



Nominations sought for the 2017 AustMS Medal

The Medal Committee for the 2017 Australian Mathematical Society Medal is now seeking nominations and recommendations for possible candidates for this Medal, which will be awarded to a member of the Society, under the age of 40, for distinguished research in the Mathematical Sciences.

Nominations close on **26 May 2017** and should be sent to <http://journal.austms.org.au/ojs/index.php/AMPA/login>. Nominators should receive an acknowledgement of the nomination: if this is not received, please contact the Committee Chair.

Nominations will not be automatically rolled over from previous years.

For further information, please contact the Chair of the 2017 AustMS Medal Committee, Professor P.J. Forrester (pjforr@unimelb.edu.au). The other members of the 2017 Medal Committee are Professor P.G. Bouwknegt (Outgoing Chair), Dr C.M. O'Keefe (Incoming Chair) and Professor A. Henderson (one year).

See <http://www.austms.org.au/AMSInfo/medal.html> for a list of past AustMS Medal winners.

Rules for the Australian Mathematical Society Medal

1. There shall be a Medal known as "The Australian Mathematical Society Medal".
2.
 - (i) This will be awarded annually to a Member of the Society, under the age of 40 on 1st January of the year in which the Medal is awarded, for distinguished research in the Mathematical Sciences. The AustMS Medal Committee may, in cases where there have been significant interruptions to a mathematical career, waive this age limit by normally up to five years.
 - (ii) A significant proportion of the research work should have been carried out in Australia.
 - (iii) In order to be eligible, a nominee for the Medal has to have been a member of the Society for the calendar year preceding the year of the award; back dating of membership to the previous year is not acceptable.
3. The award will be approved by the President on behalf of the Council of the Society on the recommendation of a Selection Committee appointed by the Council.
4. The Selection Committee shall consist of 3 persons each appointed for a period of 3 years and known as "Incoming Chair", "Chair" and "Outgoing Chair" respectively, together with a fourth person appointed each year for one year only.
5. The Selection Committee will consult with appropriate assessors.
6. The award of the Medal shall be recorded in one of the Society's Journals along with the citation and photograph.

7. The Selection Committee shall also prepare an additional citation in a form suitable for newspaper publication. This is to be embargoed until the Medal winner has been announced to the Society.
8. One Medal shall be awarded each year, unless either no one of sufficient merit is found, in which case no Medal shall be awarded; or there is more than one candidate of equal (and sufficient) merit, in which case the committee can recommend the award of at most two Medals.

Nominations sought for the 2017 Gavin Brown Prize

The 2017 Gavin Brown Prize Selection Committee is now seeking nominations and recommendations for possible candidates for this prize, to be awarded for an outstanding and innovative piece of research in the mathematical sciences published by a Member or Members of the Society. The award will be for a single article, monograph or book consisting of original research, and published in the nine calendar years 2007–2015.

Nominators should provide a brief (1–2 pages) summary of what makes the nominated publication important and original, with appropriate references to prior or subsequent work in the field. They should also suggest the names of three assessors.

Nominations close on **26 May 2017** and should be sent to <http://journal.austms.org.au/ojs/index.php/AMPA/login>. Nominators should receive an acknowledgement of the nomination: if this is not received, please contact the Committee Chair.

For further information, please contact the Chair of the 2017 Gavin Brown Prize Selection Committee, Professor J. Ramagge (jacqui.ramagge@sydney.edu.au). The other members of the 2016 AustMS Gavin Brown Prize Selection Committee are Professor J.F. Grotowski (Outgoing Chair), Professor S.O. Warnaar (Incoming Chair) and Professor P. Solomon (one year).

See <http://www.austms.org.au/Gavin+Brown+Prize+winners> for a list of past Gavin Brown Prize winners.

