

SANCOR celebrates excellence in marine science

SANCOR held its triennial awards ceremony at the gala function of the Southern African Marine Science Symposium on 6 July 2017 at the Port Elizabeth Boardwalk Convention Centre. The aim of the awards is to recognise distinguished scientists, technicians, science communicators and emerging researchers in the marine and coastal sciences. We are delighted to honour and acknowledge the following recipients.

[Click here to read their citations.](#)

About the Awards:

The Marine & Coastal Communicator Awards are made to individuals or groups of individuals in recognition of their outstanding contributions towards communication of information about the marine and coastal environment to the public via various media at various levels. This award serves as an acknowledgement of, and a symbol of appreciation for, the dedication, enthusiasm and diligence of the persons performing such communication.

The SANCOR Young Researchers Award has been established to acknowledge a new generation of scientists and to encourage research excellence in science in the marine and coastal environment.

Derek Krige Medal is awarded in recognition of outstanding achievements in the field of technical support to marine science in South Africa. The award of this medal serves to emphasize the valuable contribution to marine science made by those who provide the technical and logistical support services that make research possible.

The Gilchrist Medal is awarded to distinguished marine scientists. The Medal serves as recognition of the recipients' contributions to marine science, to further stimulate excellence in South African marine science, and to focus attention on South Africa's marine and coastal environments.

MARINE AND COASTAL COMMUNICATOR AWARD



Ms Jone Porter



Ms Claire Attwood

DEREK KRIGE MEDAL

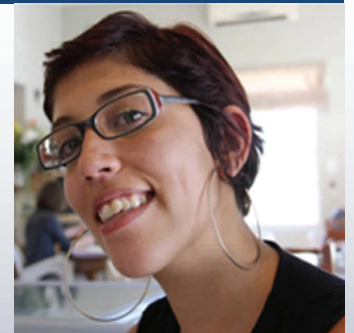


In memory of Mr Barrie Rose 1947-2017

SANCOR YOUNG RESEARCHERS AWARD



Dr Sarah Fawcett



Dr Romina Henriques

GILCHRIST MEDAL



Prof Peter Ryan



Prof John J. Bolton

Recipient of the
MARINE AND COASTAL COMMUNICATOR AWARD 2017
Professional Category
Claire Attwood

In recognition of outstanding contributions towards communication of information about the marine and coastal environment to the public. This award serves as an acknowledgement of, and a symbol of appreciation for, the dedication, enthusiasm and diligence of the persons performing such communication.

As an environmental writer/journalist, editor and communications consultant, Claire writes articles on an array of fisheries, aquaculture and fisheries-related issues and produces reviews, reports and copy for various print outlets and programmes. She is also an avid photographer and consults with organizations on their media strategies, within the fisheries and marine conservation sector. In South Africa science communication and public engagement is a very small niche with marine communicators being few and far between. Despite this Claire has managed to leave an indelible mark in the area of science communication and public engagement. She has many years of experience as an observer, writer, editor, photographer and journalist in SA fisheries and environmental organizations here and abroad. She has done work in and for countries like Angola, Namibia, Ghana, Tanzania, Mozambique, Bengal and Mauritius to name a few through the various Large Marine Ecosystem programmes. Her expertise is sought after because she has an in-depth understanding of the marine environment coupled with keen insights into the fishing industry, government departments involved with fisheries and policy, fishing companies and their operations and how best to translate complex marine issues to the greater public. Hence her writing, editing, photographing, and graphic designing skills, as well as the ability to develop effective multi-media strategies are impeccable. Additionally, Claire possesses wonderful inter-personal skills and has an extremely good understanding and approach to the human aspects related to fisheries and conservation. She writes well-researched, balanced, high quality, in-depth, perceptive and sometimes passionate pieces. Claire's writings have extended beyond fisheries related matters into the realm of marine conservation, education resources, training manuals, aquaculture and her outputs are valued and widely utilised by the South African marine science community. She has covered topical and sometime controversial issues through various platforms. She is an extremely professional, committed and talented journalist and science communicator who has played an important role, mostly in the background, by giving an effective voice to those who need to share their messages and viewpoints, be these heads of government departments, CEOs of companies, fisher folk, scientists or fisheries managers. Her writing has helped government departments, fishing industries and other programmes/organisations develop more friendly and open public profiles which has often resulted in communication channels/collaborations being unlocked. She fully deserves to be recognized for the important role she has played as a marine science communicator and for being a great example of quality and professionalism in this field.

