

2018 Community Rehabilitation Award

The award for 2018 was presented to Tehree Gordon OAM of Barwon Heads, Victoria. Tehree has been involved in animal rescue since the age of 15; however, she has been registered in wildlife rescue and rehabilitation for over 40 years. Tehree and Hamish opened Jirrahlinga Koala and Wildlife Sanctuary over 40 years ago to rescue and rehabilitate injured, distressed and orphaned wildlife while at the same time providing a haven for disadvantaged people of all ages. Tehree also established a special animal welfare program for the elderly, people with special needs and school children.

Acceptance speech from Tehree Gordon

Thank you for this amazing award. But firstly, I wish to congratulate you for your incredible achievement on being 110 years old. So many personalities over the years but with professionalism you have survived. Many great groups have come together over the years only to disintegrate due to personalities – but not the Australian Wildlife Society. CONGRATULATIONS!

I have only been able to do this work because of the commitment, dedication and support of my amazing husband, Hamish, who commits a large part of his salary monthly to help finance Jirrahlinga. I also thank the staff and volunteers who work with me and believe in me and what we do. I believe the greatest thing we can do for the environment is to bring back respect. It should start in the home, flow on to schools, our next generation, our society; and who knows, maybe even our politicians will try it too. Respect demands acknowledging people have the right to be and think differently. Respect should also be given to land, waterways, animals, etc., and treated properly by all. This should include climate change and all aspects to deliver this amazing country to greater heights. This is my belief and challenge for a better future.



Presentation of the Rehabilitation Award to Tehree Gordon by Suzanne Medway.