

Recipient of the
MARINE AND COASTAL COMMUNICATOR AWARD 2014
Professional Category

Dr Eleanor Yeld Hutchings

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.

Eleanor has done a huge amount to communicate marine science and management to the public. She was the main driver behind the marine biology component in the popular TV series 'Shoreline', but has also been an invited guest speaker, covering South African marine ecology, science and conservation, and the importance of awareness and education, at a number of high-profile public events, such as the Iziko SA Museum Speaker Series 2011, the Save Our Seas Speaker Series 2012, TEDx SeaPoint 2012 and TEDx UCT 2013 (the latter two talks both available on Youtube). In addition, she headlined the Sustainable Seas Trust Sea Pledge Tour 2013 on the East London and Durban legs. In her own time and personal capacity, Eleanor has given numerous additional public talks over the past 3 years on marine biology, biodiversity and conservation, and involving civil society into conservation (at schools, retirement homes, residents' and ratepayers' associations, tourism conferences, and "friends" associations). She is also a contributing guest blogger for Moving Sushi 2014 (topic: Shoreline and communicating South African marine biology). In her official capacity as part of WWF-SA's Marine Programme, she set up and manages WWF's new programme on 'People and the Coast', which is designed to engage civil society and marine users in marine science and conservation. Eleanor is an outstanding example of a scientist who is able to communicate with the public. She is able to translate complex scientific information into exciting and stimulating information that is easily understood, but is also up-to-date and accurate. She goes well beyond the call of work to communicate about the oceans and is always happy to share her knowledge and experience. She truly wants people to care for the oceans and that is why she is able to connect easily with people, and her passion shines through her work. Her enthusiasm has helped to raise awareness about the marine environment and the need for its conservation. She is unquestionable a worthy recipient of the Communicator of the Year Award.

Recipient of the
MARINE AND COASTAL COMMUNICATOR AWARD 2014
Professional Category
Mrs Penny Haworth

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.

Penny Haworth, manager of Communications & Governance at the South African Institute for Aquatic and Biodiversity (SAIAB), is a born communicator. She is a creative, resourceful individual with a love of the outdoors and the natural environment, and is committed to the advancement and successful implementation of environmental education, outreach and communication. She not only delivers on developing and implementing marine outreach and communication products, but also does pioneering work in new areas and actively develops and maintains a network of science communication practitioners and organisations. Penny is a born teacher and one of her more innovative projects was to ensure that she passes on her specialised talents through the development of a focused Communication Internship position at SAIAB. Penny has the ability to work across all communication media be it print, media, radio, TV, displays, exhibitions, workshops etc. Her strengths are both at the conceptual and implementation stages of projects. She implemented the development of the SAIAB website and is constantly developing promotional material. Among many of her activities, she has compiled and edited the SAIAB Annual Highlights Report each year since 2005 and in 2012 re-conceptualised the style and content of this important marketing tool for SAIAB to reflect the impact of the Institute's broad range of research, not least of which is its key role in advancing South African marine science. To mark the 75th anniversary of the discovery of the coelacanth she edited a special feature publication entitled, *Building on the South African Coelacanth Legacy*. Penny has the ability to work with people from a variety of different ages, backgrounds and educational levels. She has the rare gift of being able to engage and pitch her story at a variety of levels. In synopsis, Penny has played a major role in communicating marine science at a local and national level. She has conceptualised, developed and implemented a range of unique communication tools and systems and is well deserving of recognition in this regard.

Recipient of the
DEREK KRIGE MEDAL 2014
Mr. Rob Cooper

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

In his capacity as control technician in the Offshore Resources Research sub directorate of the Fisheries Management Branch of DAFF, Mr. Cooper has contributed to the development and ongoing improvement of fisheries data capturing systems and ensured that data collection protocols are properly implemented and adhered to. Implicit in Mr. Cooper's activities is the ongoing adaptation and improvement of these systems and data collection forms in response to changes in scientific requirements (primarily the development of improved assessments of demersal resources). Mr. Cooper routinely monitors data collection activities by DAFF staff and scientific observers, manages DAFF scientific support staff (technicians, MRAs and data capturers) and is responsible for the reporting of summarized commercial catch and effort statistics to both national and international bodies and institutions (including the FAO). Mr. Cooper has made exceptional and innovative contributions to formal and informal training and/or capacity building of those involved in marine science and technology by training DAFF scientific support staff as well as external scientific and technical students, both in the office (data collection, collation and validation protocols) and at sea (species identification, sampling protocols). Through his extensive knowledge and technical skills he has been able to advance significantly excellence in the field of marine science in South Africa. Mr. Cooper displays the highest levels of professional integrity and dedication to ensuring highest levels of data quality possible. That he continues to do so under extremely difficult organizational circumstances and huge administrative load reflects an achievement that cannot be overstated.

