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Council staffer scoops training award

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COOKTOWN

A Cooktown mother's hard work has paid off after she was picked for the Simmonds & Bristow Learner of the Year award.

Cook Shire Council Water and Wastewater Technical Support and Administration Officer Cathy Hocking crammed her Certificate III in Water Industry Treatment course in between her full time job, supporting her husband in his career and bringing up two boys on a rural acreage. "The course was something I really wanted to do to be better able to understand and support the water treatment staff and understand water treatment processes," Mrs Hocking said. "I am aiming to be able to assist at our water and wastewater treatment plants when officers are away."

Her hard work impressed the Simmonds & Bristow training staff, especially her willingness to go above and beyond in not only her own course work but in helping out others completing the same certificate. Mrs Hocking was one of six Cook Shire Council staff who completed the course to boost their skills in the water and wastewater field. "The S&B training team was very impressed with the course work Mrs Hocking produced, the assistance she gave other learners and the exceptional dedicated and effort she demonstrated," Simmonds & Bristow Training Coordinator Xin Zhang said.

Those undertaking the course undertook three course delivery sessions in Cooktown, practical onsite assessments and hours of assignments to bring them up to speed on water industry skills including coagulation and flocculation processes, operation of filters, hypochlorite disinfection and sludge processes.

Along with the award, Mrs Hocking will be sponsored by Simmonds & Bristow to attend the Water Industry Operator's Association 2018 conference in Brisbane in June.

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