

5. Alan Gillanders

The award in the category of nature based tourism goes to naturalist and guide, Alan Gillanders.

Specialising in tree-kangaroos, birds and nocturnal mammals on the beautiful Atherton Tablelands, Alan has been running his tour company, Alan's Wildlife Tours, for 8 years whilst also being extremely active in conservation organisations in the Wet Tropics. He likes to draw out the relationships of the wildlife his guests are viewing to the biogeography of the Wet Tropics

He has been a popular, valued and effective member of many conservation organisations around the region. He was the Secretary to the founding committee of TREAT and served on the committee for 11 years. He was President of National Parks Volunteers for seven years, Birds Australia North Queensland for three years, Society for Growing Australian Plants for six years, and Tablelands National Park Support Group for eight years. As a committee member he represented TKMG and chaired the Mabi Forest Recovery Team.

Alan has been particularly effective in sharing his education skills in such activities as "Birding for Beginners" courses, Frog Club displays, a Bluff Horse Trail interpretive guide for the Queensland

Recreation Council, writing pamphlets for TREAT, organising rainforest study projects for local schools, and guiding excursions. As an environmental educator his skills have been sort by NRM bodies, schools and universities from within Australia and overseas because of his ability to enthuse students, convey complex ideas and raise the skill levels of staff.

By mentoring young guides he seeks to raise the standard of interpretation available to our visitors. Alan has brought his dedication and enthusiasm for people and nature conservation, to outstanding heights for which the tourism industry must be proud.

Unfortunately Alan cannot be here this afternoon as he is pursuing further professional and personal development.