



**THE ROYAL  
SOCIETY OF  
TASMANIA**

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*THE ADVANCEMENT OF KNOWLEDGE*

# **Guidelines for Medals and Awards**

Prepared by the Honours Committee for Council

Revised and amended June 2017, March 2021, December 2021, May 2022

(Being Schedule 1 of the Rules of the Society)

# Contents

<b>Page</b>	<b>Title</b>
3	Recent history and constitution of the Honours Committee
3	Roles of the Honours Committee
3	Guidelines on membership of the Honours Committee
4–5	The Royal Society of Tasmania Awards
5	Frequency of Awards
5	Multiple bestowal of medals to single candidates
6-7	Detailed guidelines to the selection process: nominations and examination of nominations: (i) Medals of The Royal Society of Tasmania (ii) The Royal Society of Tasmania Doctoral Awards (iii) Timeline for nominations (iv) Confidentiality
7	Use of this Awards guidelines document Winners of RST Medals and Awards
<b>Appendices</b>	
8	A: Memorial Funds, Honours, Medals and Awards
8	B: The MR Banks Medal: Conditions of Award
9	C: The Royal Society of Tasmania Annual Doctoral (PhD) Awards
10	D: The Royal Society of Tasmania Awards by Year
11	E: Guide for Medal Nominations of The Royal Society of Tasmania and Suggested Pro Forma
12-13	F: Historical background

Revised June 2017 by Hon. Secretary Dr John G. Thorne AM, FACEA. Revised March 2021, December 2021, May 2022 by Honours Committee Chair, Prof Jocelyn McPhie

# The Royal Society of Tasmania

## Awards Guidelines

### 1. Recent history and Constitution of the Honours Committee

- An Honours Committee was set up by Council in 1995 to make recommendations concerning The Royal Society of Tasmania Awards. The Committee then consisted of: Dr Shirley Jeffrey, Mr David Hannan, Prof. Jim Reid and Prof. Michael Roe.
- The Committee in 2022 consists of: Dr Margaret Davies, Prof. Jocelyn McPhie (Chair), Dr Eva Meidl, Prof. Jim Reid, and Dr Stephen Rintoul. Prof. Jonathan Sprent serves as Medical Sciences Consultant.

### 2. Role of the Honours Committee

- Council expects the Honours Committee to make recommendations concerning Awards and, under Council guidance, to develop new awards from time to time as appropriate.
- No directive on time frequency for any of the Awards was given to the Honours Committee apart from the new Doctoral Award (which is offered annually) and the Peter Smith Medal (which is offered biennially in alternate years to the M. R. Banks Medal). The M. R. Banks Medal is awarded every one to three years but not in the same year as the Peter Smith Medal.
- Suggested guidelines on time frequency are discussed in Item 5 below (p. 5). See also Appendix D (p. 10).

### 3. Guidelines on membership of the Honours Committee

Members should be or should have recently been:

- high-ranking members of the University of Tasmania or other scholarly institution
- highly experienced in a field of science or humanities
- experienced in evaluating curriculum vitae and research outputs.

Members should collectively cover a wide spectrum of research disciplines. The Committee can co-opt experts from other fields when needed. All members of the Honours Committee should be members of the Society.



#### 4. The Royal Society of Tasmania Awards

Six Awards are available. All have been introduced by the Honours Committee and ratified by Council and the Membership.

- **RM Johnston Memorial Medal**

Established 9 March 1920

Awarded to a scholar of great distinction in any field within the Society's purview.

The Awardee will deliver the 'R. M. Johnston Memorial Lecture'. If not a member of the Society, the Awardee will be offered free membership for one year.

See also Appendix A.



R. M. Johnston, FLS (1895)

- **The Royal Society of Tasmania Medal**

Established 9 May 1927

Awarded to a scholar for substantial original research in any subject within the Society's purview.

A significant part of the research shall have been conducted while the Awardee was a resident of Tasmania.

The Awardee must have been, in the view of the Council, an active member of the Society for at least five years.

The Awardee will deliver 'The Royal Society of Tasmania Lecture'.



