

IN BRIEF

Antarctic Station Leaders 2007-2008

JESSICA FITZPATRICK



CASEY – Jeremy Smith has spent 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 more than 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. This season at Casey station will mark Jeremy's fifth year as a Station Leader in Antarctica. He has previously occupied the position at Macquarie Island in 1996, Davis in 2001 and 2003 and Casey in 2005.

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DAVIS – Peter Pedersen comes from a 17-year career with the Australian Quarantine Service, based in Cairns. As a Remote Area Operations Coordinator he was responsible for remote field activity in Cape York, and exercises in the Northern Territory and Western Australia. Much of his work involved providing logistical support to scientific staff undertaking exotic

pest and disease surveys, border enforcement along the northern Australian coast, and community engagement work, especially in remote Aboriginal communities. Peter was posted to Torres Strait for two years and was involved with quarantine border issues between Papua New Guinea and Australia. He then spent a year in East Timor leading a project to establish the newly independent country's first quarantine service. Peter is a keen hiker and fisherman, and enjoys spending time on his doorstep – the Great Barrier Reef!

JESSICA FITZPATRICK



MAWSON – Narelle Campbell, born and raised in Wingham and Taree (NSW), has 23 years experience in print media, covering logistics, sales and marketing in senior management roles. She began her career at Rural Press Limited before moving to Fairfax Media where she was National Circulation Manager for Fairfax Business Media for seven years.

Here she was responsible for overseeing print orders, distribution, sales, marketing, subscriptions and audits. In 2005 she took on her current role as National Manager, Income Development, for Mission Australia. Narelle has degrees in social science and counselling and has worked as a volunteer for Missionbeat in Sydney – providing support to homeless people. When not at home in Coogee, Narelle can be found out climbing, sailing, kayaking or walking. She has walked the Kokoda Track and completed high altitude climbs in Nepal, India, Africa and Chile.

Antarctic Medal

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Sharon Labudda, an Aircraft Ground Support Officer (AGSO) with Australia's Antarctic programme, was awarded this year's Antarctic Medal. Sharon was the first AGSO employed by the Australian Antarctic Division with the introduction of fixed-wing aircraft operations within Antarctica in 2004. Since that time she has helped develop and refine the position, and those of others who have followed in her footsteps, to the highest degree of efficiency and safety. AGSOs work closely with all fixed-wing and helicopter flight crews, ensuring the smooth operation of air services between Australia's Antarctic stations and field locations.

The Australian Antarctic Medal is an award in the Meritorious Service Awards category of the Australian Honours System. The Medal replaced the (British) Imperial Polar Medal and its variations, which date back to 1857 for service in the Arctic and Antarctic regions.

Director's Awards

The 2007 recipients of the Director's Award for Excellence were:

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Tania Ashworth – for her drive, enthusiasm and professionalism in running the Airlink Taskforce, and especially for her project management and facilitation of the Airlink workshops over the past two years.

AAD



David Sumner – for his exemplary attitude, work ethic and willingness to lead and adapt to a changing work environment. David undertakes his warehousing services role with an agreeable and customer focused manner and has also played a significant part in the implementation of the Head Office Logistics Centre.

Don Hudspeth and Brett Quinton – for outstanding leadership during the resupply and change-over voyage to Macquarie Island in the 2006-07 Antarctic season. As the voyage involved many high profile round trip projects, a highly detailed and flexible plan was required. The team went to extraordinary lengths to make sure participants knew what was going on at every stage, they balanced task completion with risk mitigation appropriately; and they demonstrated good judgement at every stage.



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Rob King, Andrew Mceldowney, David Zeven and Paul Camp – for the exemplary work they undertake in maintaining the krill culturing and aquarium facilities at the Antarctic Division.



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Wendy Pyper – for exemplary dedication to ensuring excellence in the production of the *Australian Antarctic Magazine*.

Departmental Secretary's Award



Renata Robertson

Australian Antarctic Division staff, Renata Robertson and Andrew Jackson, received this year's Departmental Secretary's Awards. Renata's award recognises her consistent contribution to the Department's goals through her dedicated and efficient work in the Science Branch, and her tireless efforts supporting staff in the running of the Division's social club.



Andrew Jackson

Andrew's award recognises his role as a mentor and role model. As Acting General Manager, Policy Coordination, from 2005 to 2006, Andrew inspired staff with his positive leadership and provided an excellent role model when he championed and made a significant personal contribution to the Branch Improvement Plan. Most recently Andrew has managed and led the Antarctic Future's Project.

Parliament House Exhibition

An exhibition of 60 photographs from recent Australian Antarctic expeditions drew crowds at Parliament House, Canberra, from August to September. The exhibition included a series of 40 black and white photographs by 2005-06 Arts Fellow, Judith Parrott, and 20 colour photographs taken by scientists and support personnel.



One of the photographs in the Parliament House Exhibition.

National Science Week

The Australian Antarctic Division celebrated National Science Week in August with displays of various Antarctic research activities at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. Live displays of the two



WENDY PYPHER

most important organisms in the food chain – phytoplankton and krill – were a hit with school students and the public.

Phytoplankton display.

The Division's research diving team showed off the latest in polar dive-wear and equipment, and the research they support. Climate scientists produced a genuine 500-year old ice core to illustrate how ice cores contribute to our understanding of past climate and detect and monitor changes in today's climate. Biologist, Dr Graham Hosie, also gave a demonstration of the ancient Japanese art of fish printing or 'Gyotaku' – a technique he learnt from internationally acclaimed Japanese artist, Boshu Nagase, who has donated a number of prints to the Antarctic Division.

Antarctic heritage assessment

The Australian Antarctic Division recently conducted an assessment of its historical artefact collection with the help of professional curators and knowledgeable staff members. The



JOHN CLAYDON

assessment will enable the Division to make informed decisions about the storage, conservation, display, lending and disposal of items. Many of the items have heritage significance, including a ski stock, ice axe and a man-hauling harness belonging to geologist, Dr Frank Stillwell, who formed part of Mawson's Australasian Antarctic Expedition of 1911-14. Other objects of interest included artefacts from Mawson's Huts, medical equipment, an old wooden wind turbine generator from Mawson station, a 1943 Weasel tractor and various de Havilland Beaver aircraft parts. Several of the aircraft parts were later shipped to New Zealand for use in a display aircraft at the Air Force Museum, Christchurch (above).

Teachers at sea

Two Tasmanian teachers joined scientists on board the *Aurora Australis* for a 42-day voyage to the sea ice zone around Antarctica in September, to study sea ice physics, biology and the open ocean food web. Jane Dobson from Claremont College and Caroline Lapworth from Geeveston



Jane Dobson, Caroline Lapworth and Voyage Leader, Tony Worby, before the voyage.

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District High School got involved in a range of research projects and posted daily reports on the voyage website – www.acecrc.sipex.aq. Teachers and students around the world were able to follow the pair's adventures, learn more about the different aspects of scientific research being conducted, email questions, and try various experiments that demonstrated the principles behind the science. Jane and Caroline were also joined by a toy polar bear, Polar Knutsen, who provided a different perspective on the voyage with his own web blog. The next issue of the *Australian Antarctic Magazine* will contain stories about the voyage.