Recipient of the
MARINE AND COASTAL COMMUNICATOR AWARD 2017
Professional Category
Jone Porter

In recognition of outstanding contributions towards communication of information about the marine and coastal environment to the public. This award serves as an acknowledgement of, and a symbol of appreciation for, the dedication, enthusiasm and diligence of the persons performing such communication.

Jone Porter is currently the Director of Education at uShaka Sea World, a position that she has held since 2004. In her position she is responsible for all of the educational activities of uShaka Sea World. Prior to her position at Sea World, she had been Marine Conservation Education Officer at the isiMangaliso Wetland Park and then Coordinator for the KwaZulu-Natal Coast. In addition to developing a number of marine education programmes for visitors to the Park, including publications and visual material, Jone pioneered numerous projects within the rural communities surrounding the Park and did much to introduce children and adults from these communities to the marine environment. She also arranged many "Turtle Trips" for the Sea World volunteers – trips that inspired and motivated many marine educators. Whilst at Sodwana, Jone overcame her fear of water and qualified as an Advanced SCUBA diver and obtained her national ticket as a marine ski-boat skipper. She was also very involved in the much publicised explorations that led to the discovery of the coelacanth populations off Sodwana Bay and was a driver of the early education programmes that evolved from this discovery. Jone currently manages a team of 21 staff members and over 50 volunteers. In her current role she is responsible for both the Guest Experience and formal education at uShaka Sea World, making sure that every visitor – adult or child - has a wonderful and educational experience. Over 100 000 learners undertake educational excursions at Sea World each year. In addition teacher's workshops are conducted regularly. The Outreach Programme enables thousands of learners to visit Sea World, while schools that are too far from Durban are visited by the Outreach team, thus enabling very distant and disadvantaged learners with an opportunity to learn about the ocean. Courses are also run for a wide range of special adult groups and children during the holidays. Jone also runs the annual Marine Biology courses for adults, presenting in the evenings for marine enthusiasts. Jone also co-ordinates the entire guest experience in the aquarium and facilitates the many different forms of interpretation in the complex. The many celebrations for special days are also managed by Jone. Passionate about marine education, Jone has served as the Chair of the Marine and Coastal Educators Network (MCEN) and as the KZN Regional Representative. She has been a wonderful supporter of MCEN since it was formed and has participated in conferences and workshops wherever possible. Jone is totally committed to marine conservation and will always assist anyone who wants to make a difference for the oceans. She has committed her whole career to marine education and it is indeed time for us to honour this wonderful educator with the SANCOR Professional Marine Communicator of the Year Award for 2017.

Recipient of the
DEREK KRIGE MEDAL 2017
In memory of Mr. Barrie Rose

**In recognition of outstanding achievements in the field of technical support
to marine science in South Africa.**

Barrie Rose was one of Sea Fisheries/MCM's most competent and respected technical practitioners in marine science. He played a key role in the annual demersal surveys. He developed and applied improved sampling of the research trawls. Before introducing these additions to the survey routines he personally learnt and developed the sampling methodology and then trained up the demersal technical and research team to carry out the sampling on a routine basis. This additional collection of information required that the demersal research database be revised accordingly. Barrie took a major role in this revision and collaborated closely with the developers. Although this database has been revised since, the basis of his work remains as the key element of the current system. Apart from his top-quality technical work, Barrie willingly shared those skills and that knowledge with many others over the years, and kept personal records of catches and rare findings/sightings that many eminent scientists used to good effect in their own professional careers. He was one of South Africa's top 10 bird watchers and spent a considerable amount of time identifying and photographing seabirds. He was involved in the compilation of the seabird portion of the renowned field guide Sasol Birds of Southern Africa, and helped to compile the "Seasonal Table for Seabirds" in Essential Birding and the Southern African Birdfinder. He also served on the South African Rareties Committee. Throughout his career at I&J, Barrie enthusiastically located berths on fishing vessels for marine mammologists, ornithologists and ichthyologists, an initiative that resulted in the development of a new class of environmentally conscious skipper in the deep-sea trawling industry. He consistently used his senior position at Irvin & Johnson (I&J) trawl division to support seabird research and conservation. Barrie facilitated the execution of mitigation experiments in the Patagonian toothfish fishery off the Prince Edwards islands in the 1990s, as well as facilitating research on I&J trawl vessels. More recently, Barrie initiated and secured industry-wide support for the first seabird bycatch study in the SA hake trawl fishery in 2002. His vision and dedication has, in large measure, been responsible for the hake trawl fishing industry taking responsibility for their environmental impacts. He supported the implementation of bird scaring lines on trawl vessels, a measure that is now known to reduce seabird incidental mortality significantly. Barrie also facilitated a study that identified the fact that seabirds, especially albatrosses and petrels, were regularly killed by trawl warps. He was instrumental in finding a solution to the problem and between 2006 and 2014 SADSTIA members recorded a remarkable 99% reduction in the number of albatross deaths caused by trawl gear. Without his constant support for seabird conservation and his motivating and driving change in the fishing industry, seabird conservation in South Africa would not be in the same world-leading and ground-breaking position it currently enjoys.

