

**Australia Day Awards**

Two AAD project teams received Australia Day Achievement Awards this year; for successful air transport operations and planning the 2003–04 Heard Island expedition.

The work of the AAD **Air Transport Team** to introduce two CASA 212–400 aircraft ('Ginger' and 'Gadget') into Antarctica, has significantly advanced preparations for the potential introduction of intercontinental air transport between Australia and Antarctica. In presenting the award, AAD Director Dr Tony Press said the project team had shown great initiative in all their endeavours, and responded efficiently, with good humour and creativity to every request and direction received.

GLENN JACOBSON



Dr Tony Press (left) and the Air Transport Team: Charlton Clark, Stuart Mcfadzean and Adrian Pate.

**The Heard and McDonald Island Marine Research Project Leadership Team**

coordinated the ambitious expedition to Heard Island and surrounding seas in 2003–04. The project aimed to relate the feeding and foraging activities of large, predatory animals on Heard Island, to their food stocks in the Southern Ocean. The project also examined the effects of climate change on the island's glaciers and vegetation. Work at numerous locations on Heard Island and aboard the *RV Aurora Australis*, required a high level of support coordination.

'The success of the Heard Island expedition was due to meticulous planning by the Leadership Team, coupled with strong support from colleagues in Kingston, on Heard Island and aboard the *Aurora Australis*,' Dr Press said.

GLENN JACOBSON



Members of the Heard and McDonald Island Marine Research Project Team: Dana Bergstrom, Nick Gales and Andrew Constable.

**Director's Award for Excellence**

**Dr John Smith** received this year's Director's Award for Excellence for his response to an International Maritime Distress call last December, while acting as ship's doctor on board the *MV Oceanic Viking*. AAD Director, Dr Tony Press said Dr Smith provided extraordinary lifesaving medical support to an unconscious fisherman during an eight-day emergency dash from the isolated Heard and McDonald Island fishery to Fremantle, Western Australia (page 26).

Dr Smith's actions were commended by the AAD Polar Medicine Unit, the medical specialists involved in Hobart, Melbourne and Perth, the Australian Customs Service and the Consul-General of Portugal.

JOHN SMITH



John Smith attends the Portuguese fisherman.

**Mawson's Huts recognised as a national treasure**

Mawson's Huts – remnants of the 'Heroic Era' of Antarctic exploration – have been recognised for their historical, scientific and cultural significance by their inclusion on the National Heritage List.

Announcing the listing on Australia Day this year, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Senator Ian Campbell, said the huts were a symbol of Australia's pioneering role in the exploration of Antarctica.

'In 1911, with the nation cheering him on, Douglas Mawson ventured as a hero into a largely unknown environment, confident that his exploration of the Antarctic continent would help make Australia richer in both scientific knowledge and in resources,' Senator Campbell said.

'He established the first base for scientific and geographical discovery in Antarctica by Australians, and from four simple huts in the fiercest environment on Earth, he set out to learn as much as he could about the land, the ocean, the weather, the rocks and the forces that carved out Antarctica.

DAVE KILICK



One of Mawson's huts.

'The research and survey work he conducted, laid the foundations for what is our world renowned Antarctic research programme today.'

The AAD's submission to have the huts listed for protection under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* highlighted a range of heritage values. These included archaeological, scientific, technical, social and historical values. More information on Mawson's Huts can be found at <<http://www.aad.gov.au/default.asp?casid=12151>>. More information on the National Heritage List can be found at <<http://www.deh.gov.au/heritage/national>>.

## Award for Antarctic engineers

AAD engineers have been recognised for their dedication and innovative approach to ensuring sustainable Antarctic operations.

Chief AAD engineer **Chris Paterson, and his team**, received the President's Prize at the Australian Engineering Excellence Awards in November 2004, for their efforts in developing a sustainable energy system at Mawson Station. The system includes two wind turbines to help power the station, and hydrogen generated using energy from the turbines, which is used for heating.

The President of Engineers Australia, Mr Doug Jones, said, 'This environmentally-sound, cost effective, sustainable energy system is the first serious attempt by any nation to use wind power generation in Antarctica on a large scale.

'When the system is fully developed, an Antarctic station will, for the first time, be able to use a renewable source to meet virtually all its energy needs.'

The award also acknowledges the AAD's proactive management of the satellite link between Kingston and the Antarctic stations, to make the most efficient use of bandwidth; and the work of the mechanical workshop in the refurbishment (recycling) of Hagglands vehicles.

Mawson turbine construction.



JOHN SMITH

## Royal Society of Tasmania Award

AAD biologist, **Harvey Marchant**, was awarded the prestigious Royal Society of Tasmania medal in March for his prolific contribution to science and scientific publications over many years.

Among the many publications to which he has contributed are *Australian Antarctic Science: the first 50 years of ANARE*, published in 2002, and *Antarctic Marine Protists*, launched in March (page 11).

Harvey is renowned internationally for his research on the Antarctic plankton community and his contribution to the detailed taxonomy of the species. He has also played an active role in several international committees and working groups, including the SCAR (Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research) Group of Specialists on Southern Ocean Ecology and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.



GLENN JACOBSON

Harvey Marchant

## Arts Fellows on-line

Want to learn more about seal wallows, mass spectrometers, katabatic winds, iceberg formations and the 'A' factor? Then log on to **Margo Foster's** online diary on the ABC's Bush Telegraph website <<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/telegraph/antarctica/default.htm>>. Margo – one of the AAD's Arts Fellows – recently spent six weeks on board the *Aurora Australis*, braving heavy seas, fierce winds and curious wildlife. Along the way she recorded the sounds of ship life and the excitement of three brief stopovers at Mawson, Casey and Macquarie Island. Sounds include the 'song' of the ship stabilisers, the crunching of sea ice, whirring helicopters and wallowing seals. Margo will use the sounds of Antarctica for a series of specialised projects including a radio documentary and a soundscape for the Macquarie Island House at the Tasmanian Royal Botanical Gardens.

Also on board was teacher and childrens' author/illustrator, **Alison Lester**. Her Arts Fellow project involves drawing and painting Antarctic scenes and encouraging school children across Australia to draw images of Antarctica based on her emailed descriptions. The drawings will form part of a travelling exhibition of paintings called Kids' Antarctic Art. To read Alison's diary, see her photos and participate in her project visit <<http://www.alisonlester.citymax.com/page/page/1781659.htm>>.

## BREAKING NEWS

### Air link helps Antarctic research take flight

Australia has committed \$46.3 million over four years to develop an Australia-Antarctic intercontinental air link.

Announcing the funding in the recent Federal Budget, the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Senator Ian Campbell, said this was one of the biggest boosts to the Australian Antarctic programme since it began in the late 1940s.

The air link will operate between Hobart in Tasmania and a glacial ice runway to be constructed near Casey Station in the Australian Antarctic Territory. It is proposed to use a long range jet aircraft, which will also have the capability to help protect Australia's national interest through surveillance of our Southern Ocean fisheries.

Feasibility studies, including runway construction trials, have already been completed. Trial flights are scheduled to start in 2006–07.