



**THE ROYAL
SOCIETY OF
TASMANIA**

THE ADVANCEMENT OF KNOWLEDGE

Guidelines for Medals and Awards

Prepared by the Honours Committee for Council

(Being Schedule 1 of the Rules of the Society)

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Revision History:

Revised June 2017 by Hon. Secretary (Dr John G. Thorne AM, FACEA).

Revised March 2011, December 2021, May 2022 by Honours Committee: Chair (Prof Jocelyn McPhie).

Revised March 2024, June 2026 by Honours Committee: Chair (Prof Richard Coleman)

The Royal Society of Tasmania Awards Guidelines

1. Recent history and Constitution of the Honours Committee

- An Honours Committee was set up by the 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.
- The Committee in 2023-2024 consists of: Prof Richard Coleman (Chair), Prof Jocelyn McPhie, Dr Eva Meidl, Prof Jim Reid and Prof Brian Yates. Prof Jonathan Sprent serves as Medical Sciences Consultant.
- The Committee in 2025-2026 consists of: Prof Richard Coleman (Chair), Prof Paul Haddad, Prof Hamish Maxwell-Stewart, Prof Jim Reid, Prof Jo Whittaker and Prof Brian Yates. 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 Doctoral (PhD) Award (which is offered annually) and the Peter Smith Medal (which is offered biennially in alternate years to the MR Banks Medal). The MR Banks Medal is awarded every one to three years but not in the same year as the Peter Smith Medal. The Louisa Anne Meredith Medal is awarded every four years.
- Suggested guidelines on time frequency are discussed in Item 5 “Frequency of Awards” below. See also Appendix E.

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 normally be members of the Society.

4. The Royal Society of Tasmania Awards

Seven 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.

A connection with scholarship in Tasmania is an advantage.

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

See also Appendix A.



RM 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 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.

See also Appendix A.



The Royal Society of Tasmania Medal

Clive Lord Memorial Medal

Established July 1934, discontinued in April 2026 – see <https://rst.org.au/award-bursary/clive-lord-memorial-medal/>

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.



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

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.



Dr Peter Smith OAM

Louisa Anne Meredith Medal

Established August 2023 (first year of conferring in 2024)

To be awarded every four years to a person who excels in any area within the arts or humanities or both, with outstanding contributions evidenced by creative outputs. The Honours Committee retains the right to exercise discretion in the application of this condition. The Medal honours Louisa Anne Meredith's contributions to the areas of natural history art, scientific art, literature, and history and is to commemorate the person's exceptional whole-of-career achievements. After the conferring of the Award, the recipient may be invited to address the Society by delivering the 'Louisa Anne Meredith Lecture'.

See also Appendix C for conditions of the Award.



Louisa Anne Meredith

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 graduation or confirmation of the PhD award prior to the award nomination deadline. See also Appendix D.

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 four more recent Awards (MR Banks Medal, the Peter Smith Medal, the Louisa Anne Meredith 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 E).

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 (discontinued in 2026).
- The Royal Society of Tasmania Medal to be awarded every four years.
- Louisa Anne Meredith 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. Bestowal of multiple medals to single applicants

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

7. Nomination procedures – General guidelines

No self-nominations are allowed for any Award.

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 nominees 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 nominations (Appendix F) should ensure consistency of information provided to the Honours Committee for all nominees.

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 F) and specifying the pertinent award or awards shall be received by the Honorary Secretary (secretary@rst.org.au) 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 nominee 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 (secretary@rst.org.au) by 15 November each year.
- Nominations, which will include a summary of the doctoral thesis, title, publication list and copies of published material (Appendix D) 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 PhD formally conferred by the deadline for the nomination submission (usually 15 November).

(iii) Timetable for Nominations

	Call for Nominations	Nominations close	Recommendations of Awards to Council
Medals	30 June	31 August	15 November
Doctoral Award	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 RM Johnston, Louisa Anne Meredith, Clive Lord and The 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 Louisa Anne Meredith Medal: Conditions of Award

The Award is to honour Louisa Anne Meredith's contribution to the areas of natural history art, scientific art, literature, and history and is to commemorate the exceptional whole-of-career contributions by a person in any area within the arts or humanities or both.

The conditions of the Award are:

1. The recipient shall be a person who excels in the field of arts or humanities or both, with outstanding contributions evidenced by creative outputs. The Honours Committee retain the right to exercise discretion in the application of this condition.
2. The medal is to be awarded every four years. Unsuccessful nominees are welcome to apply at future rounds. If the medal is not awarded in one particular round, then the medal will be readvertised in the following year.
3. After the conferring of the Award, the recipient may be invited to address the Society by delivering the 'Louisa Anne Meredith Lecture'.

Appendix D

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 for researchers who have graduated or whose PhD has been confirmed within three years, or three years equivalent full-time, prior to the award nomination deadline.
- 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. 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.

Nominations 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 nominations 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.

Appendix E

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	Louisa Anne Meredith Medal	The Royal Society of Tasmania Doctoral (PhD) Awards
	5 years	4 years	3 years	2 years	2 years	4 years	yearly
2015				✓			✓
2016	✓		✓				✓
2017		✓		✓			✓
2018					✓		✓
2019			✓	✓			✓
2020					✓		✓
2021	Not awarded	✓		✓			✓
2022			✓		✓		✓
2023	✓			✓			✓
2024					✓	✓	✓
2025		Not awarded	Not awarded	✓			✓
2026		✓	Discontinued		✓		✓
2027	✓			✓			✓
2028					✓	✓	✓

Appendix F

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

- RM Johnston Memorial Medal
- The Royal Society of Tasmania Medal
- MR Banks Medal
- Peter Smith Medal
- Louisa Anne Meredith 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 nominees' achievement 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. Nominations for the RM Johnston medal or The Royal Society of Tasmania medal should provide a list of the nominee's ten (10) best career publications, with a short context statement about the research impact and contributions to the field of the chosen publication. 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 emailed to the Honorary Secretary of the Society (secretary@rst.org.au) 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 G

Historical background – Memorial Funds, Honours, Medals and Awards

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 RM Johnston, the Clive 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 9 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

Established 9 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.

The Clive Lord Memorial Medal was discontinued in April 2026. For a detailed description of why the medal was discontinued, see <https://rst.org.au/award-bursary/clive-lord-memorial-medal/>.

A H Clarke Legacy

Established 8 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 19 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 30 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 9 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.