

Australian Antarctic Medal (AAM)

Dr Christopher Johnson Carson

For outstanding contributions to Australia's Antarctic Program, particularly through geoscientific research and fostering international scientific collaboration.

Dr Christopher Carson has dedicated several decades to Antarctic geoscientific research, exemplifying exceptional leadership and innovation in advancing Australia's Antarctic Program. His service spans numerous summer field seasons in remote locations, expert guidance aboard research and tourist vessels, and leadership roles at Geoscience Australia, the University of Sydney and the University of Melbourne. Internationally, he has collaborated extensively with partners in the USA, Japan, and Poland and played a central role in the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR).

A hallmark of Dr Carson's career is his pioneering work on the Stornes Peninsula, Larsemann Hills. His research, in partnership with international colleagues, led to the discovery of new minerals and provided crucial insights into Antarctica's ancient geological history. This work was instrumental in the designation of Stornes as an Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA), one of only a handful established for geological significance. The minerals and fossiliferous sediments found there have global scientific value, offering a window into Earth's distant past and requiring careful stewardship for future research.

Dr Carson's leadership extended beyond fieldwork. He was the driving force behind the creation of the SCAR Action Group and later Expert Group on Geological Heritage and Geo-conservation, serving as inaugural chair and shaping international policy on geo-heritage protection. His advocacy and international engagement have fostered vital collaborations, notably with Japan, resulting in improved bathymetric mapping and safer Antarctic navigation. He also co-led the Antarctic Field Notebooks Project, digitising decades of field records and making them accessible to the global scientific community.

Dr Carson's sustained excellence, collaborative spirit, and advocacy for Antarctic geo-heritage have significantly advanced scientific understanding and international cooperation. His work has left a lasting impact on Australia's Antarctic Program and the broader global research community.

Australian Antarctic Medal (AAM)

Dr Jan Marie Wallace, Balnarring Beach VIC 3926

For outstanding contribution to Australia's Antarctic Program, particularly through remote medicine practices.

Dr Jan Wallace has been a pioneering force in Antarctic medicine, with a career spanning over 40 years as a general practitioner, remote medicine specialist, educator, and mentor. She has served across all Australian Antarctic stations, Macquarie Island, and aboard key Antarctic vessels, providing medical care in some of the world's most challenging environments. Her roles have included not only direct clinical care but also leadership in medical evacuations, research, education, and support for both expeditioners and fellow medical practitioners.

Throughout her numerous Antarctic deployments across both summer and winter seasons, Dr Wallace has demonstrated exceptional skill and calm under pressure, saving lives through complex medical interventions including remote surgery and critical evacuations. Her research into first aid training for expeditioners directly shaped the Australian Antarctic Division's first aid program, resulting in improved safety and operational protocols. As a mentor and supervisor, she has guided generations of Antarctic medical practitioners and inspired many, including future doctors and women in medicine, to pursue careers in remote and expeditionary healthcare.

Dr Wallace's impact is felt not only in the lives she has saved and the medical innovations she has introduced, but also in the strong sense of community and confidence she fosters among expeditioners and colleagues. Her dedication, compassion, and pragmatic leadership have set the standard for Antarctic medical care, strengthened the wellbeing of the Australian Antarctic community, and ensured the next generation of practitioners are well prepared for the unique challenges of polar medicine. Her legacy is one of unwavering service, mentorship, and advocacy for health and safety in the harshest of environments.