

Member Awards - Cathy Blunt

In this series we feature IIA-Australia Members who have been recognised with awards past and present.

Name

Cathy Blunt

Location

Brisbane

Professional role

Principal with O'Connor Marsden and Associates (OCM)

What award did you win?

I was honoured to receive the Bob McDonald Award.

How did the award come about?

I was delivering a risk management workshop in Indonesia when I received a phone call from Julie Young at the IIA-Australia advising me I had been selected as recipient for the Bob McDonald Award which was a lovely surprise as I had no idea I had been nominated.

I have made contributions to the profession for over 20 years now at a local, national and international level including on the IIA Queensland Chapter Council, IIA-Australia Board, IIA-Australia Audit Committee, IIA Asian Confederation Board, IIA Global Board, IIA Global Professional Certification Committee and IIA Global Audit Committee.

Among the activities I have contributed to, I have been involved in number of interesting initiatives including the Queensland Women Working in Internal Audit and Young Internal Auditor Groups, which at the time substantially increased participation of women and younger members in the profession; development of the Certificate in Risk Management Assurance (CRMA) and Qualification in Internal Audit Leadership (QIAL); and development of the internal audit competency framework.

What came out of receiving the award?

It was really lovely to have my contributions to the profession recognised, firstly in being nominated for the award, and secondly receiving the award.

It made me stop and reflect on my involvement with the IIA over a number of years and across a range of levels from local, national and international. I have been afforded some wonderful opportunities to not only contribute to the profession, but to learn more about my profession, develop my own skills as an internal auditor and leader, visit places for IIA events that I would have never imagined, and meet fabulous internal auditors from around the world.

I have learnt to never to be shy to have a conversation with an internal auditor from another part of the world – we all have the same challenges, and to say yes to the opportunities as you never know where they will lead.

What are you doing now?

While I had to substantially decrease my involvement in global IIA activities for family reasons, I continue to be involved in the IIA including delivering courses and helping to organise SOPAC 2021.

As the internal audit lead for OCM in Queensland, I am kept busy co-ordinating and delivering internal audits to a range of clients across Queensland and Northern NSW, albeit from the safety of my office for most of the time – though I have snuck in a few quick visits to clients outside Brisbane recently.

