

Animal Control Technologies Australia Award

Acknowledging excellence in pest animal management at the field level

At the last six Australasian Vertebrate Pest Conferences, Animal Control Technologies Australia (ACTA) has honoured field operators for Practical Pest Management Excellence. The award was created for the Hobart Vertebrate pest conference to promote improved understanding of research issues by field level operators and understanding of field issues and challenges within the research community.

The award has celebrated coordinated rabbit control programs, coordinated fox control, aerial control of donkeys and horses, feral pigs and wild dogs in inaccessible areas and community engagement programs. Winners so far have come from WA, QLD, NSW, NT and SA. Any good work for any vertebrate pest species can be nominated but the guiding principal is that it must show commitment to the task at the applied level. The award is targeted to people at the applied end of the pest control spectrum, even though we know that many researchers and coordinators with government or industry sponsored positions are also doing such work. The reason is that it is often the hard workers at the LLS, CMA and Landcare type levels that go unrecognised, whereas the higher level operators are acknowledged in other ways.

The award process is as follows:

Senior people in each state are invited to nominate someone from the field who they think is doing a great job of best practice vertebrate pest management and who they think would benefit from participation in the conference. A one page abstract is required that describes the work of the nominee and a supporting note from the nominator. The abstracts are reviewed by Linton Staples as sponsor and the conference convenor (who for 2017 is Andreas Glanznig) and a winner is selected. People or teams who have applied before and have been short listed can re-nominate.

The award:

The winner receives \$1,500 cash from ACTA towards costs of travel and accommodation to attend the conference and the conference organisers waive the registration and dinner fees for the winner. The winner is given a 10 minute presentation slot to give a presentation of their work. An award certificate is presented at the Conference dinner.

Other nominees also receive a certificate which is sent back to them via their local state organisation and/or minister so they are also acknowledged for their work.

To nominate:

Nominators must provide a one page abstract of the nominee's work and a letter of support plus contact details for the nominator and nominee to Linton Staples via the ACTA address detailed below or to lstaples@animalcontrol.com.au.

Due date for applications is Friday 10th February 2017.



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