The Royal Society of Tasmania Medal

The minimum requirement of an 'active' member should be one or more of the following:

- membership of Council
- membership of a Society committee (program, honours, foundation, etc.)
- contribution to Society lectures or symposia
- convenor of Society meetings, excursions, etc.

When more than one nominee meets the criteria for 'active' membership, precedence shall be given to the quality of the scholarship.

- **Clive Lord Memorial Medal**

Established July 1930

Awarded to a scholar distinguished for research in Tasmanian science or Tasmanian history.

The Award will alternate between the fields of science and history, unless particular circumstances dictate otherwise.

The awardee will deliver the 'Clive Lord Memorial Lecture'.

If not a member of the Society, the awardee will be offered free membership for one year.

See also Appendix A.

Clive Lord Memorial Medal



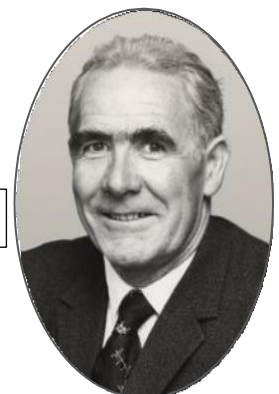
- **MR Banks Medal**

Established March 1997

Awarded to a scholar of distinction in mid-career in any field within the Society's purview.

See also Appendix B for conditions of the Award.

Dr Maxwell R Banks AM





Dr Peter Smith, OAM

- **Peter Smith Medal**

Established 2017 (first year of conferring in 2018)

Awarded biennially to an outstanding early career researcher. The research is to have been largely carried out in Tasmania or under the aegis of a Tasmanian-based organisation and within the Society's purview.

For the purpose of the medal, 'early career' is taken to mean that the time since the award of a PhD, at the Award nomination deadline, is between three (3) and less than eight (8) years or eight years equivalent full-time.

The Honours Committee retains the right to exercise discretion in the application of this condition. A medal will be presented and the recipient may be requested to deliver the 'Peter Smith Lecture' to the Society.

- **The Royal Society of Tasmania Annual Doctoral (PhD) Awards**

Established September 1998

Awarded annually in any fields within the Society's purview.

No more than three years or three years equivalent full-time shall have passed since the award of the nominee's PhD.

For full details see Appendix C.

## 5. Frequency of Awards

Historically, for the three older Awards (that is, RM Johnston Memorial Medal, The Royal Society of Tasmania Medal and the Clive Lord Medal) no guidelines on frequency of bestowal were given (see Appendix A: *Memorial Funds, Honours, Medals and Awards*).

The three more recent Awards (MR Banks Medal, the Peter Smith Medal and the Doctoral Awards) have suggested frequencies. A schedule has been established that offers guidelines for the presentation of all the awards (see Appendix D).

Guidelines for a timetable for Award bestowal suggested by the Honours Committee and ratified by Council are:

- Doctoral (PhD) Awards to be awarded annually
- MR Banks Medal to be awarded every two years (in alternate years to the Peter Smith Medal)
- Peter Smith Medal to be awarded every two years (in alternate years to the MR Banks Medal)
- Clive Lord Memorial Medal to be awarded every three years
- The Royal Society of Tasmania Medal to be awarded every four years
- RM Johnston Memorial Medal to be awarded every five years.

The above guidelines permit some flexibility in Award frequency. For example, more frequent bestowal could occur if circumstances indicate (e.g., special events or applicants). Less frequent bestowal could be due to the lack of appropriate nominees.

## 6. Multiple bestowal of medal to single applicants

Normally a period of five years should elapse before an Awardee can receive a further Award. See <https://rst.org.au/awards/past-recipients/> for past Awardees.

## **7. Nomination procedures – General guidelines**

No self-nominations for any Award are allowed.

For Medals: Nominations shall be sought by open notice to all members of The Royal Society of Tasmania. The Honours Committee will exercise the function of a 'search' committee, considering further applicants prompted by its own deliberations.

For the Doctoral Awards: Nominations shall be widely sought from supervisors of potential applicants in Tasmania's research institutions.

