

# IN BRIEF

## Director's Awards

This year's recipients of the Australian Government Antarctic Division's Director's Awards were:



CLAIRE WOOLRIDGE

**Mike Woolridge**, the Antarctic Division's Station Support Coordinator, was commended for his enthusiasm, initiative and drive in supporting the preparation for and conduct of the 2005-06 summer programmes conducted in and around Davis station. He was especially congratulated for his quick thinking during the departure of the *Aurora Australis* from Hobart in 2005, when he rescued a young girl who fell into the water between the ship and the wharf.

The **Davis station leadership team**, consisting of John Rich, Graham Denyer, Ray Morris, Chris Tickner, and Janine Lea, were awarded for their actions following the unfortunate death of Peter Orbanen at Davis last summer. Individually and collectively each staff member worked professionally and with dignity and compassion, while participating in the formal investigation process following Peter's death. At the same time they provided high quality leadership and direction to maintain their community and the well being of many of their team significantly affected by the event.

Two **lay 'surgical assistant' teams** destined for Mawson and Davis, were awarded for their assistance in the care of a patient requiring an emergency appendectomy aboard the *Aurora Australis* in October 2005. The team of chefs, carpenters, meteorologists and communication technical officers, assisted the Antarctic medical practitioners in preparing for the emergency surgery, during the operation, and in providing post operative care for the patient.



ANDREW JACKSON

Environmental policy officer **Ewan McIvor** was recognised for the outstanding and innovative support he provided to the Chair of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) between 2003 and 2006. Ewan developed the Chariman's electronic brief – an archive of Antarctic Treaty and environment related documents. He also

helped enhance the CEP's website to improve communications between Treaty Parties.



The Media Production Manager in Multimedia Services, **Jessica Fitzpatrick**, was recognised for her exemplary customer and results focused work, and for her efforts in support of the combined meetings of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research and the Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs.

## Australian Antarctic Medal

This year's Australian Antarctic Medal was awarded to Mr Per Larson for outstanding service in support of Australian Antarctic expeditions. Mr Larsen was Chief Integrated Rating (Bo'sun) on the RSV *Aurora Australis* and since 1994 has undertaken 26 voyages in support of the Australian Antarctic programme. His service includes more than 1000 days sea duty, including about 580 days below 60 degrees south.



DAN WEAVELL

## Minister's Achievement Awards

A Minister's Achievement Award for outstanding work to support the International Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research Open Science Conference, the Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs, and

associated meetings, was presented to Antarctic Division scientists Kate Kiefer (Project Manager for the meetings) and Ian Allison (Chair, local organising committee).



## Story of a sentinel

A new book on Heard Island, edited by Ken Green and Eric Woehler brings together a wealth of information on the island, including its history, biology, geology, glaciology and climatology, gathered from sealers' logbooks, scientific papers, climbing journals and geographical magazines. Several of the 15 chapters

were written by staff of the Antarctic Division, which has conducted numerous scientific expeditions to the island. The book is available from Surrey Beatty & Sons: (02) 9602 3888, [surreybeatty@iform.com.au](mailto:surreybeatty@iform.com.au)



AGAD

## Invertebrates of Macquarie Island

*Invertebrates of Macquarie Island* describes the taxonomy, biology and ecology of over 300 invertebrate taxa from subantarctic Macquarie Island.

The book summarises the major diagnostic features of all taxa with 12 keys to species of beetles, flies, springtails and other abundant groups of invertebrates, providing an invaluable identification guide for those interested in subantarctic ecology. Written by Penelope Greenslade and edited by Dana Bergstrom, the book is available from the Antarctic Division for \$80. Contact [judy.whelan@aad.gov.au](mailto:judy.whelan@aad.gov.au).



This jade berg, taken by scientist, Steve Nicol, formed part of the Parliament House exhibition.

## Parliament House exhibition

The Antarctic exhibition at Parliament House in Canberra, in September, entitled *Aurora – extraordinary visions of Antarctica*, featured photographs showing that Antarctica is not just icebergs and penguins, but an amazing world of colour and creatures. The photographs were taken by scientists and support staff of the Antarctic Division and can be viewed at <http://www.aad.gov.au/default.asp?casid=24039>. The exhibition will again be on display at Central Park in Perth in February and the Cullity Gallery, University of Western Australia, in March.

