

VIC YWP Subcommittee 2023 Nomination Statements

Bill Robinson | Arup

I have been a committee member of the AWA YWP committee in NSW and VIC for more than 4 years. I have held roles in both the general committee and the executive. I believe that I bring a breadth of experience and passion to the committee, driving social value and community spirit. I want to continue to foster my professional industry relationships through the committee. In addition, there is much I still want to learn from my committee members and believe that my role in contributing will allow me to continue learning from them.

Brooke Barr | Barwon Water

Hey water legends! I grew up in a rural farming town about 30km out of Shepparton, I have seen firsthand the devastating results of droughts, floods, heat waves, etc on the community. This has sparked my interest and curiosity in the water industry from an early age.

Having discovered my passion for this field, I have been in the water industry for almost 4 years now. During this time I have gained valuable experience in a range of key areas such as water quality, water treatment, sustainability through internships and now asset management in particular gravity sewers as a graduate.

I am passionate about sustainability and climate change, in particular finding new sustainable and innovative solutions to challenges faced within the water industry. Particularly those associated with the increasing effects climate change which are already set to increase by 1.5-2 degrees however, this number is likely to increase if more is not done. This increase will have a massive impact on all of Australia but more specifically rural farming towns that rely on for their livelihoods. I am committed to using my skills, knowledge, network and collaboration with others to help build a more resilient and sustainable future in which access to clean, safe and sustainable water is available for all Victorians, Australians and beyond.

If selected to be a part of the YWP committee for Victoria, I would bring my passion, expertise, rural voice, and commitment to the role. I am eager to work with and learn from a great group of like-minded individuals to help shape the future of the water industry in Victoria and worldwide.

VIC YWP Subcommittee 2023 Nomination Statements

Catherine Corkill | Southern Rural Water

For the past year I have been employed firstly as an Environmental Officer and now an Environmental Advisor at SRW. I primarily work as the Environmental Management System coordinator and key liaison contact for the Capital Planning teams. I am currently taking part in the YWP mentor program and sit on the Grow West committee, which is an environmental group revegetating waterways in the Werribee region.

My areas of expertise are environmental compliance and water quality management and improvement through strategic planning. My greatest area of interest is the management of water in the face of a changing climate, and how Cultural and Environmental flows will be considered.

I believe in the power of collaboration and would love to join the YWP committee to engage with colleagues across the water sector, improve my leadership skills and draw on the knowledge of a diverse group of innovative water professional

Deepak Mallya | Deakin University

I am a final-year-PhD-student from Deakin University, creating cutting-edge engineered membranes for water treatment to address the pressing environmental issues. Two things I am very passionate about are contributing towards solving problems in water sector through collaborative research and volunteering for community and environmental initiatives. I believe that I could bring in my skills such as effective communication, member and regional community engagement, leadership, event management and international student connections to contribute and promote the wonderful initiatives of AWA VIC YWP subcommittee. I immensely enjoyed and learnt valuable insights in water sector and professional development through AWA seminars, Mentoring program and YWP Regional study tour. My volunteering roles in various education, industry and community engagement activities: Study Geelong Student Ambassador, ATSE IMNIS Industry Catalyst, Mentor of Deakin, and City of Greater Geelong has been very rewarding learning experience. The lessons and transferable skills learnt in this journey would help me in being a successful AWA VIC YWP subcommittee member.

Douglas Whattam | Jacobs

I currently work as a civil engineer in the water infrastructure team at Jacobs and have 3+ years of experience in the water industry. Throughout my time at Jacobs, I have taken on roles as chair of the ANZ Graduate Network and more recently co-chair of the Jacobs Careers Network. These positions have required me to coordinate large teams of people to facilitate events. I am personally interested in hydraulic water network models and the planning of water networks to cater to future demand. To the committee, I bring experience working as part of a team and as a leader and a passion for the water industry and educating the community. I see a role on the committee as an opportunity to further my passion and have a positive impact on the industry.

