



2013 Green Gown Awards Australasia 2013 Evaluation Report

The 2013 Green Gown Awards Australasia took place at the WatervieW in Bicentennial Park, Sydney on 26 September 2013. With 130 guests from tertiary education, government and business it was a night to remember. 18 winners and highly commended, representing 14 institutions were recognised for their sustainability excellence in nine categories. This also included the coveted ACTS Award of Excellence, Individual and Institutional – voted on by ACTS members.

The ACTS Board considers it extremely important to understand and gain feedback from delegates who submitted applications and attended the Awards ceremony to ensure we improve our services every year. To that end we thank those of you who took the time to respond to our short survey - we have been able to gain some fantastic suggestions to make improvements for next year. Below is an overview of what you had to say, with suggestions for improvements.

The overall response for the Green Gown Awards Australasia ceremony and conference dinner was **extremely positive**, with all participants rating the quality as Excellent 31.82% (7), **Good 50% (11)** and Average 18.18% (4).

Event Feedback

The quality of the WatervieW, Bicentennial Park:

Excellent 27.27% (6), **Good 50% (11)**, Average 18.18% (4) and below average 4.55% (1)

The dinner menu:

Excellent 22.73% (5), Good 31.82% (7) and **Average 45.45% (10)**

Recognising achievement through the Green Gown Awards is important:

Strongly Agree 72.73% (16) and Agree 27.27% (6)

The quality of this year's award nominations was high:

Strongly Agree 36.36% (8), **Agree 45.45% (10)**, neither agree nor disagree 18.18% (4)

I will encourage my organisation to submit a nomination for next year's Green Gown Awards:

Strongly Agree 45.45% (10), Agree 36.36% (8), neither agree nor disagree 13.64% (3), Not applicable 4.55% (1)

Feedback	ACTS Response	Will we see it next year?
The venue was a little poor on atmosphere and because of the weather the arrival and waiting in the reception area spoilt it a little.	The balcony area around the venue was intended for welcome drinks if the weather had been good, we appreciate the reception area was not ideal. We are in the process of finding a suitable venue for 2014 and all comments will be	The venue will be chosen based on a variety of factors but sustainability, the aesthetics and ease of transport will be the main considerations.
The location was a drawback. Too far from the main venue and/or transport.		

	taken on board.	
Venue struggled with basic food requirement	<p>ACTS wholeheartedly agrees with all these comments about the catering. We did try and ensure a greater vegetarian menu and worked with the venue on local/fair trade and ethical produce. Unfortunately the venue was not as compliant as they promised. Also ACTS did not communicate this message enough in the materials for the evening or during the conference. We will endeavour to ensure this is the 'norm' next year and our sustainability message and actions are highly visible.</p>	<p>ACTS will ensure that the sustainability of its menu and activities is highly visible in Hobart in 2014. All comments dually taken on board and we will ensure we work very closely with the venue(s) to ensure compliance.</p>
Less meat intensive. Great opportunity to show case vegetarian food.		
Use local/sustainable produce. Supported fair trade products i.e. tea and coffee		
Possible to make entire menu vegetarian		
More sustainability consideration in the catering. Showcasing local and seasonal produce, organic wines, and waste minimisation etc.		
A short description of all the projects was read out before announcing the winner. Awarding highly commended in a short list of four also detracts from the honour of being shortlisted, there should simply be a winner in each category and being shortlisted is commendation enough.	<p>The ACTS team recognises the need for greater information on projects prior to the announcements, as well as greater dissemination afterwards. However this needs to be aligned with an engaging ceremony. Our aim (as the UK piloted this year) is to have a finalist brochure available at the start of the evening showcasing all the finalists. This was very well received in the UK. A winner's brochure will also still be available after the ceremony. Greater emphasis on dissemination is also a continual activity for the team. We also already have a people's choice award in the ACTS Award of Excellence – Individual and Institutional.</p>	<p>ACTS is committed to providing more information on all the finalists prior to the Awards announcements and as well as high visibility dissemination afterwards.</p> <p>The ACTS Award of Excellence will continue in 2014, with the Individual award being split into Staff and Student.</p>
More showcasing		
More info about each application for all to view/read; more of a tribute to last year's winners; a People's choice for one		
Greater focus on recognising both large and small institutions	<p>All institutions of any size and type can apply for all categories (apart from the smaller institutions category) and small and large institutions are recognised at the Awards.</p>	<p>We are always looking at ways to ensure a 'fair' awards process and will dually take the comments on board for the future.</p>
Awards for different sized institutions? For example, tafe - medium sized university – large university.		

