

## **AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC MEDAL (AAM)**

### **Dr Nicholas John GALES, TAS**

For his outstanding contribution to the Australian Antarctic Program, particularly his leadership in Antarctic and Southern Ocean scientific research by developing a marine mammal program in the Southern Ocean.

Dr Nicholas Gale is recognised for his significant and exceptional contribution to the Australian Antarctic Program spanning four decades. His passion for Antarctic and Southern Ocean scientific research saw him credited with being responsible for developing the Australian Marine Mammal Centre at the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD), which acted as a central point for researchers in the Australasian region to seek funding and collaborate on marine mammal research that informs policy.

He attended the International Whaling Commission's (IWC) Scientific Committee meetings, putting a structure in place that ensured science contributed directly to, and developed a strong conservation agenda for, the Commission. All this culminated in acting as a witness for Australia in the successful International Court of Justice finding against Japan's Southern Ocean whaling program.

Dr Gale led the first dedicated non-lethal whale research expedition conducted under the Southern Ocean Research partnership, which provided an effective mechanism for the delivery of prioritised, non-lethal research into the IWC to provide a scientific basis for sound conservation and management of Southern Ocean whales.

## AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC MEDAL (AAM)

### **Mr Timothy PRICE, TAS**

For his outstanding contribution to the Australian Antarctic Program, particularly in his capacity as a trade supervisor, station leader and expeditioner, ensuring the effective operation of Antarctic Research Station infrastructure and communities.

Mr Timothy Price has been a cornerstone of the Antarctic community - first wintering at Davis Research Station 37 years ago, followed by participation in 26 Antarctic seasons - including wintering, summering and round tripping.

He is a highly respected mentor who goes out of his way to look out for less experienced staff and expeditioners, ensuring that they are supported. He has also ensured the sustainability of station programs through knowledge sharing and mentoring. His work in support of the Secondary Waste Water Treatment Plant at Davis was instrumental in providing the station with adequate sewerage treatment and meeting Annex III of the Madrid Protocol.

He has provided innovative methods towards safety as well as energy and water conservation, implementing a more efficient way of heat recovery from the station power generation. His extensive knowledge of waste management, water reticulation, heating, ventilation and building systems are invaluable.

Mr Price has made an outstanding contribution to the Australian Antarctic Program.

## AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC MEDAL (AAM)

**Associate Professor Patti VIRTUE**, Neika TAS 7054

For her outstanding contribution to the Australian Antarctic Program, particularly in her efforts in mentoring and teaching the next generation of Antarctic ecologists.

Associate Professor Virtue has been on numerous Antarctic science expeditions both at sea, and on station, over an extensive amount of time.

Multiple instances have been cited where she has spent a significant amount of her personal time providing pastoral care to undergraduate and postgraduate students who have then gone on to become successful researchers.

Her support and mentoring to early career researchers to successfully undertake their first journeys into the Southern Ocean and to Antarctica is commendable.

Of particular importance is her unique and exceptional contribution to the understanding of the role of krill in the Southern Ocean ecosystem and the likely impacts of climate change on krill.

Associate Professor Virtue works collaboratively across nations and disciplines, leading and contributing to many research publications covering diverse aspects of biological oceanography, sea ice ecology, zooplankton (krill) research and marine oils.

## AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC MEDAL (AAM)

**Ms Donna Faye WIGHTMAN**, Tenterfield NSW 2372

For her outstanding contribution to the Australian Antarctic Program, particularly in her capacity as Chef and Deputy Station Leader, especially during the 2015-2016 transition of expeditioners following the grounding of the *Aurora Australis*.

Ms Donna Wightman's contribution during her service in Antarctica has been instrumental to the smooth running of the community. Her dedication to her core role as station chef alone is most noteworthy, but it is her commitment to the station community and operation as a whole that sets her apart.

During the summer of 2015-2016 her efforts during the transition of expeditioners from Mawson through Casey following the grounding of the *Aurora Australis* was exemplary. She played an integral role in the health and welfare of all transient expeditioners. Her natural leadership skills, along with her caring nature and strong work ethic, lifted expeditioner spirits as they arrived on station from the *Shirazi*. She ensured all were as comfortable as possible during their unexpected stay, showing commitment and empathy to all during this stressful time.

During this last Antarctic season at Davis, where the community as a whole were extended through a second summer due to logistical constraints, she was outstanding in her role as Deputy Station Leader. She was the backbone of the station's morale and wellbeing as many around her struggled to manage the unique and trying circumstances. Her resilience and perseverance set an example to all on-station as she worked tirelessly to ensure each and every expeditioner felt appreciated, supported and valued.