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OAK FLATS BOWLING CLUB CLEANS UP AT INDUSTRY AWARDS

Oak Flats Bowling & Recreation Club has cleaned up at an industry gala dinner in Sydney overnight; winning all three awards they were nominated for.

The club won the Outstanding People Management award, Outstanding Financial Management and Outstanding Club Governance & Stewardship at the 2012 ClubsNSW Awards for Excellence before an audience including Premier Barry O'Farrell.

The annual competition sees NSW registered clubs compete in 21 categories, including the prestigious club of the year award, and highlights those clubs that are leading the industry.

Oak Flats Bowling & Recreation Club received the Outstanding People Management award for excellent execution of strategic planning, including a staff engagement plan, staff training on all levels and regular meetings. The Club encourages staff involvement with their sustainability programs such as volunteering days with Conservation Volunteers Australia where staff planted trees.

The club also provides training for its "My Productive Backyard" program where staff learnt gardening and composting skills as part of the club's sustainability program with TAFE. A staff garden was started at the club. Extra herbs grown were sold and money was donated to The Children's Hospital Westmead. The staff also receive well being activities and programs including free counselling services and a quit smoking initiative.

The judges awarded the Club the Outstanding Financial Management award for their financial strategic planning and corporate governance while still offering value for money and great services. One goal in particular the club achieved was to ensure greater contribution of catering profit.

Their final accolade, Outstanding Club Governance and Stewardship award, was given to the club for the success of their short and long term goal planning, constant review of operations, and considering risks and opportunities.

Wollongong Golf Club was another local winner, claiming the Best Club Keno for a small club award. The club is one of the oldest clubs in Australia, having been first built in 1897.

ClubsNSW CEO Anthony Ball congratulated Oak Flats Bowling & Recreation Club and said they have through their support for the community become one of the leading clubs in Australia.

"One of the most impressive things about Oak Flats Bowling and recreation Club is their refusal to accept the status quo. The club and its staff are always forward thinking and improving; a commitment which is evident when you speak with club CEO Matt O'Hara.

"I congratulate all levels of staff for their thoughtful processes, hard work and high standards; clearly they love working there and it shows."

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