Conditions of Award*

1. The medal will be awarded annually to the student from The University of Queensland judged to have submitted the best Research Project with a clear focus in 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, or a review or any other project, the eligibility for the medal and acceptance for the award judging being at the absolute discretion of a Judging Committee established by the AIAST 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 Australian Institute of Agricultural Science, Queensland Division. The authors of these papers will be required to address the meeting for a period of not 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 of the summary.

The Judging Committee will ordinarily be composed of a Convener 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 the teaching of 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, December 2006.
History of the Bell Memorial Medal

In 1947, shortly after his appointment as Professor of Agriculture, Professor L.J.H. Teakle offered to donate an annual prize to the undergraduate 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 (AIAS). 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.

Who is eligible?

All students undertaking Research Projects with a clear focus in 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 AIAS committee.

The Bell Medal is awarded by the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology (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 the oral presentation will take place at the Institute meeting to be held at 6.00pm on Wednesday, 21 November 2007, at the UQ St Lucia campus. Dinner will be served in association with the presentation. All fourth year students are invited to attend the meeting and dinner. The Bell Medal finalists will be guests of the Institute.

Dr Colin Birch
DIRECTOR OF STUDIES
Faculty of Natural Resources,
Agriculture and Veterinary Science

How to apply?

Students wishing to submit for the Bell Medal must submit three (3) copies of their Research Project report to the Faculty of Natural Resources, Agriculture and Veterinary Science (NRAVS) Office, Seddon Building, The University of Queensland St Lucia Campus, or to the NRAVS Student Centre, Gatton Campus. The President, Queensland Division AIAS; will call for brief (one page) outlines of intended entries in August 2007. These outlines will be submitted to the Student Centre, Gatton Campus for delivery to the Judging Committee of AIAS. Project reports must be submitted by 4.00 pm on Friday, 26 October 2007.

Any student who is submitting for the Bell Medal should ensure that they have read the Conditions of Award (see back of this brochure).