Members of the Honours Committee may act as nominators for the Doctoral Award through their role as supervisors but will be absent from the final selection.

A pro forma for all award applications (Appendix E) should ensure consistency of information provided to the Honours Committee for all applicants.

## **8. Guidelines to the selection process – Nominations and evaluation of nominations**

### **(i) Medals of The Royal Society of Tasmania**

- No self-nominations will be accepted.
- Nominations shall be sought by open notice to all members of the Society by 30 June each year, together with additional names put forward by the Honours Committee acting in its role as a 'search' committee.
- Nominations using the pro forma (Appendix E) and specifying the pertinent award or awards shall be received by the Honorary Secretary by 31 August each year.
- If a member of the Honours Committee is nominated for a medal, that member must be absent from the pertinent discussions. The Committee may then co-opt a suitably qualified expert for discussion of that particular award.
- For any award, the Honours Committee may advise that no applicant has a record appropriate to justify an award.

### **(ii) The Royal Society of Tasmania Doctoral (PhD) Awards**

- No self-nominations will be accepted.
- Nominations shall be sought from supervisors of potential applicants by circulating notices within the University of Tasmania and Tasmanian research institutions by early October.
- Members of the Honours Committee may act as nominators in their role as supervisors.
- Nominations are not restricted to members of the Society.
- Nominations in confidence from the nominee's supervisor shall be received by the Honorary Secretary by 15 November each year.
- Nominations, which will include a summary of the doctoral thesis, title, publication list and copies of published material (Appendix C) will be examined by the Honours

Committee. Recommendations will be forwarded to the Honorary Secretary for Council ratification by 31 January of the year immediately following.

- Nominees must have had their PhDs formally conferred by the end of the calendar year of the nomination.

### **(iii) Timetable for Nominations**

	<b>Call for Nominations</b>	<b>Nominations close</b>	<b>Recommendations of Awards to Council</b>
<b>Medals</b>	30 June	31 August	15 November
<b>Doctoral Award</b>	1 October	15 November	31 January

### **(iv) Confidentiality**

All matters pertaining to the Society awards and the Honours Committee deliberations are confidential. The Honours Committee recommendations must be ratified by Council and all nominators must be informed of the outcome before public announcement of award winners.

## **9. Use of this Awards guidelines document**

The Honours Committee wishes Council and the Membership to know that the aim in producing and revising this document is both to ensure that fair and meritorious Awards are made to the best nominees available and to support the advancement of knowledge of the highest calibre.

These guidelines should be reviewed by the Honours Committee and Council every five years or as circumstances dictate.

## **10. Winners of RST Medals and Awards**

Winners of all RST Medals and Awards since 1923 are listed at <https://rst.org.au/awards/past-recipients/>.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Memorial Funds, Honours, Medals and Awards**

All previous Rules and Regulations referring to the RM Johnston Memorial Medal, the Clive Lord Memorial Medal and The Royal Society of Tasmania Medal are cancelled. Administration and determination of the award of the Johnston, Lord and Royal Society Medals are at the discretion of the Council. The award of one or other Medal should be a regular event in the life of the Society.

## **APPENDIX B**

### **The MR Banks Medal: Conditions of Award**

The Award is to honour Dr Maxwell R Banks' contribution to science and The Royal Society of Tasmania.

The conditions of the Award are:

1. The scholar to be recognised should have achieved a PhD or appropriate higher qualification between 8 and up to a maximum of 15 years or 15 equivalent-full-time years, post PhD graduation. The Honours Committee retains the right to exercise discretion in the application of this condition.
2. The recipient shall be a scholar of distinction in mid-career, rapidly developing a standing in his/her field and be winning international recognition from peers.
3. The Award may be made in any field within the purview of the Society.
4. The research is to have been largely carried out in Tasmania or under the aegis of a Tasmanian-based organisation.
5. The Award is to be made every two years, alternating with, and not in the same year as, the Peter Smith Medal.
6. After the conferring of the Award, the recipient may be invited to address the Society by delivering the 'MR Banks Lecture' to the members.