**Recipient of the
GILCHRIST MEMORIAL MEDAL 2017**

Professor John J. Bolton

In recognition of the contributions of a distinguished scientist to marine science,
to further stimulate excellence in South African marine science and to focus attention
on South Africa's marine and coastal environments.

Prof John J. Bolton is a leading expert on South African seaweeds, their biogeography and phylogeography, kelp biology and biogeography, and integrated seaweed-marine animal aquaculture. John is actively involved in, and a major contributor to, all aspects of marine macroalgal research in South Africa. He currently has around 140 publications in peer-reviewed journals, 2 books (which are the main documents used to identify South African seaweeds) and many book chapters. Prof Bolton is 'B' rated by the NRF since 1997 and has an h-index of 29, and an i10-index of 90. He has roughly 5300 citations, with a single best citation of 2290. He has published extensively on the seaweeds not only of South Africa, but also of Namibia, Angola, Madagascar, the Eparses Islands, Kenya, Mauritius and Reunion. In addition, John has published several popular articles and news clips in various popular journals, membership journals, magazines, newspapers and online media, all evidence of his ongoing commitment to popularising his research on seaweeds to the broader public. In his 34 years at the University of Cape Town, John has successfully supervised and graduated 17 PhD students (with 8 currently registered), over 25 MSc students, and approximately 70 Honours projects. Many of his graduates are actively pursuing careers in the biological field in South Africa, across Africa and globally, demonstrating the impact that Prof Bolton is having in education across the African continent and his unwavering investment in redress. Leadership is probably Prof John J. Bolton's most important characteristic. In a purely administrative role, Prof Bolton served as Head of the Botany Department (UCT) from 1994-1996. In a research capacity, he has served as the principal investigator (PI) on almost all seaweed-based NRF projects over the past 30 years, with a very long list of collaborators. One of the many international committees that Prof Bolton has served on is the Committee for Algae of the International Code of Nomenclature for Algae, Fungi and Plants, the committee that presides over the nomenclatural rules on algae. The vast majority of the published research on the commercial production of seaweed has been produced by research projects led by Prof John J. Bolton. His group has made a recognised significant contribution to this successful industry, making South Africa readily recognised internationally as a region well-placed in the integrated aquaculture industry. Prof Bolton has had a profound effect on the lives of more than just his students, but also on the research community as a whole, the general public, and in some instances the potentially marginalised coastal communities.

**Recipient of the
GILCHRIST MEMORIAL MEDAL 2017
Professor Peter Ryan**

In recognition of the contributions of a distinguished scientist to marine science,
to further stimulate excellence in South African marine science and to focus attention
on South Africa's marine and coastal environments.

Peter Ryan is one of the most prolific marine scientists that South Africa has ever produced. He has an H index of over 50! He is the Director of the Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology, but he doesn't just study birds. He works on pollution and marine litter, he dabbles in fishes and barnacles and he makes real contributions to the management and conservation of marine resources. Peter is one of the go-to guys for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Birdlife International when it comes to seabird conservation and he is worthy recipient of the Gilchrist Medal!

