understanding that a Community Treasurer's role is not just about managing money, but about bringing it in. The judges were particularly impressed with Ian's willingness to get his hands dirty, both figuratively (he's not afraid to do the photocopying or make the cups of tea), and literally (providing in-home orchid re-potting services for people who are housebound or ill).