## APPENDIX C

### The Royal Society of Tasmania Annual Doctoral (PhD) Awards

The Royal Society of Tasmania has instituted this Award to honour two doctoral (PhD) graduates who have made significant advances in the course of their doctoral research.

The conditions of this Award are:

- The Doctoral Awards are intended for PhD graduates within three years, or three years equivalent-full-time, of their PhD graduation.
- The research should have been largely carried out in Tasmania or under the aegis of a Tasmanian-based organisation.
- Nominations may be made by anyone although no self-nominations will be accepted.
- Nominations are accepted in all disciplines – sciences, medicine, arts or humanities – within the purview of the Society.
- Two Awards are to be made available annually but will not be awarded if there are no nominees of sufficient quality.
- Beginning in 2021, and every second year thereafter, one Doctoral Award will be reserved for nominations from non-Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths and Medicine (STEMM) disciplines and the other Award will be open. In alternate years, the Doctoral Awards will be entirely open.
- Expressions of interest are to be sought widely from all relevant institutions on an annual basis and must include an endorsement from the candidate's supervisor.
- Each Awardee will be encouraged to address the Society.
- The value of each award is \$1000.

Applications to be submitted online as advised by the nominated due date. All

applications must include:

- A full academic curriculum vitae including the date of birth, the date of receipt of degrees (including the date of PhD graduation) and a full list of publications. Highlight the most significant outputs with an asterisk. For all co-authored publications, including first-author publications, the nominee's role in those publications should be indicated as a percentage.
- An abstract (not more than one page) of the PhD study, including the thesis title.
- Include a statement (not more than one A4 page) of the new and original contribution made by the PhD research to the field, using language suitable for non-specialists. If the Nominator is not the PhD supervisor, this statement must be endorsed by the PhD supervisor. Applications without this document will not be considered.

Receipt of applications must be no later than 15 November in each year. The Awards will be announced at the Society's Annual General Meeting in Hobart in March, the following year.

The Royal Society of Tasmania Awards by Year						
Year	RM Johnston Medal	The Royal Society of Tasmania Medal	Clive Lord Memorial Medal	MR Banks Medal	Peter Smith Medal	The Royal Society of Tasmania Doctoral (PhD) Awards
	5 years	4 years	3 years	2 years	2 years	yearly
2014						√
2015				√		√
2016	√		√			√
2017		√		√		√
2018					√	√
2019			√	√		√
2020					√	√
2021	Not awarded	√		√		√
2022			√		√	√
2023	√			√		√
2024					√	√
2025		√	√	√		√
2026					√	√
2027				√		√

## APPENDIX E

### Guide for Medal Nominations of The Royal Society of Tasmania and Suggested Pro Forma

The following is a guide for nominating candidates for The Royal Society of Tasmania Medals:

- RM Johnston Memorial Medal
- The Royal Society of Tasmania Medal
- Clive Lord Memorial Medal
- MR Banks Medal
- Peter Smith Medal

The first page of the nomination should list:

- The name of the medal
- The name of the nominee and contact address and details
- The name of the nominator and contact address and details.

**No self-nominations are allowed.**

The description of the nominee's achievements relevant to the particular medal should follow. It should be no more than one page and should be written concisely and in language that is widely understood outside the nominee's field of research. The nominee's research or other scholarly contributions to science, history or other field of learning, industry or society should be clearly stated.

A full curriculum vitae for the Honours Committee should be given. It should include the nominee's date of birth, the date/s of receipt of degrees and a full list of publications and/or other outputs. Highlight the most significant outputs with an asterisk. For all co-authored publications, including first-author publications, the nominee's role in those publications should be indicated as a percentage.

The Honours Committee of The Royal Society of Tasmania has limited ability to seek additional information and therefore depends on the nomination papers to provide a full and fair account of the nominee's suitability, taking into account the criteria of the particular medal applied for.

All nominations should be submitted online to the Honorary Secretary of the Society by the due date.