Highly commended scrolls be framed (in eco friendly style) or presented certificate style? It is still a significant achievement, but the little scroll lacks significant lustre compared with the glass trophy.	Unfortunately there is a cost barrier to a number of activities as well as transport issue for awards. Although the comment is highly credible and it is something to consider for the future.	The ACTS team will look into the idea further.
It would be great to have a Vice Chancellor or Senior Executive present the awards.	Absolutely! ACTS is always trying to engage with the senior executive and how to encourage them to attend and present. Any assistance is gratefully received.	We will continue to invite the senior executive.

Awards Process Feedback

I found the online application process easy and straight forward to complete:
Strongly Agree 41.67% (5), **Agree 50% (6)**, and neither agree nor disagree 8.33% (1)

I found the combination of online information capture and offline application form a good approach:
Strongly Agree 41.67% (5), Agree 33.33% (4) neither agree nor disagree 25% (3)

Feedback	ACTS Response	Will we see it next year?
The guidelines for submission was quite extensive	The whole Awards process is reviewed on an annual basis in line with feedback from both the UK and Australasia.	The 'Guidance notes for Participants' and the application form will be reviewed for the 2014 awards.
The questions in the application seem to be repetitive. There needs to be clearer guidelines on what is expected in the application.		

How would you rate the communications for the 2013 Awards?
Excellent 33.33% (4), **Good 58.33% (7)** and Average 8.33% (1)

The Green Gown Awards Australasia will continue to grow in size and scope year on year. What categories would you like to see added in the future?

Categories	ACTS Response
1 Innovation 2 Community Engagement 3 Research 4 ACTS Award of Excellence - Individual (student category) 5 Community Engagement 6 No more except a People's choice category - 7 Don't have too many categories 8 Research 9 ACTS Award of Excellence - Individual (staff category)	ACTS has committed to splitting the ACTS Award of Excellence - Individual into a staff and student award for 2014. Also ACTS will not be raising the number of categories quickly, we appreciate the need for continuity and sustainable growth. The final decision will be made by the sector based steering group.



How would you like ACTS to disseminate the winning initiatives from the Green Gown Awards?

Case study video 59.09% (13), Website resource 54.55% (12) Case study document 31.82% (7), Webinar 22.73% (5), Workshop 4.55% (1),

Feedback	ACTS Response	Will we see it next year?
The workshop felt really rushed. Would rather hear from the judging panel on what they look for in an application.	The workshop was rushed due to presenters time pressures. More consistent chairing will be needed in future. A judges perspective would be a very valuable addition to the programme.	ACTS will review the Green Gown Awards Australasian workshop and if it runs it will follow a different format.
Invite winners to present at the next Conference on their achievements. Background, what was done, how it was done, etc.	The ACTS workshop asked winners to present on their achievements – ‘our success’. This will be the ‘theme’ for future workshops.	ACTS will be asking all winners, highly commended and finalists to provide a case study in 2014 which will address all of the issues raised.

The 2014 ACTS Conference will be held in November in Hobart, and will for the first time ever host the International Green Gown Awards as part of the annual ACTS Conference Dinner. I will...

Definitely attend 30.43% (7), **Most likely attend 30.43% (7)**, Might attend - not sure 17.39% (4), Most likely will not attend 4.35% (1), Definitely will not attend 4.35% (1),

Other (please specify):
 Love to attend, but budget constraints will dictate.
 Depends on whether I get organisational funding to attend.
 Depends on funding from University

Thank you to everyone that took the time to submit their feedback.

For information on the 2014 Green Gown Awards Australasia and International Green Gown Awards, please visit www.acts.asn.au or contact ggaa@acts.asn.au