Rules for the Gavin Brown Prize

1. The Gavin Brown Prize will be awarded annually for an outstanding and innovative piece of research in the mathematical sciences published by a Member or Members of the Society.
2. Each award will be for a single article, monograph, or book, consisting of original research, and published in the 9 calendar years $Y - 10$ to $Y - 2$, where Y is the year of the award.
3. To be eligible for the award of the Gavin Brown Prize, a publication must have at least one author who must
 - (i) be a member of the Society, and have been a member of the Society for the calendar year at the time of publication of the paper (back-dating of membership is not allowed);

- (ii) normally be resident in Australia, and have been normally resident in Australia at the time when the research was carried out.
- 4. In the case of publications with multiple authors, the prize will be shared by all authors. The existence of authors who do not meet the conditions in Rule 3 will not preclude this award, although the Selection Committee may take it into account in assessing the achievement of the author(s) who do meet those conditions.
- 5. The Selection Committee may deem a publication ineligible if an author has previously received an award from the Australian Mathematical Society for a body of research which included the publication in question.
- 6. Nominations for the Gavin Brown Prize will be called for in the first half of each year. A publication may be nominated for the award by any member of the Society who is not an author of that publication.
- 7. The award will be decided by a Selection Committee appointed by the Council.
- 8. The Selection Committee will consist of 4 persons:
 - (i) 3 persons each appointed for a period of 3 years, namely a Chair, an Incoming Chair who will become the Chair in the following year, and an Outgoing Chair who has been the Chair in the preceding year;
 - (ii) 1 person appointed for one year only.
- 9. The Selection Committee may consult with appropriate external assessors. Nominators are requested to suggest names of three assessors.

News from the annual conference

The Society's 60th Annual Meeting was held in December at the Australian National University. The Director, Professor John Urbas, his team of local organisers and the Program Committee, led by the Vice-President (Annual Conferences), were responsible for a very successful conference, which included a public lecture by Terry Speed in memory of Peter Hall.

The following matters from the meeting are provided here for the information of those who could not attend.

1. The George Szekeres Medal for 2016 was awarded jointly to Professor Jim Hill of the University of South Australia and Professor Gus Lehrer of The University of Sydney.
2. The Australian Mathematical Society Medal for 2016 was awarded to Professor Aidan Sims of the University of Wollongong.
3. The Gavin Brown Prize for 2016 was awarded to Professor George Willis of Newcastle University for his paper with Yehuda Shalom 'Commensurated Subgroups of Arithmetic Groups, Totally Disconnected Groups and Adelic Rigidity', *Geometric and Functional Analysis* 23 (2013), no. 5, 1631–1683.

4. Council awarded Honorary Membership of the Society to Professor A.L. Carey in recognition of his outstanding work for the Society and for mathematics in Australia.
5. The 2015 B.H. Neumann Prize was awarded to Hao Guo (University of Adelaide) for his talk *Spin-c, K-homology and Proper Actions*.

Honourable mentions were given to Anthony Carapetis (Australian National University), Sean Carnaffan (University of Sydney), Scott Lindstrom (University of Newcastle) and Trang Thi Thien Nguyen (University of South Australia).

6. There was an Early Career Workshop, organised by Michael Coons and Norman Do, on the Saturday and Sunday before the conference. Following advice from the organisers of the short 2015 Early Career Workshop, Council decided there will not be a short Early Career Workshop in 2017 but that the Early Career Representatives be asked to suggest a replacement activity to support early career researchers.
7. There was a successful *Women in Mathematics Dinner* on the Sunday preceding the conference.
8. At the AGM, it was confirmed that the sixty-first Annual Meeting of the Society will be held at Macquarie University from Tuesday 12 December to Friday 15 December 2017 with Professor P.D. Smith and Professor X.T Duong as Co-Directors.

It was provisionally determined that the sixty-second Annual Meeting of the Society will be held at the University of Adelaide from Tuesday 4 December to Friday 8 December 2018 with Dr T. Leistner as Director.

9. Council decided to establish a working party, chaired by Professor Aidan Sims, to examine the London Mathematical Society's Good Practice Scheme and to recommend actions to improve gender equity, with a focus on changes to Society practices.
10. Council decided, as a first step in deciding on a suitable general structure for a revamped website, to engage a consultant to provide advice.

Peter Stacey
AustMS Secretary
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Peter Stacey joined La Trobe as a lecturer in 1975 and retired as an associate professor at the end of 2008. Retirement has enabled him to spend more time with his family while continuing his interest in mathematics. He took over as secretary of the Society at the start of 2010.