

New Minister for the Antarctic

Senator Ian Campbell has been re-appointed as Minister for the Environment and Heritage after re-election of the Howard Government in October. Senator Campbell will take over responsibility for the Antarctic. In the Australian government's previous term, Antarctic affairs were the responsibility of Parliamentary Secretary, Dr Sharman Stone.



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colonies on maps, for example, greatly assists environmental management efforts and has facilitated collaborative research with the Chilean Antarctic Institute and the 2002–03 Heard Island expedition.

Battling severe weather conditions and time constraints, the Casey Field Store Construction Team, consisting of Ken Smith, Dan Smith, Mick Keaveney, Rob Nixon and Ron Thomas, completed much of the essential building work on the new field store. Dr Press said their commitment to getting the job done reflected a strong level of teamwork, along with their individual commitment to the AAD Code of Conduct.

The Tasmanian manager of Hospital Supplies of Australia, Rod Hill, and his staff, received their award for streamlining important aspects of the AAD medical program.

'Ginger' and 'Gadget' about to start work in Antarctica

Australia's first Antarctic-dedicated CASA 212-400 aircraft have been named 'Ginger' and 'Gadget' after Sir Douglas Mawson's sled dogs who accompanied him on his 1912 Antarctic expedition. The names were selected from some 300 entries by school children around Australia after a three-week competition in September. Seven-year-old **Luke Clifton** of St Monica School in Kurrajong NSW said 'Gadget' was the name of Mawson's favourite sled dog who, like the aircraft today, played an important role in helping scientists carrying out Antarctic science. Fourteen-year-old **Gracie Falkenmire** of Presbyterian Ladies College, Croydon NSW, said 'Ginger' was Mawson's last husky who, like others before her, helped carry explorers' equipment and shared their hardships.

The names were chosen by the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Senator Ian Campbell, after recommendation by an independent panel. The panel consisted of Australian National University historian Dr Tom Griffiths, who is writing a history of Australia in Antarctica, Skytraders Chief Executive Officer Mr Norm Mackay, Australian Antarctic Division librarian Dr Andie Smithies, and Mawson Station Leader Ms Joan Russell.

A name for the new ice runway at Casey station has also been selected. 'Wilkins', proposed by **Joe Weiley** of St Finbars School, Byron Bay NSW, was recommended by the Antarctic Names and Medals Committee – responsible for geographical place names in Antarctica.

The new runway is over 3000 m long and is located approximately 60 km from Casey station and on flat glacial 'blue' ice. It is one of the world's most remote runways and Australia's first official runway in Antarctica.

Competition winners were announced on 18 November before departure of the planes for Antarctica. The three winners each received a notebook computer valued at \$1600, and a certificate. Their schools received a multimedia Antarctic resource package consisting of books, DVDs, videos and CD ROMs, valued at \$500.

Mawson exhibition well received in Norway

An exhibition celebrating the 50th anniversary of Australia's Mawson Station in Antarctica, and our co-operation and shared Antarctic history with Norway, has been well received by visitors to the Fram Museum in Oslo. The exhibition consists of 13 panels that describe and illustrate Australia's links with Norway and our Antarctic science efforts at Mawson – Australia's first permanent Antarctic station – since its establishment on February 13, 1954. Like Australia, Norway is an original signatory to the Antarctic Treaty. Norway's Antarctic territorial claim, Dronning Maud Land, abuts the Australian Antarctic Territory, and Australia has chartered a number of Norwegian ships including the *Polar Bird*.

The exhibit, prepared by **Elizabeth Haywood** of the Australian Antarctic Division, was originally displayed in Hobart during Tasmania's Midwinter Festival in July. It moved to Canberra in August and the Fram Museum in September. The exhibit will be displayed at the Norwegian Polar Institute in Tromso at the beginning of the European summer and will tour other venues in Norway for a further 12 months.



Director's Award for Excellence

The inaugural Director's Award for Excellent Performance was presented to **David Smith**, the **Casey Field Store Construction Team** and **Hospital Supplies of Australia**, last June. The award recognises their contribution to the success of the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) and Australia's Antarctic program.

AAD Director, Dr Tony Press, said David Smith's ongoing contribution and support to science, management and operational programs, through the use of geographic information systems (GIS) and the creation of new maps, was outstanding. The inclusion of wildlife



ANNA JOHNSTONE



Moss flora of Macquarie Island

In the spirit of Australian explorer and botanist Sir Joseph Banks, **Rod Seppelt's** book *The Moss Flora of Macquarie Island* brings together an extensive evaluation of subantarctic moss flora. The book is the culmination of 28 years of research by Dr Seppelt; a Principal Research Scientist with the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) and curator of the AAD Herbarium.

Dr Seppelt has visited Antarctica and the subantarctic more than 36 times and is recognised as Australia's leading Antarctic bryologist. He is also one of Australia's most accomplished botanical illustrators.

The *Moss Flora of Macquarie Island* outlines the known flora of Macquarie Island through a combination of Dr Seppelt's beautiful illustrations and taxonomic information. As many of the species illustrated in the book exist throughout the southern hemisphere, it will provide a valuable reference for Tasmania and New Zealand.



