



Australian Society of Soil Science Inc

J.A. Prescott Medal of Soil Science

Australian Society of Soil Science Inc
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The Australian Society of Soil Science Inc. invites electronic applications annually for the J.A. Prescott Medal of Soil Science from persons who have made an outstanding contribution in soil science.

Email the completed application form and supporting information to the federal secretary Dr Gemma Heemskerk at the following email addresses;

Gemma.Heemskerk@dpi.vic.gov.au and office@asssi.asn.au before May 31st.

It is the responsibility of the person submitting the application to confirm receipt of the application with the federal secretary.

James Arthur Prescott 1890-1987

the scientist – extract from the Australian Academy of Science biographical memoir.



When Prescott came to Australia in 1924 it was just beginning to make some impact on the scientific world. Prescott was to further the development of agricultural science in a revolutionary manner that attracted international attention. In 1951 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of London for his fundamental pedological researches and his pioneering work in climatology. The need for this work was summed up most aptly by his own words in 'A Soil Map of Australia', 1944:

The assessment of the natural resources of Australia is a pre-requisite of any intelligent planning of the use of these resources. The use of the land of Australia depends primarily on two factors: soil and climate – these between them determine the native vegetation, which is the basis of pastoral occupation or forest management and the choice of crop, trees or pastures which may be grown. The period of exploitation of the best soils in the best rainfall regions is rapidly drawing to a close, and increasing use must be made in the future of soils which are deficient in one or more respects providing the rainfall is adequate and these deficiencies can be overcome. Where water conservation is possible and irrigation practicable, water must be used on appropriate soils where there is a reasonable chance of irrigation husbandry being maintained on a permanent basis.

These words reveal that Prescott was not only a scientist concerned with fundamentals but a conservation-minded agriculturalist in that he recognised the need for land development in Australia, provided that it was based on sound principles and attempted within the limits imposed by climatic conditions. His classification and mapping of the soils of Australia and his direction of detailed soil surveys of strategically chosen areas together with his climatological techniques for determining the availability of soil moisture provided the best practical parameters for the use and conservation of Australian soils. This was recognised when he became a Foundation Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science in 1954.

For the complete memoir please visit

[JA Prescott Australian Academy of Science biographical memoirs](#)

Guidelines for nomination for the J.A. Prescott Medal of Soil Science of the Australian Society of Soil Science Inc.

Nominations of candidates for the J.A. Prescott Medal will be prepared by a nominator and a seconder (see rule 6.1.7). The nomination is to be based on the following template. Emphasis must be placed on the contribution made to soil science and evidence of the significance or impact of the contribution made must be provided.

The nomination must include:

- 1) a statement prepared by the nominator outlining and providing evidence of impact of the candidates contribution to soil science, and
- 2) a curriculum vitae (as outlined below).

Details of the candidate

Name:

Position:

Institution:

Qualifications (including year and institution):

Statement of contribution to Soil Science and supporting evidence

A written case outlining the nature, extent and duration of the contribution made to soil science. The contribution may relate to research, extension, education, popularising soil science or any other significant contribution. The areas on which the nomination is based should be made clear. The case must be supported by evidence of the impact of the contribution which may include:

- Citations (please give origin of information, e.g. ISI) and journal impact factors of key publications and the significance of those publications.
- Evidence and description of changes in the understanding of soil science (including via education) due to the stated contribution
- Evidence and description of changes in soil management practises due to the stated contribution
- Two testimonials from people (other than the nominator and seconder) who have been influenced by the contribution made by the nominee may be used to support this section. The testimonials must be attached to the nomination. The contact details of people providing testimonials must be included as the committee may wish to seek clarification of their statements. Each testimonial should be no more than one A4 page in length.

The statement of contribution to Soil Science and supporting evidence should be no more than Five A4 pages font size 12 in length, including testimonials.

Curriculum Vitae

Positions/awards held relevant to soil science

Professional appointments:

Awards:

Advisory boards/panels:

Industry panels:

Society memberships:

Relevant society committees:

Relevant conference organisation and committees:

Services to soil science

Service to teaching of soil science, including undergraduate lecturing, higher degree supervision and thesis examination:

Services to scientific journals – editing/reviewing:

Other community service relevant to soil science:

Publications

Books and book chapters:

Edited volumes:

Peer reviewed journals articles:

Conference publications (peer reviewed):

Conference abstracts and publication (not reviewed):

Other (eg major reports, patents, etc):

Nomination Details

The application requires the name and contact details for both the nominator and the seconder and should be signed and dated by both the nominator and the seconder before being submitted electronically.

Current Rules for the J. A. Prescott Medal

6.1. J.A. PRESCOTT MEDAL OF SOIL SCIENCE

6.1.1. The Society shall award annually a Medal known as the “*J.A. Prescott Medal of Soil Science*” to a person, not necessarily a Society member, who has made an outstanding contribution to soil science, except that the Medal shall not be awarded if a suitable nomination is not received.

6.1.2. Submission of a candidate for the Award shall be accompanied by a case in the candidate’s support.

6.1.3. If no, or insufficient, suitable nomination(s) is/are received, the *J.A. Prescott Medal Committee* may cause a search to be made and consider candidates from which to select the Medal recipient.

6.1.4. Nominations shall be judged by an Awarding Committee of three members appointed by Federal Council from separate Branches. Each member in turn shall act as chair, who shall retire after a Medal has been awarded. Federal Council shall appoint new members as may be required to maintain a Committee of three.

6.1.5. Members of the Awarding Committee shall not be a nominator or supporter of a candidate, and shall be ineligible for the award during their term of office.

6.1.6. Federal Council may at any time disband and reconstitute the Awarding Committee.

6.1.7. Nominations prepared in each case by a nominator and a seconder and supported by three additional financial members shall be submitted to the Federal Secretary and copied to the Federal Office not later than the May 31 in the year in which the Medal is to be awarded. Nominations are confidential to the Awarding Committee and the Federal Secretary will forward them unopened to the Chair of the Awarding Committee.

6.1.8. The nominator is considered responsible for confirming the successful receipt of the nomination by the Federal Secretary.

6.1.9. The decision of the Awarding Committee, which shall be final, shall be forwarded to the Federal Secretary within six weeks of the closing date for nominations.

6.1.10. The Medal will be presented at a meeting of the Society (Federal or Branch) by the Federal President of the Society, or the Branch President (or nominee) if the Federal President is unable to attend.

6.1.11. Unsuccessful nominations shall not be automatically carried forward from one award to the next, but this should not preclude renomination of the candidate.