



The Prime Minister's Science Prizes

About the Prize

- This Prize will be awarded to either a practising scientist¹ who can demonstrate an interest, passion and aptitude for science communication and public engagement, *or* to a person who has developed expertise in public engagement with, or communication of complex scientific or technological information to the public.
- \$50,000 of the Prize is to be used to support the recipient to carry out a programme of activities to further their understanding of media communication.
- \$50,000 of the Prize money is available to the recipient with no expectations on its use.
- **Applications close at 5pm on Wednesday 5 September 2018.**

¹Taken to include natural, physical, mathematical and information sciences, applied sciences, technology, engineering, social science and multi-disciplinary science

Eligibility

The Prize will be awarded to either a practising scientist¹ who can demonstrate an interest, passion and aptitude for science communication and public engagement, *or* to a person who has developed expertise in public engagement with, or communication of complex scientific or technological information to the public using recent examples *e.g.* public audiences, local science community/wider and international science community.

- Applicants must be a New Zealand citizen or New Zealand permanent resident.
- Re-application by candidates from previous years is encouraged, as long as the eligibility criteria continue to be met. However, past winners of the Prize will not be eligible to enter a second time.

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Entry Process

- All entries must be completed and received by **5pm on Wednesday 5 September 2018**.
- The process will involve interested applicant's completing an online entry form.
- Applicant's will also need one current Supporter who must be knowledgeable about the applicant's communication activities and is able to comment on their effectiveness.
- The Supporter will be expected to complete an on-line form which asks them to address the selection criteria. *A link will be emailed to the supporter after the entry section has been completed.*

Please note that information provided in the nomination may be subject to the Official Information Act.

Criteria

The Prize will be adjudicated on the applicant's commitment and aptitude for science communication.

Applicants should present an application statement setting out (with cross references to an attached evidence portfolio):

- Their approach to science communication, including how to identify appropriate means for engagement, and how to design an engagement or communication programme. (500 words)
- Summary of recent successful science communication or engagement activities with a diversity of audiences. (500 words)
- The proposed programme of developmental activity that would be undertaken if the application was successful. (500 words)
- How the applicant intends to further their role in science communication in the future. (500 words)

Assessment will include consideration of supporter's statements and an interview of shortlisted candidates.

Selection Panel

- An independent selection panel is selected by the secretariat and the Prime Minister's decision to present the Prize will have regard to the advice of the selection panel.

Prime Minister's Science Communicators Prize Panel Members

[Dr Cornel de Ronde](#)

GNS Science

[James Frankham](#)

NZ Geographic Editor

[Veronika Meduna](#)

New Zealand Editor of the Conversation

[Fabien Medvecky](#)

Centre for Science Communication, University of Otago

- It is recognised that occasionally members of the selection panel will know applicants or have other conflicts of interest. They will be expected to declare all such knowledge and conflicts of interests. In the case of knowing an applicant the Chair of the selection panel will rule if this is significant enough for the panelist to be stood down from the Panel for that applicant. (In the case of the Chair having a conflict of interest the decision will be made by another member of the Panel who has been identified in this role at the beginning of the process). If there is a conflict of interest the panelist will stand down for that application.
- The selection panel will not enter into any correspondence concerning its deliberations. All inquiries should be directed to the Secretariat. Note that information on matters such as ranking, or names of unsuccessful nominees, will not be disclosed.

The Secretariat for the Prime Minister's Science Prizes is Royal Society Te Apārangi

Secretariat

The Prime Minister's Science Prizes

PO Box 90-040

Auckland 1142

Phone: (09) 360 1240

Fax: (09) 360 1242

Email: pmscienceprizes@tcc.co.nz

Confidentiality

The Secretariat gives no undertaking to keep confidential any information that is provided in the nomination form unless this is identified as information that should be treated as such. It may, for example, be used to prepare promotional material for the Prize in future years.

Expectations

- The Prime Minister's Science Communication Prize is worth \$100,000 to the recipient.
- \$50,000 of the Prize is to be used to support the recipient to carry out a programme of activities to further their understanding of science communication.
- \$50,000 of the Prize money is available to the recipient with no expectations on its use.
- The recipient of the Prize would be expected to be involved in promotional opportunities appropriate to receiving The Prime Minister's Science Communication Prize.

Announcement

- The Winner is expected to make themselves available for half a day at the end of November / early December to meet with the Prime Minister's Science Prize media liaison personnel in preparation of media material and photos.
- The Winner will be announced in February. (date to be confirmed)
- The Winner will be expected to make themselves available for that announcement in February in Wellington.

Checklist

- You are a New Zealand citizen or New Zealand permanent resident.
- You are a practising scientist¹ who can demonstrate an interest, passion and aptitude for science communication and public engagement ***or*** a person who has developed expertise in public engagement with, or communication of complex scientific or technological information to the public.
- You have nominated a Supporter who has a solid understanding of your interest in communication and is able to give expert, current opinion. Check that they have sent in their document by closing date.
- You have completed the online entrant questions.
- You have uploaded a CV and an evidence portfolio.
- **Entries close at 5pm on Wednesday 5 September 2018.**

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