

Nominations open for New Zealand's most valuable science prizes

The Minister for Research, Science and Technology, Dr Wayne Mapp is inviting nominations for the 2010 Prime Minister's Science Prizes, which are an important initiative in the Government's commitment to valuing scientific achievement.

The prizes are in their second year and are worth \$1 million.

Dr Mapp says the extent to which scientists are valued and celebrated in New Zealand has a major impact on motivating people to choose careers in science and perform at the peak of their ability. "These prizes lift the profile of science and put the spotlight on the contribution our outstanding scientists and science teachers are making to New Zealand.

"Science and innovation flow into every aspect of daily life, from doctors' visits, to electronic gadgetry, new discoveries and inventions, bringing benefits to economic, health, social, cultural and environmental developments," he says.

Dr Mapp encouraged the scientific and education communities to help showcase scientific achievement by nominating their peers for the 2010 Prime Minister's Science Prizes

The Prime Minister awards five prizes with the top award, valued at \$500,000, recognising a transformational science discovery or achievement which has had a significant impact on New Zealand or internationally.

The 2009, inaugural winners of the Prime Minister's Science Prize were Dr Bob Buckley and Dr Jeff Tallon for their world-leading superconductivity research and commercialisation activity. The other prizes are:

- The Prime Minister's MacDiarmid Emerging Scientist Prize: \$200,000
- The Prime Minister's Science Teacher: \$150,000
- The Prime Minister's Future Scientist Prize: \$150,000
- The Prime Minister's Science Media Communication Prize: \$100,000

Nominations for the Prime Minister's Science Prize, the Science Teacher Prize and the Science Media Communication Prize can be lodged up until the 27th August, 2010.

The 2010 Future Scientist Prize will be awarded to the Supreme Award recipient from the Royal Society of New Zealand's 'Realise the Dream' competition. Judging for the Prime Minister's MacDiarmid Emerging Scientist Prize is currently underway.

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http://www.pmscienceprizes.org.nz/news/100519_2010_prize_round_announced.html