Recipient of the
DEREK KRIGE MEDAL 2014
Ms Sharon Du Plessis

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

As the technician responsible for the design of scientific facilities on both the *Ellen Khuzwayo* and the *SA Agulhas II*, Sharon is certainly a deserving recipient. Due to the excellent design, practical layouts and all the small technical features, designed and ordered by Sharon, based on her vast experience of many separate facets of both oceanographic and fisheries research protocols, these vessels are such a pleasure to use. Given the typical life span of research ships, these dedicated research platforms will serve the South African marine science community well for at least the next three decades, as a lasting legacy of her abilities as research ship liaison officer. Sharon has an extremely broad skill set and has participated in all aspects of marine research at sea, both locally and internationally. She has served as training officer on numerous cruises on DAFF vessels and on the *Dr Fridtjof Nansen*. She has done sterling work in training DAFF staff and students in fish biology, fish and chondrichthian identification at sea and ashore. Her most significant contribution to advancing technical excellence has been her role as Deputy Project Manager for the successful design, construction and commissioning of the Polar Supply and Research Ship *SA Agulhas II*. As the first ever research, cargo, tanker, ice breaking vessel built under the new SOLAS Passenger Ship Rules, this was an extremely complex platform and required skills and innovation from all involved – Designer, Builders and Owner. Sharon du Plessis played a significant role in achieving this success by way of her skills, experience, innovation and sheer dedication to achieving the shared objectives. Despite sustaining severe injuries at a shipyard, Sharon resumed her duties and daily inspections of the ship, not easy with the ship full of scaffolding, temporary staircases etc. Her focus and dedication to achieving her goals have been further illustrated in the rehabilitation of *Africana* and *Ellen Khuzwayo* after their return from the SA Navy. That Sharon shows grit and determination in all she does is well known to all who work with her. She is goal driven and is not easily deterred.

Recipient of the
SANCOR EMERGING SCIENTIST AWARD 2014

Dr Andrew Green

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

Throughout his academic career, Dr Andrew Green has had a keen interest in the coastal and marine environment and has excelled at research in these areas. His Honours and Masters dissertations were awarded *cum laude* and additionally won the 'best dissertation' awards from the South African Association of Geomorphologists. Both dissertations resulted in peer-reviewed journal outputs published in ISI-listed journals. His PhD investigated the evolution of submarine canyons on the northeastern South African continental shelf, the aim of which was to understand the formative evolution of the habitat of the South African coelacanth. That PhD resulted in 9 peer-reviewed journal publications and significantly advanced global understanding of canyon-forming processes. Dr Green's publication record is most impressive. Although it is barely 5 years since his PhD was awarded he has published 28 peer-reviewed journal articles of which 5 are in South African journals and 23 in top international journals. Dr Green is a senior lecturer in the Department of Geology. He teaches sedimentology and marine geology at undergraduate and postgraduate levels and conducts and supervises research on coastal and marine environments. He is co-editor of a special issue of the *Journal of Coastal Research* and was co-chairman of the International Coastal Symposium. Dr Green involves his students in his academic and leadership roles, thus providing them with experience of the world of coastal and marine research. He has built an enthusiastic and highly skilled research group in a short period of time. Dr Green works with scientists in a range of disciplines and his motivational ability in SMCE is truly trans-disciplinary. His PhD work was part of the national coelacanth research programme and he continues to collaborate with biologists, engineers and micropalaeontologists. His remarkable success in attracting research funding and supporting students and post-doctoral researchers makes Dr Green a motivational role model for students and colleagues alike. To date, he has successfully graduated four MSc students (three of whom achieved 1st class degrees) and nine BSc Honours students (four of whom achieved 1st class degrees) in the field. Dr Green is currently supervising five PhD students, three MSc students and three BSc Honours students. This is in addition to mentoring a visiting Fulbright Scholar and employing two post-doctoral fellows. He is an extremely dedicated teacher who not only strives to get the best from his students, but derives a great deal of satisfaction from their success. This has seen his group of postgraduate students grow from one MSc student in 2011 to the team he has today. Undoubtedly, his small research group is the fastest growing group in coastal and marine geology in Africa and with his mentoring skills and dynamic vision for the unit; it is likely to soon become a centre of excellence for coastal and marine geology in Africa.

