

The *Bluett* AWARD



The greatest accolade a council can achieve

The pinnacle of local government achievement

Awarded annually since 1945

A R Bluett Memorial Award 2020

The A R Bluett Memorial Award is contested each year by councils in NSW who would like to be recognised as being the most progressive in the state. Entry is open to all NSW councils irrespective of size or resources. The Awards Trustees encourage NSW councils to enter this prestigious Award and are interested in all aspects of council operations and services.

Entries for the 2020 Awards are open from 1 June 2020 to 31 July 2020.

Who was Albert Robert Bluett?

Albert Robert Bluett was an outstanding figure in Local Government, serving as the Secretary and Solicitor to the Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW for 30 years. He was the authority on local government law, and his opinion was respected by the legal profession and ministers of the crown. He helped to write the *Local Government Act 1919*.

Following Bluett's death in April 1944, the councils of NSW subscribed to a fund as a permanent memorial to his work. This money funds the bronze plaques, awarded to the winning councils each year. His legacy also lives on through 'Bluett Local Government Handbook' often referred to as the Local Government bible.

Categories for Councils

There are two categories for the Bluett Awards:

- 1. City & Regional Councils** – this includes city, metropolitan and major regional rural councils.
- 2. Rural Councils** – this includes all other rural councils.

The Trustees believe the two categories provide fairness and equity for all councils, while at the same time preserving the original intent of the Trust Deed to judge councils on relative progress.

How to enter

Entries for the 2020 Awards are open from 1 June 2020 to 31 July 2020 through the online [application portal](#).

Councils who are members of Local Government NSW are eligible to enter.

An entry fee of \$700 is payable to cover the costs incurred in judging and administering the Award. On receipt of the council's entry in the Award, Local Government NSW, on behalf of the Trustees, will invoice your council.

In recent years there has been a trend by some councils to submit voluminous entries with excessive use of photographs. This can make assessing entries more complicated than need be.

The Trustees favour neat, concise entries that tell the council's story and highlights their progress, projects and achievements. Councils are requested to adhere to the guidelines of limiting their entry to 1000 words for each principal activity and only one photograph (if necessary) for each project or significant achievement.

For technical difficulties, please contact LGNSW on 02 9242 4063.

How is it judged?

At the end of the financial year, the Trustees invite councils to submit an entry. Councils are requested to detail their achievements, using statistical information and other evidence of progress. All entries are judged independently and objectively by each Trustee, who then meet to deliberate on their findings and select councils who may be shortlisted for inspection and presentations. The winning councils will be announced at the LGNSW Annual Conference at the Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley on 22 – 24 November 2020.

Stephen Ward Scholarship

The Awards also include the official presentation of the prestigious Stephen Ward Scholarship.

The Stephen Ward Scholarship of up to \$2,500 shall be made available to at least one employee from each of the Bluett Award winning councils. The Scholarships are open to all council employees to undertake further study, professional development or research.

The Stephen Ward Scholarship was established as a memorial to Stephen Ward who was the Shires Association President from 1991 to 1993 and was involved in local government since 1985. Stephen was tragically killed in a plane crash in June 1993 while returning from a major local government forum.

The funds for the Stephen Ward Scholarship were raised from contributions from councils, government agencies, professional associations, some individuals, as well as LGNSW to set up a scholarship fund.

A R Bluett Memorial Trustees

- Les McMahon, Trust Chairman
- Cr Mike Montgomery AM
- Genia McCaffery

Further information

Further information is available on the Local Government NSW website at www.lgnsw.org.au or from Trust Chairman Les McMahon on 0412 303 719 or at mcmahon.les@gmail.com.