

National Award for Bushlight

Bushlight has taken home honours for system design and installation at the Clean Energy Council Industry Awards held in Sydney on Friday 27th July.

The Clean Energy Council (CEC) Awards are an important part of Clean Energy Week, Australia's largest event for the renewable energy and energy efficiency industries.

At the CEC awards night Philip Robertson, Bushlight's Senior Technical Officer - RE System Design, was presented the industry award for "Best Design and Installation, stand-alone power system greater than 10kW". The awards are judged by a panel of industry peers and the CEC and provide an opportunity for demonstrated excellence and leadership in the industry to be recognised.

The system that won the award was installed at Raymangirr in the Top End of the Northern Territory. The judging panel highlighted the quality of the work done by Bushlight in the areas of community consultation and training, process documentation and system installation.



The Award Winning Bushlight System at Raymangirr

Light and life in the Bush: A decade of achievement

Bushlight has been working with remote Indigenous communities to improve energy services in order to enhance community livelihood outcomes since 2002. In this time, we've installed 148 renewable energy systems in 130 communities across Central and Northern Australia.



In August, the school kids of Corella Creek found out about managing the power from their new Bushlight Energy Management Units

What does it mean to have power around the clock? Most Australians take for granted the ability to flick a switch to turn on the light, run a computer, keep food fresh, or keep cool under a fan. If you live in remote Australia sometimes hundreds of kilometres from the nearest service centre having a reliable energy supply is rarely taken for granted, and leads to a whole range of benefits. These include improved health outcomes from being able to keep fresh food and medicines in the fridge and better access to education through being able to run computers for homeland schools or School of the Air. In addition, community livelihood development opportunities are opened up such as being able to use the internet to establish enterprises, providing a level of comfort for

visiting tourists, lighting to work on art projects at night, and facilitating cultural activities and learning opportunities.

The success of Bushlight in supporting residents of Indigenous communities to access energy services and manage them sustainably is due to our Community Energy Planning Model. This Model offers an end to end framework, from community engagement and planning through to system design and installation and follow up support and training. Our Model is based on the premise that the most positive outcomes for communities are arrived at through an integration of meaningful community engagement and decision making and best practice technical design.

Our robust, standardised hardware

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ensures maximum system lifespan, and the opportunity for troubleshooting over the phone which is a far more cost effective solution when the alternative is to send an electrical contractor hundreds of kilometres to fix a simple fault.

Getting feedback from community residents living with a Bushlight RE system is an important part of ensuring we are on the right track. This piece of feedback recently came from Sam Watson, who lives in the community of Balgingirr in North West Western Australia. Four years after the Bushlight system was installed in her community, Sam remembers

“We’ve been through a journey, a long journey before Bushlight came along, battling trying to keep food cool and keep some perishables, trying to keep fuel up to the generator or just turn it off and go without power for a long time- weeks, just to save money because it was too expensive. Then that first week we get the Bushlight system I was shocked I woke up at night and there was lights but no noise, it was unnatural, and then shhh quiet - we could hear the contractors talking all the way down at their camp and I can get up turn the light on and go get some cold water from the fridge” .



The first Bushlight renewable energy system installed in Dec 2003 at Corkwood Bore in Central Australia (left) and the same system 8 years later (right) after an annual scheduled service

Bushlight is looking forward to building on our decade of success to continue to improve, innovate and maximise the benefits for more remote Indigenous communities.



Graeme Marshall

Graeme Marshall joins Bushlight

Graeme Marshall commenced as Bushlight’s new Group Manager in July 2012. Graeme brings with him a wealth of experience working in water and energy policy and project management. Graeme’s experience includes key leadership roles in program delivery and stakeholder liason.

We are delighted to have Graeme on board and are confident he’ll make a very positive contribution to Bushlight’s future.

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We welcome feedback! If you have anything you’d like to say about Bushlight and our communications, please let us know.

Another way to stay in touch with what’s happening at Bushlight is through the Centre for Appropriate Technology’s facebook page, for more Bushlight news visit: www.facebook.com/CATechnology

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