

## History of the Serventy Conservation Medal

In 1997 the Council of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia decided to perpetuate the memory of the Serventy family for their outstanding contribution to wildlife preservation in Australia by establishing the Serventy Conservation Award and Medal.

The Serventy Conservation Medal, named in honour of our President of Honour, Dr Vincent Serventy AM, his brother, the late Dr Dominic Serventy, an international ornithologist, and his older sister Lucy Serventy, who is now our oldest Life Member.

Dr Vincent Serventy has been a member of the Society for more than 50 years and served as its President until 2000. His work for conservation and the environment is well known. His sister Lucy, who has been a member of the Society for even longer, is also famous in Western Australia for her work in nature conservation, particularly among young people and for her bush walking exploits.

This Award is intended to honour conservation work that has not been done as part of a professional career for which the person will have been well paid and honoured. It is given to those who labour in the conservation field for a love of nature and a determination that it should be conserved.

Often these have been non-scientists who have earned their conservation skills through sheer hard work. In the past names like Alec Chisholm, Keith Hindwood, Arnold McGill, Milo Dunphy all come to mind. In the last century there were even greater figures like the artist and ornithologists John Gould and John Gilbert.

### Medal design

Australia's foremost sculptor, Stephen Walker, was born in Victoria in 1927 and now lives in Tasmania. At the request of Vincent Serventy, Stephen designed the special conservation medallion in brass. The medal depicts our national icon, the Australian koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*), on one side and our Society's special emblem, the short-beaked echidna (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*), on the other with suitable wording.

Stephen Walker's empathy and affection for Australian wildlife is embedded in the creation of the Serventy Conservation medal. His achievement of excellence in design and construction of this superb artwork is a complement to our unique Australian wildlife.

In addition to the medal a cheque for \$1,000 is awarded annually. Many conservationists in the past have suffered financially for their devotion to the cause of conservation. This monetary award is a tribute to their dedication. The bronze medal is designed to be a constant reminder that the conservation movement has remembered their work in the past, just as history will remember the same achievements in the future.

### Selection procedure

The decision on the granting of each year's medal will be decided by a full meeting of the Council, in November each year. Nominations should be received by the Society by the end of October each year. The nomination should contain sufficient details of the work of the nominated person for the Council to be able to verify the good work of the individual.

### Nominations

To spread our choice more widely we ask all those interested in conservation to send us names of folk deserving of the honour and, if possible, details of his or her life history in conservation and environmental protection, with an emphasis on wildlife preservation.



*The Seventy Conservation Medal*