VIC YWP Subcommittee 2023 Nomination Statements

Evan Grosvenor | DEECA

After recently graduating university and finishing my gradate year in the Victorian public sector, I am now part of the Integrated Water Management team within DEECA. While I was studying, I had multiple internships; two at South East Water and one at GHD. As I am still new to the water industry, I believe joining the committee would be a fantastic way to continue learning and expand my knowledge. While I was studying at RMIT, I had the privilege of being a social officer within ACES 'Association of Chemical Engineering Students', where I assisted in planning and creating budgets for events. I am confident in these skills and believe I could bring them to the table as part of the YWP committee. I am also very open to helping with any other tasks and am more than willing to develop new skills while working in a team environment.

Jingwen Zhang | Melbourne Water

I would like to join the Vic YWP or AWA committee. I have worked as a process engineer across water supply operation, drinking water planning and wastewater operation in Melbourne water. My key achievements include but not limited to reducing over two million eastern treatment plant alarms and working on digester recuperative thickening plant delivery and commissioning (budgeted over \$18 million). I would love to grow my knowledge and network via the committee. My reputation as an excellent after work function planner has been widely recognized by my colleagues as most the event planning requests are coming my way nowadays. It would be an privilege to be able to offer my passion and experience in water to the committee and inspire positive growth. Thank you for your consideration!

Maria Radovici | Stantec

I'm a proud Dane and started my career in the UK water industry in 2017. As a nature enthusiast I was thrilled about moving to Australia last year and starting at Stantec as a wastewater Process Engineer. One of my great passions is sustainability and I'm excited that I have the opportunity to develop solutions with a lower environmental impact, such as working in a carbon net zero group aimed at quantifying and reducing emissions. My previous committee experience includes being a member of the Student Ambassador Committee at University in Denmark. In London, I was a member of a women in engineering committee where I organised an engineering workshop for 100 students and a diversity and inclusion event for 300 people featuring panel discussions and an unconscious bias workshop. I believe I'd make a wonderful addition to the YWP subcommittee as I am motivated, proactive and enjoy organising events.

VIC YWP Subcommittee 2023 Nomination Statements

Matt Sullivan | Beca

I am excited to nominate for the AWA's VIC Branch Young Water Professionals Subcommittee. With a background in design, renewals and operations, I have gained experience in developing water and sewer infrastructure that prioritizes sustainability, resilience, and community outcomes.

As a Subcommittee member, I would work collaboratively with others to drive innovation and encourage diverse perspectives, while embracing AWA's values of passion, collaboration, and inclusivity. I've attended several AWA events previously and would embrace the opportunity to contribute to these in the future, particularly the Mentoring Program and Site Tours. As a passionate advocate for water sustainability, I recognize the importance of community partnerships and connection to land, and I'm eager to explore this further with the AWA. Overall, I am committed to supporting the AWA's mission of driving a sustainable water future by contributing meaningfully to the Subcommittee's efforts and advocating for policies aligned with AWA's values and aspirations.

Miranda Rey-Fleming | Jacobs

The AWA YWP committee offers a unique opportunity to collaborate with other motivated professionals on sustainable development initiatives across the Australian water sector. I recently completed a Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) and Arts at Monash University, and now work as a Graduate Civil Engineer in the Water Infrastructure team at Jacobs. My unique double degree continues to encourage me to examine both the technical details and the bigger context in which water infrastructure projects operate.

My committee experience at Young Engineers Australia (VIC), the Australia-Indonesia Youth Association, and four years at the Monash Engineering Students' Society have honed my events planning, marketing, and management skills, and I would enjoy contributing these to the committee. It would be exciting to be part of a team elevating diverse perspectives in our industry, such as those in the recent 'Aboriginal Voices in Water' and 'Tackling the Pendulum Swing' events.

