

THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF NSW AND GEOGRAPHY TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF NSW



PROGRAM FOR MACDONALD HOLMES MEDAL PRESENTATION TO JOHN CONNELL AND GRANT KLEEMAN AND STUDENT AWARDS

THE MACDONALD HOLMES MEDAL

James Macdonald Holmes was McCaughey Professor of Geography at the University of Sydney during the period 1929 to 1961. To commemorate his achievements, over these years, the Geographical Society together with the Geography Teachers' Association decided to award, biennially, a medal bearing his portrait and name, to a person deemed to have made a distinguished contribution in the field of geographical education in Australia.

Recipients of the medal have been:

1977	Edgar Ford and James Brock Rowe	1991	Malcolm Barlow and John S Emery
1979	Donald Biddle	1993	John H Holmes
1981	John Shaw	1995	Bruce G Thom
1983	Alan Tweedie	1997	Geoffrey K Conolly and Colin Davey
1985	Sister Gonzaga Stanley	1999	Joseph M Powell
1987	Gilbert J Butland	2001	Robert Fagan
1989	Peter G Irwin and Trevor Langford-Smith	2003	Nick Hutchinson
		2005	Deirdre Dragovich

**In 2007 the recipients are:
John Connell and Grant Kleeman**

MACDONALD HOLMES MEDAL PRESENTATION AND STUDENT AWARDS

PROGRAM

Welcome:

Assoc Prof Gordon Wait

Toast List:

The Society – Assoc Prof Kevin Dunn

The Association – Mr Nick Hutchinson

The Medal Award:

James Macdonald Holmes – Dr John Emery

Citation to John Connell - Assoc Prof Chris Gibson

Citation to Grant Kleeman – Mr David Hamper

Presentation of Illuminated

Address and Medals - Mr Iain Macdonald Holmes

Presentation of University Prizes:

Assoc Prof Gordon Waitt

Macquarie University – Jennifer Ingram

University of Newcastle – Daniel Lambert

University of New South Wales – Samantha Travers

University of New South Wales, ADFA – Ashleigh Payne
and Sarah Tame

University of Sydney – Amelia Roberts

University of Wollongong – Eliza de Vet

JOHN CONNELL

Professor John Connell was awarded his PhD at the University College London. After holding research positions at the University of Sussex, and the Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University, in 1977 John was appointed as a lecture to the University of Sydney. In recognition of his academic, teaching and administrative achievement John has been subsequently promoted within this university to Senior Lecturer, then Associate Professor, and Professor. Some of the administrative roles he has performed during this time include his role as Head of the School of Geosciences, Director of the Centre for the Human Aspects of Technology and Vice-Chair of the International Geographical Union Study Group on Globalisation and Migration.

Professor John Connell exemplifies excellence in tertiary teaching and learning at the University of Sydney. John is a dynamic and inspiring teacher. Evidence of his dynamic qualities is evident in how his course curriculum is constantly being revised. In his teaching he is always thinking about how moves in the discipline of geography can be captured and translated into subjects that capture the interest and imagination of students regardless if they are first-year or third-year students. This teaching practice of translating disciplinary change into topical subjects is clearly evident in the myriad of courses that he has designed and taught including Tourism Geographies, Mining and Society, and Cultural Geography. His field schools to the Pacific are legendary and have been the subject of academic publications reflecting on the value of students learning about the world 'in the flesh'. The success of his dynamic and highly reflexive teaching practice is found within the testimonies of his students. Through their acclaim John has received constant praise for his teaching and has been nominated for teaching awards.

His ability to inspire is again reflected in the decisions of his students to continue with geographical education beyond undergraduate years. Since his appointment at Sydney University he has attracted more fourth-year honours students than any other staff member. This total figure is now well into the sixties. In addition he has supervised well over twenty PhD and Masters students. This in itself is an outstanding achievement. However, the numbers alone don't capture John's influence on the building of Geography in Australia. Several of John's PhD students have themselves gone onto to become lecturers in the discipline of Geography in Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and elsewhere. More subtly, John has been an outstanding mentor for his postgraduate students' career development, providing advice on publications, and encouraging them to become independent academics above and beyond the production of their theses. John must be recognized, and

congratulated, for inspiring people and fostering a sense of belonging to the discipline of Geography.

Equally important in the teaching of Geography at the tertiary level are John's publications that cover a range of themes, including migration, urbanization, development geographies, tourism geographies, decolonization, nationalism, music and the Pacific Islands. At last count, John had over 300 publications including 7 books as sole author, 12 as joint author, 7 as sole editor and 7 as joint editor, eight-five referred articles and forty-two chapters in books. His publications are read by undergraduates and post-graduates across the globe.

John is an outstanding geographical educator. Through his research, passion for geography, enthusiasm in lectures, ability to inspire and a dash of humor, he continues to provide outstanding service to geographical education in Australia.

GRANT KLEEMAN

After graduating from Newcastle University in the late 1970s Grant Kleeman held a number of teaching positions in rural New South Wales. In 1994 he was appointed as a Senior Education Officer with responsibility for HSIE K-12 in the North West Region of the state. In 1996 he accepted a position at the School of Education at Macquarie University where he has taught since.

Since 2000 Grant has been the Coordinator of the Secondary Teacher Education Program at Macquarie and through his inspirational teaching and leadership at the university he has helped to develop thousands of beginning teachers to supply schools throughout the state with quality teaching staff.

In 2006 Grant received a PhD from Macquarie, researching the role that interest groups play in shaping curriculum development. During his career, Grant has published 28 highly acclaimed text books for students in all years of high school. In 1995 Grant received *The Australian* Award For Excellence in Educational Publishing. Grant is also a prolific author of academic articles which have appeared in numerous Australian and international peer reviewed journals.

Grant is a former president of the NSW Geography Teachers' Association (NSWGTA) and is currently a Vice President of the Association. He is also a Director of the Australian Geography Teacher's Association. For a number of years Grant has Chaired the Editorial Committee of *Geography Bulletin* (the journal of the NSWGTA). During his time as Chair, Grant has made it a priority to support young Geographers who wish to have works published in this highly respected peer reviewed journal and through his mentorship many fine young teachers have expanded their career.