

Annual Call for Awards of the Society

The RGSSA invites nominations for the following five awards. Nominations for all of these awards must be submitted, in full, to admin@rgssa.org.au (or by mail, c/- The Royal Geographical Society of South Australia Inc., PO Box 3661 Rundle Mall, Adelaide, SA 5000) by **Wednesday 31 July 2024**. All nominations will be evaluated by the Society's Research, Publications and Awards Committee with their recommendation being put to the Council for final decision.

THE JOHN LEWIS GOLD MEDAL FOR EXPLORATION/FOR GEOGRAPHICAL RESEARCH/FOR LITERARY WORK IN GEOGRAPHY (ALSO KNOWN AS JOHN LEWIS GOLD MEDAL)

Gold Medals, to be known respectively as The John Lewis Gold Medal "for Exploration," or "for Geographical Research" or "for Literary Work in Geography" as the case may be, are awarded by the Society for noteworthy geographical achievements in Exploration, Research or Literary Work. Particular regard is given to exploration, research, or work that has a South Australian context. This Medal is for any nominee who is an Australian citizen, or was born in Australia, or was resident in Australia when their noteworthy geographical achievements were accomplished. The John Lewis Gold Medal was established in memory of the late the Hon. John Lewis M.L.C. J.P. (1842 – 1923) who was a former President of the Society.

John Lewis Gold Medallists receive a medal, a certificate, and a citation. Medal recipients who are not already members of the Society are encouraged to join. Awardees are recognized at a special event of the, such as the Annual Awards Ceremony typically held in Government House – and hosted by the Governor – or the Society's Annual Dinner. They are also acknowledged in *GeoNews*, the members' newsletter, as well as on the Society's website and through other relevant media.

Nominations must comprise a nominating letter of fewer than two pages and, if possible, the candidate's CV (no more than six pages). Self-nominations are acceptable. The letter should clearly address the significant contribution of the nominee. Nominations must be accompanied by the full contact details of three referees who can comment advisedly on the nominee's achievements.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

This award is made to **non-members** of RGSSA who have rendered valuable service in the promotion, or furtherance of all or any of the objects of the Society, namely to:

- advance public awareness of, and interest in, geography;
- encourage research and scholarship in geography and closely related disciplines;
- recognise and reward achievements in geography; and
- commemorate past achievements of significance to geography

or who shall have rendered valuable service in the advancement of geographical knowledge or in research. Past members of the Society may be considered for Honorary Life Membership.

Awardees receive a certificate, and are recognized at a special event of the Society, such as the Society's Annual Dinner. They are also acknowledged in *GeoNews*, the members' newsletter, as well as on the Society's website and through other relevant media. Life Members are exempt from

payment of an annual subscription. Life Members have the rights and privileges of Ordinary Members. Life Members are entitled to use the postnominal MRGSSA (Life).

Nominations from individual RGSSA members are welcomed and Honorary Life Members may also be proposed by the Committee charged with managing the Society's awards. Nominations must comprise a nominating letter of fewer than two pages and, if possible, the candidate's CV (no more than six pages). The letter should clearly address the significant contribution of the nominee. Nominations must be accompanied by the signatures of two proposing financial members and seconded by a further two financial members. Nominations for Honorary Life Membership are strictly confidential and must not be made known to any nominee.

THE CENTENARY SILVER MEDAL OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Centenary Silver Medal was established in 1992 to mark the centenary of the Society in 1985. It is awarded to a past or present member of the RGSSA to recognise their outstanding service to the Society as evidenced by long and active tenure on the Council and/or Committees of the Society or by significant contributions to the varied activities of the Society. The Centenary Silver Medal is the RGSSA's peak award for service to the Society.

Awardees receive a Centenary Silver Medal inscribed with "awarded for outstanding service to the Society", their name, and the year of award. Awardees will continue to pay membership fees unless also awarded Life Membership. Awardees are recognized at a special event of the Society, such as the Society's Annual Dinner. They are also acknowledged in *GeoNews*, the members' newsletter, as well as on the Society's website and through other relevant media.

Nominations must comprise a nominating letter of fewer than two pages. The letter should clearly address the significant service or contributions of the nominee, who must be or have been a member of the RGSSA. Nominations must be accompanied by the signatures of two proposing financial members and seconded by a further two financial members.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

This award is for members of RGSSA who have made significant contributions to advancing the objects of the Society, namely to:

- advance public awareness of, and interest in, geography;
- encourage research and scholarship in geography and closely related disciplines;
- recognise and reward achievements in geography; and
- commemorate past achievements of significance to geography.

The definition of contribution is to be interpreted broadly and to include outstanding geography teaching and mentoring; innovative administration in academe, government, or industry; novel and sustained research; and outreach that communicates the importance and value of geography to the public. The definition of significant is exceptional and sustained, to denote that this is an extraordinary honour reserved for a limited number of members of the RGSSA who exhibit conspicuous merit. A Fellowship is the RGSSA's peak award to members for contributions to the objects of the Society.

Fellows receive a certificate and citation and will continue to pay membership fees unless also awarded Life Membership. Awardees are recognized at a special event of the Society, such as the

Society's Annual Dinner. They are also acknowledged in *GeoNews*, the members' newsletter, as well as on the Society's website and through other relevant media. Fellows are entitled to use the postnominal FRGSSA.

Nominations from individual members are welcome and Fellows may also be proposed by the Committee charged with managing the Society's awards. Self-nominations are acceptable. Nominations must comprise a nominating letter of fewer than two pages and, if possible, the candidate's CV (no more than six pages). The letter should clearly address the significant contribution of the nominee, who must be a member in good financial standing, of the RGSSA. Nominations must be accompanied by the signatures of two proposing financial members and seconded by a further two financial members.

THE G W SYMES AWARD

The G.W. Symes Award is made to a worthy recipient who has authored an academic, peer-reviewed publication that relates to the history of South Australia (or the Northern Territory in so far that this affects the history of South Australia, recognising the intimate historical links between these two jurisdictions) and that is substantially informed by the discipline of geography. The work should have been published (online or in hard-copy) in the two years prior to 31 January 2024.

Awardees receive a certificate of recognition and a cash prize (currently \$750). Awardees are recognized at a special event of the Society, such as the Society's Annual Dinner. They are also acknowledged in *GeoNews*, the members' newsletter, as well as on the Society's website and through other relevant media. Awardees (or, in exceptional circumstances, their nominee) are expected to deliver a public presentation based on their publication at one of the Society's meetings, without payment for such presentation.

Any authors who wish to have their publication considered for this prize should submit it, together with a completed application form (available online at <https://rgssa.org.au/awards/symes-award/>). If, in any particular year, the selection committee consider that no publication is suitable for the Award, then no award shall be made.

If you have any queries about the awards or this process, please contact the Society's Director, Professor Iain Hay (<mailto:director@rgssa.org.au>).