## Antarctic Station Leaders 2006-07



**Mawson** – Gary Dowes is an epidemiologist and public health physician whose early career focused on emerging 'western' diseases, including asthma, obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease, in developing countries of the Asia-Pacific region. During this period he coordinated field-based epidemiological studies in Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Nauru, Fiji and Mauritius, and advised governments of these and other countries on prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.

Gary has worked in the Western Australia Department of Health since 1995, initially with responsibility for public health programmes in the Midwest region, and more recently within its Communicable Disease Control Directorate, where he has coordinated surveillance, investigation and response to outbreaks of infectious disease, and managed broader communicable disease prevention and control programmes across the state. Gary's outside interests include bushwalking, running, bike riding and collecting antiquarian books, maps and prints. This will be his first season in Antarctica.



**Davis** – Graham Cook returns to Antarctica after spending 2005 as the Mawson Station Leader. Prior to that he spent 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 Gold Fields of Western Australia. Graham has travelled extensively throughout South East Asia. He is a keen mountaineer, skier and bushwalker.



**Casey** – Denis Rich. For the past 27 years Denis has been employed with the Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) where, as a Commander, he gained broad experience in emergency response, training and management. In recognition of his role in leading the development and implementation of the MFB's Emergency

Medical Services First Responder programme – a first for fire services within Australia – Denis was awarded the Australia Fire Service Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2000. In a parallel career, Denis has also achieved sporting success (or at least notoriety) as a VFL/AFL umpire, with over 250 games and three Grand Finals. Now a keen golfer, he enjoys travelling, outdoor activities, swimming, reading and morning walks. He lives by the sea in picturesque Williamstown and is married with two adult children and a dog – named Casey!



GEOFF NEWTON

## Vale: Ken Assender (17.11.1937 – 10.09.2006)

Ken Assender went south on the *Thala Dan* as a young Pilot Officer with the RAAF Antarctic Flight in 1959-60. Stationed at Mawson as Third Pilot for the year, he participated in wide-ranging exploration programmes in the DC3/Dakota aircraft. As a co-pilot, he made extensive forays into the Prince Charles Mountains and Enderby Land to undertake topographical and

geological surveys. Ken also flew between Mawson and Davis stations. Ken's skill as a navigator was later employed in the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race.

Ken's strong interest in Australia's Antarctic programme led him to work part-time in the Antarctic Division's Multimedia Unit during the 1990s. Ken was also the mainstay, for many years, of the Tasmanian Branch of the ANARE Club, of which he became President in 1998.

## Totally Wild in Antarctica

One of the priorities of the upcoming International Polar Year (2007-08) is education and outreach, in order to inspire a new generation of scientists and encourage young people into science. With this in mind, the Australian Government Antarctic Division selected this year's Antarctic Arts Fellows for their potential to reach a large, young audience.



Wesley Denning from Network Ten will film some 28 episodes of *Totally Wild* – a broadly based environment programme aimed at the 8-14 age group. The stories will be aired over 12 months and will promote nature, science, environment and adventure. *Totally Wild* attracts an audience of 1.4 million a week in Australia and,

through the ABC Asia network, has young viewers in 41 countries. Wesley will also obtain footage for Network Ten's kids science programme *SCOPE*.

Wesley will be accompanied by cameraman Stephen Harris and producer Marie Davies.



DAVID MCLEENAGHAN

Tanya Patrick from CSIRO education will collect material for the Kids Antarctic Awareness Project – a series of film, audio and written interviews with scientists. This will include segments for Network Ten's *SCOPE* and *Totally Wild* television programmes, magazine feature articles, an Antarctica hands-on activity kit, a diary

in email newsletter *Science by Email*, pod casts, and an interactive website hosted by CSIRO Education [www.csiro.au/helix](http://www.csiro.au/helix). Tanya is editor of *Scientriffic*, CSIRO's science magazine for 7-10 year olds.

## Correction

The photograph on page 15 of *Australian Antarctic Magazine*, Issue 10, of a crew member avoiding a wave on the *Nella Dan*, was taken by John Shearer.