

Serventy Conservation Medal for 2000

In 2000 the Serventy Conservation Medal was presented to Dr Judy Messer, Vice-Chair of the Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales, for her outstanding contribution to conservation and environmental protection work. She has been, and still is, a tireless worker for biodiversity conservation and environment protection generally. Judy has been involved in many local, national and international conservation campaigns; especially those associated with coastal policy, inland rivers, arid land ecosystems and urban bushland.

She was Chairperson of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW from 1984 until 2000, with only a two-year break, and is currently the Vice-Chairperson. Dr Judy Messer has labored long and hard to protect our environment from pollution, inappropriate exploitation and over-development. In many cases Judy endeavored to act as a catalyst in her efforts to arouse community action, eg she initiated the Jervis Bay Coalition, co-sponsored the Coalition for Urban Transport Sanity, and convinced Bob Carr as Planning Minister to create SEPP 19 Bushland in Urban Areas in 1986.

Judy is currently a non-Executive Director of Sydney Water and has served as an expert adviser on many government and inter-agency committees to protect our environment, such as the Murray Darling Ministerial Council Community Advisory Committee, NSW State Wetlands Action Group, Menindee Lakes Advisory Committee, Barwon-Darling River Management Committee, the Kangaroo Management Advisory Committee, Rural Fires Advisory Council, and the Aboriginal Ownership legislation working group.

Judy has represented the NCC at all of the triennial meetings of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) since 1990, including the recent World Conservation Congress in Jordan. Her particular interests are the promotion of an understanding of how to implement the principles of ecologically sustainable development (ESD), the development of innovative natural resource management policies and strategies, and an ongoing commitment to community empowerment. She has been very supportive of the work of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia and has a long association with our President of Honour, Dr Vincent Serventy AM, who also served for many years on the Nature Conservation Council of NSW.



Dr Judy Messer