

Serventy Conservation Medal for 2001

In 2001 the Serventy Conservation Medal was presented to popular divers, Ron and Valerie Taylor who have done so much to save the wildlife of the Great Barrier Reef were awarded the Serventy Conservation Medal and Award for 2001. They have been tireless workers promoting a greater understanding of the wonders of the Great Barrier Reef and the urgent need to protect and preserve the unique wildlife found on this world heritage coral Reef.

'Shadow Over The Reef', an adventure film about swimming with WHALE SHARKS at Ningaloo Reef, in Western Australia, was co-produced by the Taylor's in 1993. This film was used to successfully stop the drilling for oil inside the Ningaloo.

In April 1997 Valerie won the prestigious American Nature Photographer of the Year Award for a picture of a Whale Shark swimming with a boy in Ningaloo Marine Park. This annual award is sponsored by National Geographic, Kodak and The American Press Club.

The Taylor's latest book 'Blue Wilderness' written by Valerie and photographed by Valerie and Ron won the 1998 Gold Palm Award for images at the 25th World Festival of Underwater pictures in Antibes, France.

The Taylor's latest series of three, one-hour films 'In the Shadow of the Shark' is the story of their diving lives.

On Australia Day 2003 Ron Taylor was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia AM for service to conservation and cinematography.



Valerie and Ron Taylor