

WHITLEY BOOK AWARDS 1990



In August this year the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales hosted its 12th Annual Whitley Awards. These awards were instigated to recognize and reward excellence in Australian zoological literature. All publications submitted were critically reviewed by a panel convened by Dr Arthur White and comprising Dr Leighton Llewellyn, Dr Woody Horning, Mr Arthur Woods and various co-opted specialist zoologists.

Twenty-eight books survived the first round of reviews, with eventually eight of these being deemed by the review committee as deserving of special recognition. Two in particular were highlighted as being of extreme zoological significance. In such a situation, the Whitley Committee had no option but to award two Silver Whitley Medals for 1990. The committee's decisions were:

Whitley Medals

"Australian Cicadas"

by Max Moulds

The New South Wales University Press

"The Biology and Evolution of Australian Lizards"

by Allen E. Greer

Surrey Beatty & Sons Pty Ltd

Best Zoological Handbook

"Mammals of New Guinea"

by Tim Flannery

E. J. Brill/Robert Brown and Associates

Australian Museum

Best Animal Biology Text

"Graham Webb's Crocodiles of Australia"

by Graham Webb and Charlie Manolis

Reed Books

Best Natural History Periodical Series

"Australian Natural History"

edited by Fiona Doig and Georgina Hickie

Australian Museum Trust

Best Symposium Proceedings

"Kangaroos, Wallabies and Rat-kangaroos"

edited by Gordon Grigg, Ian Hume

and Peter Jarman

Surrey Beatty & Sons Pty Ltd

Best Junior Series

"Australian Junior Field Guides"

by Eleanor Stodart

Weldon Publishing

Certificate of Commendation

"Koala Summit; managing koalas
in New South Wales"

edited by Daniel Lunney, Chris Ann Urquhart
and Philip Reed

New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife
Service

At the presentation ceremony the authors and publishers were awarded their medals and certificates. It was evident from the comments made in the various acceptance speeches that an intense collaboration had taken place between authors and publishers in the preparation of the superior publications. Both author and publisher had to be prepared to devise and revise their methods of presentation (sometimes knowing that this would reduce the saleability of their book). Correct up-to-date information is the hallmark of any book awarded a Whitley Medal or Certificate. The award winning titles are permitted to bear the Society's logo as an endorsement of their quality.

The Society believes that excellence should be actively sought in all aspects of zoology (including its literature). The Whitley Awards are our way of fostering the achievement of this goal. In the 12 years since the introduction of the Whitley Awards they have become a prestigious prize amongst authors and publishers. It is hoped that as time goes on the symbol of the RZS on the dust jacket of a book will confirm in the public's mind that it is a special publication.

Arthur White
Convenor