



Labour of love rewarded

After more than three decades of caring for sick and injured bats, Jenny Maclean, Director of Tolga Bat Hospital, has won the Serventy Conservation medal, one of the most prestigious conservation awards in Australia.

The Serventy Conservation medal honours those who labour in the conservation field for a love of nature and a determination that it should be conserved – not as part of a paid professional career.

The Serventy Conservation Medal was inaugurated by the Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia in 1999 to commemorate the wonderful wildlife conservation work by the Serventy family. The inaugural medal was given to Margaret Thorsborne from Cardwell, and Ms Maclean is now the third Queenslander to win the award.

The medal was awarded for her work since 1990 through the Tolga Bat Hospital, which has featured in print media and television documentaries in Australia and around the world. She has previously won awards from the Wet Tropics Management Authority (Cassowary Award) and International Fund for Animal Welfare.

The Tolga Bat Hospital Visitor Centre has Advanced Ecotourism accreditation through Ecotourism Australia. The Centre helps deliver educational programmes to locals, tourists, tertiary students and schools.

She urges Queenslanders to go to the website www.dontshootbats.com There is comprehensive information about the flying foxes and the impact of a return to shooting or the use of electric grids, practices that were banned in 2008 and 2001. "This sort of animal cruelty was found to be inhumane and unacceptable by Queensland's Animal Welfare Advisory Committee".

