

Researchers win Birds Australia award

Two prominent CDU researchers have received a national award to honour their outstanding contributions to the field of birds in the Australasian region.



Director of the School for Environmental Research, Professor Stephen Garnett, and the Biodiversity Information Officer with Tropical Savannas CRC, Dr Gabriel Crowley, were awarded the prestigious D. L. Serventy Medal by Birds Australia (previously the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union) for their contributions to publications in the field of ornithology.

Partners in life and work, Professor Garnett and Dr Crowley have made a significant, pivotal and unique contribution to the knowledge and conservation of Australian birds.

This contribution has been made through hands-on intensive research, the compilation of systematic overviews of the conservation status of Australian birds, and the development and maintenance of networks of ornithologists and others, nationally and internationally, with interest in the management of Australia's threatened birds.

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Award winners, Professor Stephen Garnett and Dr Gabriel Crowley.

NT academic tops Australia in vocational teaching

CDU has blitzed the rest of Australia's training providers to take out the Institute of Trade Skills Excellence (ITSE) Teacher of the Year award for 2008.



above
Dr Brian Heim plans to put his \$10,000 prize to good use.

CDU's NT Manager of the Primary Industries and Community Services Industry Division, Dr Brian Heim was announced the winner.

It was the first time the Territory has participated in the awards, with Dr Heim scooping not only the Agricultural Teacher of the Year Award, but also the ultimate accolade of ITSE Teacher of the Year 2008.

Originally from Texas, USA, Dr Heim has worked at CDU's Katherine campus for the past six years.

"To win this award is a tremendous honour. It goes beyond explanation to say what it actually means to me," he said.

Dr Heim said he believed that an agricultural course he had developed in direct response to industry demand secured the prestigious award.

"I think it's the job of vocational education and training (VET) teachers to respond rapidly to industry and to meet their needs wholly."

He said he had strong competition in the awards. "I have to say the quality of the other VET teachers nominated for the award was amazing. I actually had picked out in my own head who I thought was most likely to win and of course it wasn't me, but to be told I had won – it was just an amazing surprise."

The award comes with a \$10,000 cash component designed, in part, to help fund a project to benefit industry, students and the winning teacher.

Dr Heim plans to use the money to develop his existing animal studies program into an online course.

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