

## History of the Bell Memorial Medal

In 1947, shortly after his appointment as Professor of Agriculture, Professor LJH Teakle offered to donate an annual prize to the undergraduate student within the Faculty who prepared and presented the best agricultural paper to a meeting of the Queensland Branch of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science Technology.



The prize was named "The Sutton Prize in Agriculture" in honour of Dr Sutton, a distinguished Australian wheat breeder. Subsequently, and with Professor Teakle's concurrence, the name of the award was altered to the "Branch Prize" and the Queensland Branch of the AIAS began to provide prize money from its own funds.

With the death of Arthur F Bell on 14 May 1958, the Branch and Queensland lost one of its best-known agricultural leaders and administrators.

In response to a questionnaire, sent out to all Branch members, it was decided by a large majority that in future winners of the Branch Prize would be presented with a medal to be known as the Bell Memorial Medal.

The medal is struck in bronze, the face side being identical with the Institute Medal and the reverse side carrying an inscription giving the name of the award, the winner's name and the year.

A \$1000 cash prize accompanies the medal.

## Who is eligible?

All students undertaking Research Projects with a clear focus on agriculturally relevant research in their fourth year of a 4-year undergraduate degree program offered by The University of Queensland are eligible to submit their project reports for the Bell Medal. Eligibility of entries and their acceptance will be at the absolute discretion of the AIA committee.

The Bell Medal is awarded by the Agricultural Institute of Australia (Queensland Division) on the basis of written (75%) and oral (25%) presentations. Two finalists are selected on the basis of the written presentation of the project reports, and will be invited to make an oral presentation at the **Institute meeting at The University of Queensland**.

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## Conditions of Award\*

1. The medal is awarded annually to the student from The University of Queensland judged to have submitted the best Research Project with a clear focus on agriculturally relevant research arising from the fourth year of a 4-year undergraduate degree.
2. The paper may take the form of either a research exercise, a review or any other project, the eligibility for the medal and acceptance for the award judging is at the absolute discretion of a Judging Committee established by the Ag Institute Australia (AIA) Queensland Division for the purpose. Where the paper takes the form of a review article it will be judged according to the same criteria as a paper reporting experimental work, namely: clarity, critical appraisal, understanding of the subject, and conclusions drawn. Joint papers are not acceptable. Hence if more than one student works on the same experimental program as a part of their research project, to be eligible for the award each should study and report on different aspects of the work.
3. Reports should be no longer than is necessary to adequately describe the work undertaken and the main findings arising from it. Verbosity will be penalized.
4. A high standard of presentation is required. All reports are to be prepared in accordance with current guidelines issued by The University of Queensland for the presentation of Research Projects.
5. The judges will select the two best papers for presentation in summary form at a general meeting of the Ag Institute Australia, Queensland Division. The authors of these papers will be required to address the meeting for no more than 15 minutes, and to answer questions on the material presented. The medal will be awarded on the basis of the written paper and this presentation.

The Judging Committee will ordinarily be composed of a Convenor and two others. The Committee will have the power to co-opt additional specialist referees to assist by grading the papers, but final assessment of all papers remains the responsibility of the Judging Committee.

University staff and persons associated with teaching candidates shall not be judges or co-opted referees.

6. If in any one year no candidate reaches a standard to warrant the making of an award, the medal will not be awarded.

\* Amended by the Queensland Division Committee, August 2014.