



**ALLAN SEFTON  
MEMORIAL LECTURE  
2012**

**PROGRAM**

**Date: Friday 27 April 2012**

**Venue: Building 35, Lecture room G45  
University of Wollongong**

**Speaker: Dan Lunney**

**Title of Presentation:**

**“The rewards of being persistent: A NSW public servant  
reflects on 42 years of fauna conservation**

## **Memorial to Allan Sefton Established in 1993**

Allan Sefton was well known to residents of the Illawarra and further afield for his work as a naturalist and conservator of the local environment. An employee of the Port Kembla steelworks, his spare time was spent recording information about the local flora and fauna, advising on the proper use of resources and attempting to ensure the local environment was properly managed. His efforts were recognised by the award of the British Empire Medal (1975), the Order of Australia and the prestigious Australian Natural History Medallion (1978). His contributions to environmental science and conservation in the Illawarra were also recognised by the University of Wollongong which awarded Allan Sefton an Honorary PhD in 1989. Unfortunately Dr Sefton died in May 1989, a few days before he was due to receive the award.

In recognition of his contributions to environmental science in the Illawarra region, Wollongong City Council and BHP donated funds to the University to be used in some appropriate way to honour the memory of Allan Sefton and his work. Discussions with the donors, the Sefton family and the University led to the proposal that a portion of the income derived from the Allan Sefton fund be used to award a prize to the best student graduating in the Honours Bachelor of Environmental Science Program at the University. The prize was first presented in 1993.

The balance of the income from the fund was used as a contribution to the establishment of an annual Allan Sefton Memorial Lecture, which is a public occasion where a distinguished Australian scientist speaks on a topic of wide environmental interest. This lecture series was initiated in 1993 with the first lecture being given by Professor Harry Recher of the University of New England. Subsequent speakers have been high profile Australian scientists working on environmental conservation issues.

### **ALLAN SEFTON MEMORIAL PRIZE WINNERS**

- 1995 Kaye Dixon
- 1996 Peter Robbins
- 1997 Elisa Heylin & Carolyn Littlefair
- 1998 Ainsley Atkinson
- 1999 Melinda Pickup
- 2000 Kate Britton
- 2001 Danielle Poirier & Alex Baumber
- 2002 Katherine Hely
- 2003 Mathew Kinred
- 2004 Nicole Cowlshaw & David Cannon
- 2005 Kellie Parker & Shelley Reis
- 2006 Kate Grarock
- 2007 Martyn Hazelwood
- 2008 Sarah Scarff
- 2009 Jessica Bramley-Alves
- 2010 Rita Bonetti

## 2012 Allan Sefton Lecture

Dan Lunney is a Senior Principal Research Scientist in the Office of Environment and Heritage, New South Wales. He started his working life in the Department in 1970, when it was the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. For his first three years he was an Education Officer, but was drawn into research as the questions kept mounting as to how we might conserve the State's wildlife and natural areas. Dan's areas of particular interest include the conservation of forest fauna, and koalas in particular, long-term research, ecological history, and the human dimensions of wildlife management. He received a Doctor of Science (*honoris causa*) in 2006 from both Murdoch University, in Perth, and the University of Sydney. He is also a council member of the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales, where he has been an honorary editor of *Australian Zoologist* and the Society's fora for the last 25 years. While he has regularly published his own research, he is very keen to see the work of others published so that everyone's efforts can contribute to understanding and conserving our native animals.

## PREVIOUS SPEAKERS

1994	Professor Roger Kitching (Griffith University)
1995	Dr. Dennis Saunders (CSIRO Division of Wildlife and Ecology)
1996	Dr. Robert Johannes (Hobart, ex-CSIRO Division of Oceanography)
1997	Professor Hugh Possingham (University of Adelaide)
1998	Professor Alistar Robertson (Charles Sturt University)
1999	Professor Marcia Langton (Northern Territory University)
2000	Dr Peter Bridgewater (UNESCO, Paris)
2001	Dr John Paxton (Australian Museum)
2002	Professor Richard Hobbs (Murdoch University)
2003	Dr Richard Major (Australian Museum)
2004	Associate Professor David Paton (University of Adelaide)
2005	Dr Steve Morton (CSIRO Environment and Natural Resources Group)
2006	Dr John Woinarski (Northern Territory Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts)
2007	Dr Nick Reid (University of New England)
2008	Professor Lesley Hughes (Macquarie University)
2009	Professor Richard Kingsford
2010	Dr Tim Entwisle (Executive Director Botanic Gardens Trust)
2011	Ms Alison Russell-French (Council of Birds Australia 1999-2011)

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5.30 pm Welcome by Professor Paul Wellings, Vice Chancellor, University of Wollongong

5.35 pm **Presentation of the 2011** Allan Sefton Memorial Prize for the best graduate in the Bachelor of Environmental Science program

**Presenter: Mrs Dorothy Sefton**

**Winner: Stepahanie Toole**

5.40 pm Introduction of the 2012 Allan Sefton Memorial Lecturer by Lord Mayor Gordon Bradbery, Wollongong City Council

**2012 Allan Sefton Memorial Lecture**

**Speaker: Dr Dan Lunney**

**Topic: “The rewards of being persistent: A NSW public servant reflects on 42 years of fauna conservation”**

6.25 pm Vote of thanks by Andrew Purvis, Vice President, Environment, Bluescope Steel