AAD

Antarctic pioneer acknowledged

Antarctic pioneer, **Patricia Selkirk**, has been awarded the Australian Antarctic Medal. Presented by His Excellency the Governor General, Major General Michael Jeffery, in September, the award recognises Dr Selkirk's contribution to furthering community understanding of Antarctic flora through her numerous publications, media involvement and appointments on several national and international scientific committees.

Since 1979 Dr Selkirk has been a member of 17 Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions and Antarctica New Zealand Expeditions. She was also part of the team that discovered plant viruses in the subantarctic.

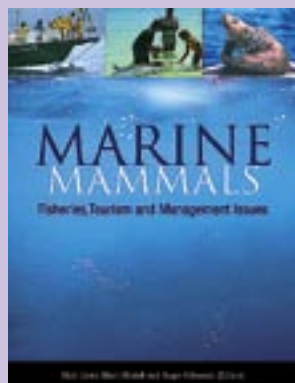
Dr Selkirk co-produced the first vegetation map of Macquarie Island and her research has formed much of the foundation for subantarctic plant biology. Her contribution to scientific literature includes over 67 publications on Antarctic terrestrial science and she has also completed a history of the achievements of geographer and geologist L.R. Blake, who was part of Douglas Mawson's expedition to Macquarie Island.

'It is thanks to people of Dr Selkirk's calibre, drive and determination that women today are able to play such an active role in Antarctic scientific research and station leadership,' said former Parliamentary Secretary for the Antarctic, Dr Sharman Stone.

Whitley Award for AAD scientist

Australian Antarctic Division biologist **Nick Gales** was honoured in the prestigious 'Whitley Awards for significant scientific publication' in September. Dr Gales was the senior editor of *Marine Mammals: Fisheries, Tourism and Management Issues*, working alongside Dr Mark Hindell from the Zoology Department at the University of Tasmania and Dr Roger Kirkwood of the Nature Park on Phillip Island in Victoria.

The book explores the sometimes contentious issues that surround Southern Hemisphere fisheries, nature-based tourism and management. It contains valuable information on the interaction between marine mammals and fisheries; the ecological consequences of Southern Ocean harvesting; aquaculture and marine mammals; and the effects of marine-based tourism on whales. It also discusses practical suggestions for the development of ethical guidelines and standards in marine mammal management.



CSIRO PUBLISHING

Literature Award for Antarctic Arts Fellow

Tasmanian children's writer and illustrator, **Coral Tulloch**, has won the Wilderness Society's 2004 Environment Award for Children's Literature, for her book *Antarctica – Heart of the World*. The book was inspired by Coral's life-changing trip to Antarctica in 1999, as part of the Australian Antarctic Arts Fellowship program. Former Parliamentary Secretary for the Antarctic, Dr Sharman Stone, described the book as one that takes the reader on a fascinating and informative journey to the last great wilderness on Earth.



GLEN JACOBSON

Antarctic Station Leaders for 2004–05

Antarctic continent station leaders for 2004–05 through to 2006 have been chosen from an Australia-wide field of 65 applicants. A station leader for Macquarie Island has been selected and will begin work in 2005. The new Antarctic leaders are:

Jeremy Smith – Casey Jeremy came to Antarctic service after 26 years in academia as a lecturer, and later, associate professor at the University of New England in Armidale, NSW, where he specialised in biogeography and taught environmental studies. He has undertaken field research in Papua New Guinea, Sabah and Venezuela, as well as in eastern Australia, from Tasmania to Torres Strait. He is the author of some 100 scientific publications in biogeography, particularly the ecology and origins of equatorial high mountain floras, dispersal of seeds by marine currents and the invasion of Australian habitats by exotic shrub species.



WAYNE PAPPS

The 2004–05 season at Casey Station will mark Jeremy's fourth year as a station leader in Antarctica. He has previously occupied the position at Macquarie Island in 1996 and at Davis in 2001 and 2003.

Rachael Robertson – Davis Rachael recently arrived at the AAD after 14 years in the field of environmental management, working as a park ranger across metropolitan Melbourne and country Victoria. Her most recent posting as chief ranger for the West Coast District of Parks Victoria involved leading a team of 54 staff in the management of national parks, reserves and marine protected areas from Torquay to the South Australian border, and including the world famous Twelve Apostles.

Rachael has experience across a wide range of areas including staff management; supervising the delivery of research programs; managing OH&S – including the implementation of maintenance programs; protected area legislation; and policy development and compliance. She is an accredited fire fighter, mad Geelong supporter and Shackleton enthusiast. Her posting to Davis station will be her first experience in Antarctica.



GLEN JACOBSON

Graham Cook – Mawson Graham has spent the past three years in a dual role as operations manager with Federal Hotels' Strahan Village Resort and manager of Gordon River Cruises on Tasmania's west coast. Between 1991 and 2001 he was responsible for the operation of a number of remote Aboriginal community stores and Aboriginal enterprise developments in Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory, the Kimberley in Western Australia, the Tanami and Great Sandy Desert areas, and the northern goldfields of Western Australia.

Graham has travelled extensively throughout South-East Asia. Although ten years in the tropics allowed little opportunity for practice, he is a keen mountaineer, skier and bushwalker. This will be his first trip to Antarctica.



GLEN JACOBSON