

It is my honour, on behalf of the selection committee, to announce that the winner of the ASL Early Career Research Award for 2013 is Dr Sarina Loo.

Sarina has a wide range of experience from research to teaching, consultancy to management. She completed her PhD in freshwater ecology in 2007 at Monash University. Her PhD research (supervised by Professors Sam Lake, Ralph Mac Nally and Dennis O'Dowd) focused on the use of ecological models to predict the potential distributions of freshwater invasive species. This research resulted in a number of extremely high-quality publications.

Sarina has been actively involved in a range of teaching and service activities. Following her selection as a Peter Cullen Trust Fellow in 2010, she was co-ordinator of the Peter Cullen Trust Fellow's Network, and is a Director on the Board of the Peter Cullen Trust. Sarina is regarded as an exceptional communicator and teacher of science, with active involvement as a demonstrator at Monash and as a lecturer at Swinburne Institute of Technology between 2006 and 2008. She has also contributed to the organisation of workshops and special sessions within ASL.

Sarina has a passion for improving communication between public policy makers and for assisting scientists bring about a positive change in catchment management. She has published in this area and has been strongly engaged at all levels of government and community.

As the Director of River and Wetland Health within DEPI, Sarina occupies a senior position in government involving extreme responsibility. Her work focuses on the development of river, estuary and wetland health policy and she oversees huge investments of public funds in waterway management. She thus has much more influence in the actual management of freshwater systems than many of us academics will ever have. It is truly commendable that she has taken her scientific expertise and used it in the rather unfriendly environment of management.

In conclusion, I wanted to read part of the nomination that we received for Sarina: Dr Sarina Loo represents the very best of the modern water manager. Experienced in research and with an excellent publication history, she is also utterly committed to applying science in a policy and management setting. Highly articulate and engaged with her local and national water resource management community, she represents an exceptional model for young water scientists.