Recipient of the
SANCOR EMERGING SCIENTIST AWARD 2014

Dr Deena Pillay

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

Dr Deena Pillay has published 23 peer-reviewed chapters or journal articles, equating to 3.8 for each year of his academic career, well above the national average for marine scientists. He is a deeply conceptual thinker, who has stamped his mark on ecological theory by re-shaping the way that we think about biological interactions. Deena Pillay has done many other things, including analyses of the effects of drought on Lake St Lucia, one of South Africa's most important estuaries, and the influence of climate change on Langebaan Lagoon, but his most ground-breaking influence has been in the sphere of bioturbation. Few scientists change prevailing paradigms, but Deena Pillay's work unquestionably falls in this category. Deena regularly reviews articles for 21 journals, all but four of which are international, and is subject editor for the topics of marine ecology and invertebrates in the journal *African Zoology*. Especially impressive is his generous involvement of both undergraduate and postgraduate students in his research and publications. He has been quick to nurture young students, involving students as early as their second year of tuition in his research and co-publishing with them. This early exposure has reaped rich dividends, and many of these students have as a result been attracted to postgraduate studies under Deena's supervision, and a career in Marine Biology. The first sign of Deena's international recognition was when one of his papers was accepted by *Marine Ecology Progress Series* as a 'feature article'. He was invited to write a review article on the role of sandprawns for *The Annual Review of Oceanography and Marine Biology*. Deena has won the Young Researcher Award from the College of Fellows, University of Cape Town, and a Claude Leon Award for young lecturers, both obtained under highly competitive circumstance. Deena has rapidly built up a school of postgraduate students, and in his short academic career 1 PhD, 5 MSc and 5 Honours students have graduated under his supervision, and he currently supervises 4 PhD, 2 MSc and 2 Honours students. He is an excellent lecturer and spans all undergraduate years, focusing principally on biodiversity and aquatic ecology, and is the coordinator of a semester module 'Life in the Sea'. He receives excellent reviews from students in evaluations of his teaching. He has also been involved in developing displays and outreach activities at the KwaZulu-Natal Museum directed at pupils from disadvantaged schools, developing policy for handicapped learners, launching a Schools Programme at UCT, and leading programmes for honorary and junior SANParks rangers (for which he received an award). All these are indications of his strong commitment to promoting Marine Science at grass-roots level among young people.

Recipient of the
SANCOR EMERGING SCIENTIST AWARD 2014

Dr Lorien Pichegru

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

Dr Lorien Pichegru is a scientist and researcher of the highest calibre. Despite only completing her PhD on the foraging ecology of Cape Gannets at the University of Strasbourg in 2008, she has conducted outstanding research on South Africa's seabirds, publishing 24 peer-reviewed papers in prominent scientific journals. In 2008 she was appointed as a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Cape Town, whereupon she set up a research project in Algoa Bay to assess the impacts of the small pelagic fishery on African Penguins. This project has been extremely successful, assessing the penguin's foraging effort in relation to environmental parameters, in particular the abundance of pelagic fish and fishery catches. Her findings have recently resulted in SANParks expanding the Marine Protected Area associated with the Greater Addo Elephant Park to include a large portion of the African Penguin's foraging range. The international importance of her research was recognized recently when she was invited to give a keynote address at a workshop on predators in the California Current. Overall, Lorien is one of the leading marine ornithologists in South Africa, consistently having delivered excellent research results in a collaborative manner. She has always emphasized the general importance of her research for broader conservation issues. South Africa is attempting to implement an ecosystem approach to fishing as is required by several of its acts and policies and various international declarations. Lorien has been at the forefront of these activities, acting as project leader for studies in Algoa Bay. Lorien has been an Associate Editor at *Ibis*, the ornithological journal with the highest impact factor, since 2010, and Review Editor for *Frontiers in Marine Science* since 2013. Lorien is a member of the Society of Conservation Biology, the World Seabird Union and the African Seabird Group. She is representing the African Seabird Group at the Early Career Scientists Committee at the 2nd World Seabird Conference in 2015. Lorien contributes extensively to the training of the next generation of South African marine scientists. She has formulated and co-supervised many student projects, having already graduated six MSc and 14 honours students. The numbers of students she has supervised is particularly impressive given that she has not held an academic post. The positive comments she received from the students demonstrate her ability as a lecturer to pass on her knowledge and enthusiasm, thus helping to shape the future generation of marine scientists.

