

Medal awarded for light tread in Antarctica

CRAIG HOGGETT

REDUCING the impact of people on Antarctica has earned Martin Riddle the inaugural Phillip Law Medal.

The medal, awarded by the Australian National Antarctic Research and Expeditions Club yesterday, is named in memory of prolific explorer and first Antarctic Division director Phillip Law, who died last year.

Dr Riddle has spent 20 years researching ways to reduce the footprint of people visiting the continent.

ANARE Club vice-president Ray McMahon said Dr Riddle's significant academic achievement and environmental protection work made him a worthy recipient of the honour.

"This is particularly important research at a time when human impacts in the region are increasing through the presence of research bases and a growing number of ship-borne tourists," Mr McMahon said.

"We are confident that Dr Law would be very proud to have such a contribution associated with a medal established in his name."

Dr Law led the Australian Antarctic Division from its inception in 1948.

He explored more of the Antarctic continent by air and sea than anyone before or since.

Dr Riddle has worked to restore Australia's Casey Station site and has developed guidelines for minimising human impact that were adopted by other countries through the Antarctic Treaty system.



GONG: Martin Riddle with the first Phillip Law Medal for a contribution to Antarctica.

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