

History of the WW Bryan Memorial Medal

Dr WW (Wilf) Bryan retired in August 1972 from the CSIRO Division of Tropical Agronomy after a highly successful career in plant breeding and pasture agronomy.



He was on the teaching staff of the Queensland Agricultural College for over 20 years during which time his major achievement was the breeding of hybrid maize varieties which were widely grown in Queensland.

During his 21 years with CSIRO he led the team which developed productive and profitable sown pastures for the coastal lowlands (Wallum) of southern Queensland. He was awarded the DAgrSc degree from The University of Queensland.

The Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology established the WW Bryan Memorial Medal in 1976 to recognise Dr Bryan's contribution to Agricultural Science.

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?

Applications are invited from students completing an Honours program after completing a three year degree, or a Postgraduate Coursework program, and who are undertaking research projects with a clear focus on agriculturally relevant research in one of the degree programs offered by The University of Queensland, to submit their Honours or Coursework Masters Thesis for the WW Bryan Memorial Medal.

The WW Bryan Medal is awarded by the Ag Institute of Australia (Queensland Division) on the basis of written (75%) and oral (25%) presentations. Two finalists will be selected and the authors will be invited to make an oral presentation at the **Institute meeting to be held 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 who is judged to have submitted the best Honours or Coursework Masters Thesis with a clear focus on agriculturally relevant research. All reports are to be prepared in accordance with the guidelines governing preparation of an Honours or Coursework Masters Thesis as issued by The University of Queensland.
2. The paper may take the form of either a research exercise, or 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 Agricultural Institute of Australia (AIA) Queensland Division for the purpose. 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. The criteria used in judging the reports are:
 - originality and significance of the work;
 - success in defining the problem and the objectives of the work;
 - success in achieving the stated objectives of the study;
 - methodology used in the project;
 - interpretation of the information gathered and awareness of its limitations;
 - clarity and presentation, including quality of illustrations where required, and grammar.
5. The judges will select the best two papers for presentation in summary form at a general meeting of the AIA 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.
6. 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 in each group, but final assessment of all papers remains the responsibility of the Judging Committee.
7. University staff and persons associated with teaching candidates shall not be judges or co-opted referees.
8. 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.