

Cate Fennell, YIPWEA NSW Ambassador
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The YIPWEA NSW Committee would like to introduce our Ambassador, Cate Fennell. Cate is currently working as a Cadet Engineer in the Works Team at Parkes Shire Council, while studying at the University of South Queensland. Since a young age she has shown interest in Civil works and in particular road construction, a passion which she has now progressed into a career. She was awarded the GA Taylor Medal at the 2017 IPWEA NSW State Conference. Through her role as Ambassador, Cate hopes to she can promote engineering as a career path to school students and in particular young women.

Cate recently attended events for International Women's Day, and shares her experiences with us:

"International Women's Day (IWD) has been celebrated for well over a century and has maintained a long history of advocating for global change on a local level with the aim of ensuring that "no woman is left behind".

At a state level, the NSW Office of Local Government Ministers awards have offered a celebration of women working in local government roles and provided an inspiring platform for some of Local Governments strongest women for the past eleven years. This event focuses on celebrating each other's achievements and building up all women to enable a safe a secure base for growth and change at a Local Government level.

At a local level, the IWD breakfast held at Cooke Park in Parkes, allowed a unique opportunity for women from a number of local businesses and service providers to come together and talk about issues and barriers unique to our community.

Both events had the same message, if we use the power that we as a group carry then we can take all women with us and leave no one behind. Many of the women spoke about their privilege and successes, but they also allowed themselves to be vulnerable and share their stories of failure.

Despite any barriers that female Public Works Engineers have faced, by virtue of the position that we now have we are in a place of privilege. How do we use our privilege to empower other women? I believe we should share our stories of vulnerability. That we should tell the stories of adversity, of struggle, and of failure. The most important thing we can empower other women to do is to practice vulnerability and acceptance. Our responsibility as women of privilege is to ensure that we lead by example in inclusiveness, acceptance, and to ensure that as the founder of this day intended; that we leave no woman behind."