



The Royal Society  
of Western Australia

Promoting Science since 1914

PO Box 7026, Karawara,  
Western Australia 6152  
secretary@rswa.org.au  
ABN: 52 760 771 990

[www.rswa.org.au](http://www.rswa.org.au)

## Medal of The Royal Society of Western Australia

The Medal of The Royal Society of Western Australian 1924 was instituted in 1924 as an award for outstanding work in science, and was to be known as the Royal Society's Medal or, more formally, the Medal of The Royal Society of Western Australia. It was inaugurated to mark the centenary of the birth of Lord Kelvin on 26 June 1824. There have been 24 distinguished recipients of the Medal from 1924 to 2010.

On 19 July 2018 The RSWA was pleased to announce two medal winners for 2018  
one of whom is the distinguished scientist

### **Emeritus Professor David Blair**



Emeritus Professor David Blair is a leading experimental physicist. Born in 1946, David qualified in 1967 with a BSc with 1st Class Honours in Physics at UWA, and in 1972 with a PhD from East Anglia. From 1976 to 2000, for the site at Gingin near Perth, he led the development and operation of the first southern hemisphere gravitational wave detector NIOBE that operated in a worldwide array of 5 detectors, and associated research projects on ultralow noise transducers, ultra-stable sapphire oscillators, ultralow acoustic loss systems and vibration isolation. From 2000 he led the development of the Australian International Gravitational Research Centre which includes the Gravity Discovery Centre at Gingin, a major public outreach centre for teaching Einsteinian Physics to schools and the general public to better understand our Universe. David has been an enthusiastic teacher and mentor at all levels from primary school to undergraduate teaching to postgraduate supervision and public education, including numerous international conference presentations, and participation in thirty radio and television broadcasts from 2008 to 2016. His pioneering research work, in collaboration with scientists in Australia and internationally, has led to an impressive list of achievements. David's work has been recognised with numerous awards including: in 1995 the Walter Boas Medal of the Australian Institute of Physics; in 2003 the National Medal for Community Service, the Centenary Medal for Promotion of Science, and the Clunies Ross National Medal for Science and Technology; in 2004 the Learning Links award of the Minister for Education and Training; in 2005 the ANZAAS Medal, and in 2007 the Western Australian Scientist of the Year Award. In 2014 he was elected Fellow of the American Physical Society. David's appointments include being Winthrop Professor at The University of Western Australia 1999-2017, Director of the Australian International Gravitational Research Centre 1994-2016, UWA Node Director ARC CoE for Gravitational Wave Discovery 2017-2018, and Emeritus Professor at The University of Western Australia 2018. On 20 June 2016 he delivered the RSWA Talk "The Universe has Spoken", details of which are on the RSWA website.