

PREVIOUS WINNERS

Wolford and Marie Parsons, SA

Kate Hadden, NT

Robert Quirk, NSW

Tom and Cynthia Dunbabin, Tas

Jack Speirs, Vic

Michael Lloyd, WA

Garry English, WA

John Berger, SA

Paul and Joan Trevethan, NSW

Kevin Jaeschke, SA

Jock Douglas, Qld

Bob Purvis, NT

Clive Thomas, NSW

Dr Graeme Robertson, WA

Michael Kluge, SA

Prof John Burton, NSW

Elton Butcher, WA

G R Edmondson, WA

Dr Alec Costin, NSW

Reo Humphrys, SA

Hector Tod, Qld

E S Clayton, NSW

Nomination forms for the
2009 McKell Medal can be found at
www.daff.gov.au/mckellmedal

For further information contact

**The Secretary
McKell Medal Advisory Panel**

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Fisheries and Forestry
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Natural Resource Management
Ministerial Council

**MCKELL
MEDAL
AWARD**



**Excellence in
natural resource
management
in Australia**





The McKell Medal is a national award that publicly recognises excellence and achievement in natural resource management in Australia.

It commemorates the outstanding contribution made by Sir William McKell, a former Premier of NSW and Governor-General of Australia, to the fields of soil and land conservation.

Australian, State and Territory government agencies involved in agriculture and natural resource management sponsor the Medal with nominations assessed by an independent Advisory Panel.

Nominations are sought each year from individuals or individuals working in partnership. Nominations for the 2009 McKell Medal close on 20 November 2009 and forms can be found at www.daff.gov.au/mckellmedal.

The nominee should preferably still be practising in the field of natural resource management and be able, through receiving the award, to promote the ethic of sound natural resource management.

Nominees need to demonstrate success in changing land use practices and community attitudes towards more sustainable management of natural resources.

This could be through showing community leadership in ethical land stewardship at a local, regional, state or national level; developing and implementing effective and innovative educational and promotional programs; or undertaking, promoting or applying research that makes a significant contribution.

ALICE KNIGHT & KEVIN KNIGHT Victoria—2008 medal winners

Innovators and educators in landcare



Photo courtesy of The Weekly Times

Over the past 40 years, brother-and-sister farming team, Alice and Kevin Knight, have made their family farm in Pittong, Victoria, a showcase in conservation farming, and a tool for encouraging other farmers to follow their example.

With dryland salinity affecting a significant portion of their region, Alice and Kevin embarked on large scale conservation work to reduce the impacts of salinity on their property.

With whole of farm catchment planning, the Knights systematically classified degraded areas and implemented strategies to improve the quality of

farming land on their property. During this time they planted over 70 000 trees, fenced off native vegetation and waterways, created three major wetlands, added perennial species to pastures, and introduced minimum tillage cropping.

Because of this careful management of the land, the Knights have reduced the effects of salinity on their property and, at the same time, improved their production. Today, their 1700 hectare property runs 12 000 sheep and 350-400 hectares of crops, with stocking rates increasing from the equivalent of five sheep per hectare in the 1960s to carrying the equivalent of twelve per hectare today.

In 1988, Kevin and Alice became founding members of the Pittong-Hoyles Creek landcare group, with Kevin a driving force behind the success of the Woody Yaloak Catchment Project. Alice Knight acknowledged the support of her local community over the years of work.

'My brother and I have found that, if you work with your local community, you can create a spirit and momentum that can solve any problem', Alice said.

Their efforts in trialling new techniques and encouraging research on their property have helped them and others to use the natural resources their land provides to sustain them and the landscape into the future.