

PM PEOPLE NEWS

## **Australians win international project management achievement awards**

### ***AIPM award winners also take top prizes at IPMA world congress in Panama***

Reported by [Mary Martin](#) in Brisbane

10 October 2015 – Sydney, Australia – Australian project managers took centre stage at the International Project Management Association (IPMA) Achievement Awards in early October at the IPMA World Congress in Panama City.

The winner of the Australian Institute of Project Management's (AIPM's) top individual gong in 2014, **Steve Gibson** from Queensland Urban Utilities, won the IPMA's Project Manager of the Year and **Ben Burrows** from Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group (formerly Defence Materiel Organisation) won a Bronze Medal in the Young Project Manager of the Year category.

Mr Gibson (pictured) won his award for his outstanding work upgrading the sewerage network at Woolloongabba in Brisbane. As the winner of the Project Manager of the year at the 2014 AIPM Project Management Achievement Awards (PMAAs) he was elevated to represent Australia at the Asia Pacific Federation of Project Management awards which he duly won, and has now taken out the highest individual international honour for a project manager with his win at the IPMA Awards.



Speaking on the night, Mr Gibson said "It's been such an amazing journey - from state to national to Asia Pacific titles, and now finally international glory. I can't describe how chuffed I am. I've been working in project management for more than a decade and this is far and away my number one career highlight."

Mr Gibson was the first Australian to make the top three in the world in the 29 year history of the awards, let alone win it.

Award Judge **Giuseppe Pugliese** identified that the standout characteristic of Steve's submission to be his innate ability to effectively engage and communicate with a complex network of stakeholders. Also of note was Steve's ability to collaboratively develop innovative solutions ensuring the project was de-risked from the outset.

**Ben Burrows**, who was the winner of the Young Project Manager of the Year at last year's PMAAs, was ecstatic upon receiving his award. "I'm absolutely thrilled to win

this award on behalf of Defence and to have represented Australia at the international level. I had a fantastic project team and great support from the AIPM in achieving my success. I hope this award can help inspire other Australian project managers to rise to bigger challenges and promote Australian projects on the world stage” he was quoted as saying.

The CEO of the AIPM, **Ms Yvonne Butler**, was equally glowing in her praise when she said “I am thrilled that the international project management community has recognised the outstanding work of both Steve and Ben. As an organisation, we are extremely proud of the achievements of two of our members and it is further validation of the fact that we here in Australia are international leaders in the field of project management. We encourage all current and future members of the profession to emulate their success.”

For information about the 2015 AIPM PMAA awards, visit [www.aipm.com.au/awards](http://www.aipm.com.au/awards).

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