

D. L. Serventy Medal 2010: Citation

CARLA P. CATTERALL

The D. L. Serventy Medal is an award of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union (now Birds Australia) that honours members who have made outstanding contributions to publication in the science of ornithology in the Australasian region.

Dr Carla Catterall is an ecologist and ornithologist whose career spans more than 30 years of research and teaching in environmental science, based mostly at Griffith University where she is currently an Associate Professor. Her research has ranged from elegant studies of the behavioural ecology of single species (in particular the Silvereye *Zosterops lateralis*) to broader studies of the roles played by bird species in key ecological processes which have profound implications for ecological restoration. Relevant issues include how bird communities are influenced by aggression between species (particularly by Noisy Miners *Manorina melanocephala*), and the importance of frugivorous birds as seed dispersers.

With colleagues and students, much of Carla's research has focussed on building a better understanding of patterns and causes of long-term and landscape-scale changes in biodiversity, and their implications for conservation planning and land-use policy. Within this context, forest birds have always been a special area of interest, but she has also applied her skills to the study of a variety of other taxonomic groups, in both urban and rural landscapes and both terrestrial and coastal marine environments. In particular she has researched and written extensively on the ways in which deforestation and reforestation affect biodiversity, ecological interactions and ecosystems, and how plant and animal diversity could be encouraged to persist within landscapes used by people. This encompasses areas such as conservation biology, landscape ecology, ecological restoration, vegetation management, environmental planning and impact assessment, and ecological monitoring.

Dr Catterall has an outstanding record of scientific publication, including a career total of 120 peer-reviewed articles. She has organised symposia at eight national or international scientific conferences. She has served on the editorial advisory board for the journal *Emu – Austral Ornithology*, the Research Committee of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union and the Council of the Queensland Ornithological Society Inc, and



is currently president of the Ecological Society of Australia. She has trained a large number of researchers in ecology or ornithology, through supervision to completion of 38 Honours and Masters and 26 PhD students; many of whom have gone on to become leaders in their fields. Dr Catterall's research group has an outstanding record of collaboration and engagement with the broader community. This is in part a reflection of her own lifetime commitment not just to conducting high-quality research, but also to communicating her findings in both the scientific and public arenas, through public talks and non-specialist publications. She is a scientist who has engaged with the most important issues of the day, having served on 13 advisory bodies and written 33 consultancy reports for local, state and commonwealth governments, community groups and private industry. Through her research, her publications and her engagement with the conservation challenges of our time, Dr Catterall has demonstrated she is a most worthy recipient of the D. L. Serventy Medal.

Mike Clarke and Martine Maron