VIC YWP Subcommittee 2023 Nomination Statements

Paulina Gutierrez Ramos | Deakin University

Dear AWA Members, I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to the YWP Subcommittee and the AWA community. I am eager to contribute my skills, knowledge, and passion for the water industry to further the goals of the YWP Subcommittee. Over the course of my career, I have developed a deep appreciation for the importance of water management and sustainability. With a Master's degree in Sustainability and experience working on a government committee for coastal management in the Surf Coast Shire, I have developed a solid foundation in the technical aspects of the water industry. I am also skilled in data analysis, project management, and stakeholder engagement. As a young professional in the water industry, I will actively contribute to organizing events, workshops, and other initiatives to foster professional development, knowledge sharing, and networking opportunities for young water professionals. Thank you for considering my nomination.

Rigo Manahan | Arup

I'm a Process Engineer in Arup's water team. I've been in the industry over four years, specialising in water and wastewater treatment planning and design as well as sustainability and decarbonisation in the water sector, a topic which I'm super passionate about.

I've previously held two years as Communications Rep in the NSW YWP Committee, where we rolled out an expanded communications program, helping our members remain connected throughout COVID. Elsewhere in the AWA world, I've enjoyed putting together nation-wide Specialist Networks professional development events, chairing AWA conferences, and being a part of the mentoring program (as both mentor and mentee).

Collaborating with other YWPs has been deeply rewarding for me. As a hopeful committee member, I'm eager to help generate new ideas for YWPs to strengthen their own connections, passions, and professional journeys in water, and help the committee continue to give back to the water industry in VIC.

Sohan Raj | Mott MacDonald

I am thrilled to nominate myself for a position on the water committee. With a degree in mechanical engineering and 2 years of experience in wastewater treatment design and project management, I have gained valuable skills and knowledge in the water industry. I am excited about the opportunity to join the YWP committee and extend my skills, while contributing to the community that has enabled my success.

In the past, I have served on Monash's Precious Plastic Committee and Mott MacDonald's WaterAid Winnovators team, which has provided me with additional experience in organizing events, fundraising activities, and presenting to audiences. These experiences have helped me develop excellent interpersonal and communication skills.

My passion for the water industry started with a curiosity for sustainability and making a positive impact on society. Being involved in AWA's mentoring program and the YWP ball has only strengthened my commitment. I am confident that being on the YWP committee is the next step for me to contribute my skills and knowledge to further the committee's goals. Thank you for considering my nomination.

VIC YWP Subcommittee 2023 Nomination Statements

Sophie Barton | GHD

I am a graduate water strategy consultant at GHD, passionate about fostering the resilience of Australia's water sector into a changing climate. My family lost our home in the 2011 Brisbane Floods, which firming my people-first approach to environmental problem-solving and creating lasting benefits that respect nature and nurture communities.

As a current volunteer on the YWP sub-committee, I am seeking renomination to continue collaborating with like-minded YWPs in delivering events and curating communications that help drive positive water outcomes for Victoria. I am proud to have used my term on committee to support knowledge-sharing in the water resource and disaster-preparedness space as well as attracting and connecting tertiary students to the water sector through university outreach and facilitating employability seminars.

I am committed to continuing my contribution to committee by organising future-focused events that unite our water sector in tackling the challenges of tomorrow as a collective.

Will McLean | Clean TeQ Water

As a Marketing and Communications Manager with an Engineering background and 3 years experience in the water industry, I possess a unique combination of skills suitable for the VIC YWP committee.

Previously, I was a member of a number of Victorian committees, including Engineering Australia's Young Engineers Victoria committee, before I moved internationally and lived in Cambodia for 2 years. I am well versed in event planning and creating communications content, which could be some of my main contributions to the committee.

As a member of the YWP Committee, I will bring my passion for sustainability, creativity, and strategic thinking to my representation young water professionals. I am committed to promoting knowledge sharing and networking, and I'm passionate about using technology to solve the world's water challenges.