**All matters pertaining to the Society awards and the Honours Committee deliberations are confidential. The Honours Committee recommendations must be ratified by Council and all nominators must be informed of the outcome before public announcement of award winners.**

## **APPENDIX F Historical background**

### **MEMORIAL FUNDS, HONOURS, MEDALS AND AWARDS**

[Some years ago, with Supreme Court permission, all the following funds were consolidated into The Royal Society of Tasmania general funds. Information on each bequest and award is provided below for historical record.]

The Rules and Regulations referring to the RM Johnston Memorial, the Clive Lord Memorial, and The Royal Society of Tasmania Medal are those agreed to from time to time by the Council of The Royal Society of Tasmania. Administration and determination of the award of the Johnston, Lord, and The Royal Society of Tasmania medals are at the discretion of the Council. The award of each Medal should be a regular event in the life of the Society, one such award desirably occurring every two or three years. This statement is not meant to impose any periodic regularity on the award of The Royal Society of Tasmania Medal.

#### **MORTON ALLPORT MEMORIAL**

Established 2 May 1879. Amount of original Fund, £200 (\$400)

The income from the Fund to be applied to the purchase of scientific books for the Society's Library, the books to be stamped to perpetuate the memory of Morton Allport.

#### **R M JOHNSTON MEMORIAL**

Established 9th March 1920. Amount of original Fund, £231.5.4. (\$462.53) (balance remaining after providing six medals)

The income from the fund to be used as follows:

- a) to purchase additional medals. The medal is to be awarded to a scholar of distinction in any field within the Society's purview who is to deliver the "RM Johnston Memorial Lecture".
- b) the remainder of the income to be used for the purchase of books for the Society's Library, each book to bear an appropriate book-plate.

#### **THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA MEDAL**

Established 9th May 1927.

To be awarded to a scholar who has carried out prolonged original research in any subject within the Society's purview. The recipient shall have been a resident of Tasmania during the period of this research and for the past five years have been in the view of the Council an active member of the Society.

#### **CLIVE LORD MEMORIAL**

Established July 1934. Amount of original fund £200 (\$400), balance remaining after provision of a die of the Memorial Medal and a Memorial Tablet in the Tasmanian Museum.

The income from the fund to be used to provide a Memorial Medal for a lecturer chosen to deliver the "Clive Lord Memorial Lecture", the recipient being a scholar distinguished for research in Tasmanian science or history, and to meet other associated costs.

#### **A H CLARKE LEGACY**

Established 8th January 1945. Amount of original bequest, £100 (\$200)

Purpose of Fund: Interest arising from investment of the legacy to be used for the purchase of books and library upkeep.

### **ARNDELL NEIL LEWIS MEMORIAL**

Established 19th March 1947. Amount of original Fund, £232.17.11 (\$465.79) (plus the proceeds of subsequent sales of "Geology of the Hobart District")

Purpose of Fund: the interest arising from the investment of the Fund to be used for the purchase of geological and other scientific books for the Society's Library. Each book so purchased to have a special book-plate showing that the book is part of the AN Lewis Memorial Library.

### **W H HUDSPETH MEMORIAL TRUST FUND**

Established 30th June 1954. Amount of original Fund, £175.19.6. (\$351.95) (plus the proceeds of subsequent sales of the Hudspeth Memorial Volume "Early Van Diemen's Land).

Purpose of Fund: For the purchase of historical volumes for the Royal Society Library, each volume to bear a book-plate indicating that it is part of the Hudspeth Memorial.

### **HENRY OLIVER BEQUEST**

Established 9th December 1954. Amount of original bequest, £100 (\$200)

Purpose of Fund: to further the various objects of the Society.

### **JOSEPH MILLIGAN BEQUEST**

Established 1957. Amount of original bequest (from proceeds of the sale of land at Bicheno and George Town), £486.16.0. (\$973.60)

Purpose of Fund: To further the various objects of the Society.

### **MR BANKS MEDAL**

Established March 1997.

Awarded to a scholar of distinction in mid-career in any field within the Society's purview between 8 and a maximum of 15 years or 15 equivalent full-time years, post PhD graduation.