

Guidelines for Written Nominations for The Queensland Natural History Award (QNHA)

The intent of these guidelines is to:

- Help nominators write a comprehensive case in support of their nominee.
- Provide the Selection Committee with written nominations that are as comparable as possible and reflect the extent of the nominee's contribution.
- Indicate some of the thinking behind the criteria given under 2.0 of the "Rules for the QNHA."

1.0 The Selection Committee

In accordance with the Rules, membership of the Selection Committee will change regularly.

Strategy No. 1 ***Write your nominee's nomination for the naïve reader. Do not assume that your nominee and the impact he/she has had on natural history in Queensland will be known to the Selection Committee.***

2.0 Discussion of criteria given under 2.0 of the "Rules for the QNHA."

The Criteria given under 2.0 of the Rules provide broad areas in which contributions can be made. Examples under each heading are given below. Nominees do not have to meet all criteria but the intention is to keep the scope of the contribution broad and not to disadvantage any particular area or individual. There may be other areas that are not mentioned.

Scientific Research:

Projects that have focused on field studies are desirable. Include a list of scientific publications in this section.

Publication of books or popular articles:

Popular publications can make a significant contribution to natural history. Books, articles published in newspapers, newsletters and non-refereed journals are to be included in this section.

Contribution to Organisations:

This is to recognize outstanding contributions to natural history related organisations such as leadership, coordination, administration (secretarial, treasurer, editorial or library), excursions officer or project leader.

Gifting:

Donation of land for preservation or conservation or for public or scientific use. Donations of collections to the Queensland Museum, Queensland Herbarium, Universities, Libraries and similar organisations.

Teaching:

This covers both informal and formal promotion or teaching of natural history to all ages and all age groups. e.g. oral presentations, audiovisuals, natural history training through field excursions and use of field study centres. How enthusiastic a teacher is the nominee? What would the learners say?

Strategy No. 2 *Define the success(es) of your nominee under the categories listed above and quantify where possible.*

3.0 Importance, Resourcing, Activities, Outputs, Outcomes.

What has been the contribution to natural history? Describe the contribution rather than the area in which the candidate is active.

3.1 Why was the contribution important?

Some parameters of importance are scientific understanding; new applications of technology or thinking to natural history; investigations of serious, urgent or complex problems. It may be important because it has had an impact at a community level, because the problem has occurred frequently, or because the contribution is brilliant in its simplicity.

3.2 What specific changes occurred as a result of this contribution to natural history?

Some examples are: this series of newsletters has enhanced community awareness of the links between biodiversity and quality of life issues; this study into the biology of the animal is contributing to its long term survival with numbers now on the increase; the “user friendly” key developed for this group of animals or plants now makes the identification to species level easier and more accurate – consequently, many members of our Club are learning about this group; the books have brought the diversity and beauty of nature to the general public’s attention; as a result of the establishment of this field study centre, many young people are now being trained in various fields of biology.

3.3 What specifically did your nominee have to do to ensure the contribution to natural history was a success?

Some examples are personal commitment, enthusiasm, perseverance, the ability to gain the support of others, the ability to work as a team coordinator, the ability to plan long term projects, insistence on quality, scientific and practical approach, development of innovative research methods. Copies of documents, including correspondence, that support the nomination by indicating aspects such as the organizing ability of the nominee; the time span of the contribution; or the significance of the contribution can be submitted with the nomination. If photos illustrate the contribution better, then please include these in the portfolio.

3.4 What resources were available to make the contribution?

Nominees from the country may have faced special problems associated with limited resources compared with those residing near major cities. Outline the availability (none, minor, major) of resources (equipment, libraries, expert help) to the nominee. How were resourcing issues overcome?

Strategy No.3 *Consider including in your nomination information on importance (urgent, serious, frequent, ease of change), resourcing (time, equipment, help), activities (research method, teaching etc), quality (accuracy, completeness, repeatability), outputs (publications) and outcomes (enhanced community awareness) to help qualify or quantify the contribution made to natural history in Queensland.*

4.0 Updating your nominee’s portfolio.

The Rules allow nominations to stand for three years and portfolios can be updated annually.

Strategy No. 4 *Consider updating your nominee’s portfolio.*