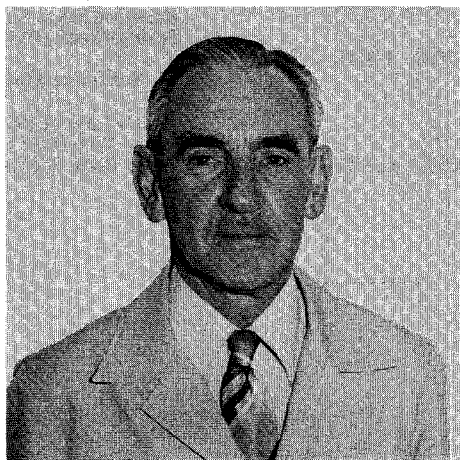


## RAOU FELLOW: CITATION

At the Annual General Meeting on 27 May 1983 the Council's recommendation that Mr S.G. Lane be elected Fellow was unanimously accepted.



**SELWYN GEORGE LANE**

Born on 15 April 1922, Selwyn George (Bill) Lane left school to obtain employment in the post-Depression years. He was with the Sydney County Council for 44 years and rose to a senior position in administration, mainly involving training and education. His career there was interrupted in 1940 by enlistment in the A.I.F. in which he served in the Middle East and New Guinea, in the latter years as a sergeant. After the war he joined the Army Reserve, was awarded the Efficiency Decoration in 1964 and retired with the rank of Colonel in 1972.

Bill's interest in ornithology, nurtured by his mother, began when he was a small child and continued through school days and beyond. Shortly after World War II further impetus in this hobby resulted from a chance attendance at a bird talk by the late K.A. Hindwood. The friendship which followed and the encouragement given by Keith Hindwood set a sound foundation in birding knowledge. Bill became fascinated by seabirds and seabird islands and has made about 300 trips to over 100 such islands. Of the 126 ornithological papers that Bill has published to date, about half are devoted to seabirds.

Bill joined the RAOU in 1947, holding various offices including that of Vice-President, State Representative, and Chairman of the N.S.W. Branch, which at that time combined with the Ornithological Section of the Royal Zoological Society of N.S.W. Since 1961 he has been Honorary Regional Organizer for the Australian Bird-Banding Scheme.

Bill was largely instrumental in the formation, and was first President, of the Bird Banders' Association of Australia (now the Australian Bird Study Association)

which produced *The Australian Bird Bander*, now *Corella*. *The Australian Bird Bander* provided a vehicle, which was previously lacking, for the publication of techniques and the results of field work in progress. Bill was Hon. Editor of *The Australian Bird Bander* for ten years, Hon. Asst. Editor of *Corella* for five years and now, as Special Publications Editor of *Corella*, is devoting continuing effort to the Seabird Island series with the aim of documenting all Australian islands on which seabirds breed. Ornithology owes a debt of gratitude to Bill for his efforts in this field.

Bill has a special talent for communication with others. He has an open friendly manner that readily puts one at ease. He has liberal quantities of tact and diplomacy and is very adept at 'throwing the ball back into the other court' and extracting the best out of associates and colleagues. He has recognized the potential of many beginners and launched them into careers in ornithology, either amateur or professional. All those trained in banding techniques had to attain a high standard of proficiency before being let loose on the avian community and there are many ornithologists active in the field today because of Bill's encouragement.

Bill has stated and re-affirmed on a number of occasions that beside a successful man there stands a 'pretty fair sort of a woman'. Lorraine must not be overlooked in this role; not only does she accompany Bill on most field trips, but she has always given him her full support. In the Recherche Archipelago, a previously unnamed island now bears her name. She also is a great companion with her bright personality – and her fruit cakes, generally produced for each field trip, are first class.