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 Cowlisshaw & David Cannon
2005  Kellie Parker & Shelley Reiss
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)
ALLAN SEFTON MEMORIAL LECTURE 2012

PROGRAM

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VENUE: Building 35, Lecture Room G45
University of Wollongong

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:  Stephanie 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

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