Peter is an A rated NRF researcher and has authored or co-authored more than 320 peer-reviewed papers (127 as first author). It is particularly noteworthy that Peter has published 12 books, 36 book chapters, including 180 species accounts in the *Handbook of the Birds of the World*, 80 species accounts in *The Atlas of Southern African Birds*, various reports including two island management plans, and 190 popular and semi-popular articles. Peter has presented papers and posters at 18 international symposia and has been invited to present seminars at numerous institutions both in South Africa and overseas. Peter has been active in numerous leadership roles also been president of BirdLife South Africa (2010-2012), and has played key roles as an advisor for the "Working for the Coast" programme with the Two Oceans Aquarium's education division and for the Birds for NEMBA legislation, to mention a few. Peter has supervised or co-supervised 15 PhD students, 18 MSc students by dissertation, 57 research projects of MSc students conducting their degrees by coursework and dissertation (54 in Conservation Biology and three in Applied Marine Science), as well as numerous BSc Honours projects (in Zoology, Biological Sciences and Mechanical Engineering). He currently supervises 5 PhD and 8 MSc students.

Recipient of the
SANCOR YOUNG RESEARCHERS AWARD 2017

Dr Romina Henriques

Acknowledging research excellence in a new generation of scientists in the marine and coastal environment

Dr Henriques is a dynamic and independent young scientist, currently a postdoctoral research fellow in the Evolutionary Genomics Group at the University of Stellenbosch, who has already made outstanding contributions to furthering marine science in southern Africa. In particular, her work on delineating stock structure based on the spatial distribution of genetic variation of commercially exploited fishes not only employs cutting edge scientific tools, but has direct applicability into the trans-boundary management of marine species such as kingklip, hake and other high value fisheries. In terms of scientific research outputs, Dr Henriques can boast an impressive 11 publications since 2014, including publishing in high-profile journals such as *Molecular Ecology*, which is a real acknowledgement of her science. However, science becomes its most meaningful when it can be used to help solve problems of an applied nature and here Dr Henriques has made important contributions that have impacted the management of fisheries in southern Africa. This is best highlighted by her work that shows inter-annual shifts in the movement of stocks of hakes and kingklip between Namibia and South Africa, as well as demonstrating that the environment plays an important role in distributing fishes between the two countries. Further, her work revealed drastic reductions in genetic diversity in commercially exploited fish species in South Africa driven by years of over-exploitation. This work is directly incorporated into the strategies of scientists working on managing trans-boundary fish stocks and Dr Henriques is an often invited speaker and participant in workshops that deal with such issues. She has led four projects at Stellenbosch University and is currently the lead investigator of a South Africa-Namibian grant (which she conceptualized, designed and wrote) using next-generation sequencing technologies to examine the fine-scale structure of hake and kingklip between the two countries. Her current work has resulted in eleven published papers since 2014 in leading journals such as *Molecular Ecology*, *Conservation Biology*, *Marine Ecology Progress Series* and *Journal of Biogeography*. Dr Henriques' contribution to the field of fisheries genetics is internationally recognized, not only through requests to assist as a reviewer in leading journals in the field (e.g. *Journal of Biogeography*, *PLOS One*, *ICES*, *Fisheries Research*), but also through the invitation to participate in International and National Conferences. Since 2013, she has participated in a total of 12 conferences, both locally and internationally, and was invited as the Keynote speaker in the Evolution session at the Aquatic Biodiversity and Ecosystems Conference, Liverpool in 2015. The South African Government identified the ocean economy as a priority field in the National Development Plan, and launched Operation Phakisa in 2014 to unlock the blue economy while ensuring the sustainable exploitation of marine resources. As such, research on commercially exploited species is considered a national priority. However, the field of population genetics is currently under-developed in South Africa, especially in the marine environment. In this context, Dr Henriques has endeavoured to train the highest number of students possible in the field of fisheries genetics and marine molecular ecology, in order to bridge the gap between evolutionary history and management, thus contributing towards ensuring the long-term sustainable harvesting of marine resources. Since arriving in South Africa in 2013, Dr Henriques has officially co-supervised four MSc students, and two Honours students, all working in population genetics and conservation genetics of marine fauna of South Africa. She has also been directly involved in the training of three PhD and three MSc students. What makes Dr Henriques further stand out is that she is strongly committed to furthering science and capacity building in Africa. From mentoring of postgraduate students, to the building of a network of marine scientists from the Portuguese speaking countries and collaborating with an extensive network of scientists globally. Dr Henriques is an approachable team player who takes initiative and leads with dynamism and style.

