

The Serventy Conservation Award for 2005

This special award was inaugurated in 1999 to commemorate the wonderful conservation work by the members of the Serventy family – Dr Vin Serventy, his brother Dr Dominic Serventy and his sister Lucy. Each member of the family has given a lifetime of commitment to the conservation and preservation of Australian wildlife.



The Serventy Conservation Medal

The famous words of the renowned African Ecologist, Baba Dioum, encapsulate the philosophy behind the Serventy families' dedication to the environment:

*In the end, we will conserve only what we love,
We will love only what we understand,
And we will understand only what we are taught.*

Vin Serventy and his family have taught us all to love and understand our unique Australian wildlife through their untiring efforts over so many years.

Each year the Serventy Conservation Award is made to a very special person who has been outstanding in their commitment to the preservation of Australian wildlife. **This year the Award was made to Lyall Kenneth Metcalfe of Alice Springs in the Northern Territory.**

Ken (as he is known) has an inspirational love for Australia's wildlife and has a lifelong interest in nature conservation. In his older years Ken has continued his volunteer conservation work throughout most states of Australia. Ken now lives in Alice Springs NT where he acts as a Regional Councillor for our Society and assists with many Northern Territory Parks clean ups.

Ken as recipient of the Serventy Conservation Medal for 2005, while not as old as Dr Vin Serventy, has nonetheless made a lifetime contribution to the conservation movement. Ken Metcalfe joined our Society as a 19 year-old and has been active ever since. His activities have lasted over a period of more than 45 years. These began in Sydney where he acted as Honorary Ranger for Hornsby Shire Council, Sutherland Shire Council, as Honorary Ranger for NSW under the Fauna Protection Act and in a salaried position within the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. He also became a registered flora collector for the National Herbarium, Sydney. During this time Ken found time to act as an Honorary Fire Patrol Officer and even captain a local Bush Fire Brigade.



Ken Metcalfe is congratulated by The Premier

Wherever Ken has gone he has become involved in conservation and related activities. He was an honorary Ranger for Coffs Harbour Council and since his move to the Northern Territory he hasn't allowed the heat to affect his zeal. He has been actively involved in the Alice Springs volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, won a Tidy Towns Award for small towns, won a Power and Water Award for vegetation and water conservation in a small Aboriginal community north of Alice Springs. In 2001 Ken was runner-up in the Territorian of the Year award and in 2002 was awarded the Volunteer of the Year for Emergency and Safety.

In the army there is an old saying, "don't volunteer for anything". In the conservation movement that just wouldn't wash. We'd achieve very little if we didn't work together. We depend on volunteers and it is fitting that a volunteer like Ken Metcalfe should be recognised for his lifelong contribution.