

## Ivor Beatty Award for 2016

The Ivor Beatty Award is presented annually to the best paper published in *Pacific Conservation Biology* that year as judged by the Editor-in-Chief and the Managing Editors. The award honours the contributions of the late Ivor Beatty, AM, to conservation in the Pacific region. Ivor's family business Surrey Beatty and Sons published numerous books on natural history and conservation between 1981 and early this century, many of which have had a significant scientific impact. He founded *Pacific Conservation Biology* in 1992 (the first papers were published in 1993) and Surrey Beatty and Sons continued the journal until the end of 2014, with the family maintaining Ivor's legacy and vision after his passing in 2012. However, recognising the difficulty of meeting the increasing services expected by authors in recent times, they transferred the journal to CSIRO Publishing from 2015. The Ivor Beatty Award recognises and celebrates this legacy.

The Ivor Beatty Award for 2016 is presented to Dr Kirby Smith, Dr Carol Scarpaci, Mr Brett Loudon and Dr Nick Otway for their paper: Does the grey nurse shark (*Carcharias taurus*) exhibit agonistic pectoral fin depression? A stereo-video photogrammetric assessment off eastern Australia. (*Pacific Conservation Biology* 22, 3–11, doi:10.1071/PC15024)

The authors' research has documented grey nurse shark (*Carcharias taurus*) behaviour in the absence and presence of marine wildlife tourism scuba divers, compliance with management guidelines for scuba diver behaviour and diver demographics. Grey nurse sharks exhibited predominantly low-energy swimming behaviours regardless of scuba diving activity and divers of varying demographics displayed absolute compliance with management strategies. The research strongly suggested that management strategies are effective at protecting the east Australian population of grey nurse sharks from marine wildlife tourism disturbance and the industry in its current form is ecologically sustainable.

Dr Kirby Smith completed her undergraduate degrees (BSc and BSc Honours) and PhD at Victoria University, Australia. Kirby's research focused on the behaviour of grey nurse sharks and the management of grey nurse shark scuba diving tourism. Her work has been published in local and international peer-reviewed journals and she has presented her findings at a local and an international conference. Kirby has lectured at Victoria University, worked as an environmental consultant specialising in underwater stereo-video photogrammetric analysis, and has extensive experience in the marine wildlife tourism industry.

Dr Carol Scarpaci completed her undergraduate studies (BSc and BSc Honours) at Victoria University and progressed to postgraduate studies at RMIT University, Australia. In 2005, Carol completed her PhD on the management of marine mammals exposed to tourism in Victoria, Australia. Her research

focused on aligning compliance and animal behaviour to support the effective management of species that are exposed to tourism or other human pressures. Carol's research has been extensively published in peer-reviewed journals, she was a scientific advisor to the IWC (Scientific Committee to Whale Watching) and has supervised a range of postgraduate research projects. Post an academic career at Victoria University, she has transitioned into the disability sector and works for Vision Australia, an organisation that supports individuals whom are low vision or blind. Her current role has resulted in the development of leadership skills in both corporate and clinical governance whilst leveraging her compliance research to support the role.

Brett Loudon completed his degree at the University of Canberra, Australia, and is now a Senior Research Technician with Fisheries New South Wales in the Department of Primary Industries. His research and publications over the last 20 years has covered many areas related to fisheries including habitat restoration, introduced aquatic pests, fisheries stock assessment, estuarine habitat mapping and marine species biodiversity. His current research focuses on the movements, age and growth, reproductive biology, behavioural ecology and demography of marine threatened species. His research uses innovative techniques to quantify the factors that influence the ecology of the grey nurse shark, black cod and white shark. This includes the use of acoustic and satellite tags and stereo photogrammetry to document the localised and migratory movements of these species.

Dr Nick Otway completed his PhD at the University of Sydney, Australia, and is now a Senior Research Scientist with Fisheries New South Wales in the Department of Primary Industries. His research focuses on the movements, age and growth, reproductive biology, behavioural ecology, and demography of sharks. His published research has used innovative techniques to quantify the factors that influence the ecology of grey nurse, wobbegong, bull, tiger and great white sharks. This includes the use of acoustic and satellite tags to document the localised and migratory movements of these sharks. He is also interested in environmental impact assessment and this has driven experiments focusing on the effects of scuba diving, fishing and other anthropocentric disturbances on sharks.

While there were many fine papers published in *Pacific Conservation Biology* in 2016, the Smith *et al.* paper stood out for the significance of the long-term dataset presented. In recognition of the award, the authors will receive a \$500 book voucher from the publisher, a certificate and will each receive a subscription to *Pacific Conservation Biology*. The staff at CSIRO Publishing and the editorial board join the Managing Editors and the Editor-in-Chief in congratulating Dr Smith, Dr Scarpaci, Mr Loudon and Dr Otway on their achievement.