Recipient of the
SANCOR YOUNG RESEARCHERS AWARD 2017

Dr Sarah Fawcett

Acknowledging research excellence in a new generation of scientists in the marine and coastal environment

Dr Sarah Fawcett is a Lecturer at the Department of Oceanography, University of Cape Town. She teaches second year undergraduates, Honours and M.Sc. students, runs a research programme, writes grant proposals and journal articles, supervises post-graduate students, serves on several national and international committees and engages with the national and international marine community through peer review, collaborations and conferences. Sarah received her Ph.D. in Geosciences, specializing in Biogeochemical Oceanography, in 2012 from Princeton University (in conjunction with the Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences). Broadly, her research involves understanding and quantifying the complex relationships between biogeochemical fluxes (particularly nitrogen (N) fluxes) and primary productivity in the ocean, with implications for past, present, and future climate, ecosystem function, ocean fertility, and global biogeochemical cycles. Her principle tool is the natural abundance distributions of the stable isotopes of N (in nitrate, ammonium, particulate and dissolved organic N), which provide an integrated view of biogeochemical and physical processes that are highly variable in time and space. Sarah has produced some novel work coupling isotope measurements with techniques such as flow cytometry and biological rate experiments, yielding high resolution insights into marine ecosystems and Earth's climate system. During her short career to-date, she has published 15 articles in international peer-reviewed journals, including in *Nature Geoscience*, *PNAS*, *Global Biogeochemical Cycles* and *Limnology and Oceanography*. Sarah has also contributed to commentary-style publications in the *South African Journal of Science*. She has an h-index of 10 and 222 career citations. Sarah is committed to research and teaching in South Africa, and has immersed herself in the South African Marine Sciences community since she began working at UCT in 2015. Sarah is the lead PI on the only all-South African project funded as part of the Swiss Polar Institute's Antarctic Circumnavigation Expedition ("A multi-disciplinary, multi-resolution approach to understanding nutrient cycling and microbial diversity in changing Subantarctic ecosystems"). Sarah is currently the South African Emerging Researcher representative for Life Sciences on the Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research (SCAR), and a member of the Cape Peninsula University of Technology Marine Science advisory committee and the International Indian Ocean Expedition II steering committee. Sarah has acted as a reviewer for, among others, the *African Journal of Marine Science*, *Applied Environmental Microbiology*, *Biogeosciences*, *Deep-Sea Research*, *Ecological Applications*, *Environmental Science & Technology*, *GCA*, *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*, *Marine Chemistry*, *Marine Environmental Research*, *Nature Geoscience*, *Peer J*, *PNAS*, *Sea Research*, the NRF, the US NSF, and the Australian Antarctic Sciences Programme. She has also acted as an external South African examiner for postgraduate dissertations. Sarah is currently the main supervisor of four Ph.D. students and five M.Sc. students, and co-supervisor to one Ph.D. student. To support her research and students, Sarah has acquired funding from the NRF South African National Antarctic Programme, the Swiss Polar Institute, and the NRF Competitive Support for Unrated Researchers Programme, as well as UCT's University Research Committee and Science Faculty. Sarah ensures that her students have opportunities to present their research, participate in research cruises and field campaigns and trained in innovative techniques. Sarah has been an inspiration to young students eager to study Oceanography. Her ability to interact with these students is outstanding. Sarah is highly dedicated to marine science and its education, and is a very deserving recipient of the SANCOR Young Researchers Award.

Our sincere thanks to the proposers:

Recipient	Proposal Received from	Award
Barrie Rose	Robert Cooper and Robin Leslie	Derek Krige Medal
Claire Attwood	Johann Augustyn & Pavs Pillay	Marine and Coastal Communicators Award
John Bolton	Gavin W. Maneveldt	Gilchrist Medal
Jone Porter	Judy Mann	Marine and Coastal Communicators Award
Peter Ryan	Mark Gibbons	Gilchrist Medal
Romina Henriques	Sophie von der Heyden	Young Researchers Award
Sarah Fawcett	Isabelle Ansorge	Young Researchers Award