

Citation for the ASL Medal Dr Leon Barmuta

The ASL medal is awarded in memory of Hilary Jolly and recognises excellence across any of three criteria: research excellence, in particular key publications; education or communication excellence, that advances and disseminates limnological knowledge in a variety of forums; and management excellence, especially the conservation and management of freshwaters. This year's recipient is remarkable for having been nominated for his achievements against all three criteria. Personally, I am delighted to announce the recipient of the 2013 ASL medal to you, because many years ago I was his first PhD student. Since then, he has supervised more than 25 PhD students and published more than 60 journal articles and 5 books and book chapters. He has sustained his passion for rigorous, original freshwater science and communicated it to those of us lucky enough to have been his students. This year's ASL medallist is Dr Leon Barmuta.

The excellence of Leon's research, its remarkable breadth and depth are well recognised. Leon began his career with Honours at the University of Adelaide, and a PhD with Sam Lake at Monash. He then did postdoctoral research at both UC Santa Barbara and Murdoch University, after which, in 1991, he accepted the position of Lecturer in Zoology at the University of Tasmania. Since then, his research has been characterised by its strong basis in ecology, its rigorous experimental design and sophisticated statistical analysis. He has made major contributions to invertebrate biomonitoring in Australia and to concepts of river conservation at an international level. He has also made major contributions to our knowledge of habitat complexity, trophic interactions and to river ecology in general.

Leon has always been committed to high quality teaching and has received several awards, most recently the prestigious National Office for Learning and Teaching Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning. He has been recognised for his innovative teaching practices that encourage active participation by students in their learning across science, freshwater ecology and research methods. Leon is an effective, successful and admired teacher of undergraduates. He has also guided and mentored his research students towards publication in international journals and they are making an active contribution to freshwater science and management across Australia and internationally.

Leon has had an enormous impact on the conservation, management and restoration of freshwaters in Tasmania and across Australia. He has collaborated with and been funded by a range of industry partners to inform the management of short-range endemic species, climate change and forestry impacts on headwater streams. Leon has also been a long-time and active member of ASL and was President from 1992-1993.

I therefore invite Leon to accept this medal and to present the Hilary Jolly award address at our next congress in Darwin in 2014.