Recipient of the
GILCHRIST MEMORIAL MEDAL 2014
Associate Professor Coleen Moloney

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 Moloney has been Director of the Marine Research Institute at UCT since 2012. Her research covers the broad areas of the variability and dynamics of marine foodwebs and ecosystems under global change. She has published some 89 peer-reviewed papers including two in *Science* and one in *Nature*, with various chapters in books, and has edited three books. Her particular interests include developing generalised size-based ecosystem models for biogeochemical studies; fisheries models including ecosystem based fisheries management, marine pollution and plastics, and the role of seabirds in ecosystems. Her size-based models have been adapted and used by the international global change modelling community amongst whom she is greatly respected and widely recognized. Prof Moloney's papers have been widely cited. Coleen is well known for her fair, diligent and objective work on committees. She has served on 21 national and international committees, many in a leadership role, and has helped organize 13 national and international conferences, 12 workshops. Prof Moloney is greatly admired as a dedicated, caring and lucid lecturer. She has supervised 12 successful PhDs and 23 MScs, including many previously disadvantaged students. She is currently involved in the supervision of 8 PhD and 5 MSc students. A notable feature of Prof. Moloney is that many of her activities are in the service of others, rather than promoting her own self-good. Large proportions of her research grants are devoted to bursaries and funding needed to support students, particularly those with a PDI background. She is much in demand because of her efficiency and wise counsel. She truly is a team player, dedicated to the promotion of marine science and the transformation of its national composition. The South African Marine Science Community owes a huge debt of gratitude to Coleen Moloney for her outstanding and varied contributions to marine science, and is a worthy recipient of the John D Gilchrist Medal.

Recipient of the
GILCHRIST MEMORIAL MEDAL 2014
Professor Mark Gibbons

**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.**

Professor Mark Gibbons, Head of the Department of Biodiversity & Conservation Biology at the University of the Western Cape, has published 94 peer review scientific journals the greater majority of which have been published in prestigious top international peer review high impact journals including , *TREE*, *Nature and Science*, *Marine Ecology Progress Series*, *Journal of Plankton Research* and *Current Biology*. Additionally, he has authored/co-authored 6 book chapters, 14 technical reports and 23 popular science articles. Prof Gibbons has successfully supervised 25 BSc Honours, 14 MSc and 4 PhD students, the bulk of whom are from previously disadvantaged backgrounds. He has played a vital role in transformation South African marine science and many of his past students are playing key roles in the Department of Environmental Affairs and other Governmental agencies tasked with directing the marine conservation agenda for our country. The University of Western Cape is possibly not (at least not yet) recognised as a traditional centre of marine biology research in South Africa. This perception has, however, never negatively impacted on Professor Gibbons' research programme and he has continually produced marine research of quality with the limited resources available at the university. Prof Gibbons has and currently serves on a number of science advisory boards both locally and internationally. His invitation to serve on these boards bears testimony to his high standing within the greater marine research community. Through his committed research, he has ensured that the University of Western Cape can be regarded as a key role player in the marine science fraternity. Moreover, he serves on a number of advisory boards concerned with the conservation of South Africa's marine biodiversity and fisheries. The Gilchrist Medal is awarded for outstanding contribution to the enhancement of marine and coastal science in South Africa, including the Southern Ocean. Professor Mark Gibbons is, therefore, a worthy recipient of this award.