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## Message from the Premier and the Minister for Science and Innovation



Premier Carpenter



Minister Logan

Science plays a vital role in driving Western Australia's economic growth.

Western Australia has a strong science community with a range of dedicated and talented professionals, and the 2006 Premier's Science Awards celebrate, encourage and reward the best WA scientists, science teachers and science communicators.

Some of the world's best scientists are right here in WA, including former Australians of the Year, Professor Fiona Wood and Professor Fiona Stanley and Nobel Laureates, Professor Barry Marshall and Dr Robin Warren.

Science teachers also play an important role in ensuring we have access to the best minds and most skilled science professionals in the future.

Science communicators are essential to keeping the science community in contact with the general public and showcasing new discoveries. It is important that scientists are rewarded and recognised, as public profile and support are crucial in gaining research funding.

The State Government is committed to driving the science, technology and innovation industry to diversify our economy and sustain our prosperity beyond the State's current resources boom.

We have committed \$72 million over four years to science and innovation, focusing on biotechnology, information and communication technology, bio-fuel development and the marine and defence industries. This approach also builds on our world-class expertise in developing and commercialising resource industry technology.

Scitech and the Department of Industry and Resources' Office of Science, Technology and Innovation also play a significant role in developing our State's science sector and we thank them for their support of these awards.

We congratulate all winners and nominees in the 2006 Premier's Science Awards and thank them for their significant contribution to our community.

**THE HON. ALAN CARPENTER MLA  
 PREMIER OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

**THE HON. FRANCIS LOGAN MLA  
 MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION**



# Congratulations to the Winners of the 2006 Premier's Science Awards

**Professor Graeme Hankey  
Premier's Prize for Achievement  
in Science 2006**



Head of the Stroke Unit at Royal Perth Hospital and Clinical Professor at the School of Medicine and Pharmacology at the University of Western Australia, Professor Graeme Hankey is recognised as an international leader in the causes of stroke, one of the most common causes of death and major physical disability worldwide.

Professor Hankey is truly dedicated to his research and instigated the "VITATOPS" trial, a network of clinicians and research patients in 100 medical centres in 20 countries.

**Professor Mark Cassidy  
Premier's Prize for Early Career  
Achievement in Science 2006**



By the age of 33, Professor Mark Cassidy had become a full Professor at the University of Western Australia and director of the world-class Centre for Offshore Foundation Systems. Also a Rhodes Scholar, he has built an international reputation in the field of offshore geotechnical engineering.

His leading role in the Western Australian Energy Research Alliance pilot project and \$1.4 million in research grants, show his firm commitment to the development of Western Australian science.

**Christine Howitt  
Premier's Prize for Excellence in  
Science Teaching: Tertiary 2006**



Christine Howitt is a lecturer in Primary Science Teacher Education at Curtin University of Technology. Her boundless passion for teaching science is evident in her innovative and refreshing curriculum.

As a dedicated educator, she instils enthusiasm in her students and provides future generations with a better understanding of scientific processes and a positive attitude towards science.

**Alison Siciliano  
Premier's Prize for Excellence  
in Science Teaching:  
Secondary 2006**



At Christmas Island's District High School, Alison Siciliano ensures science is taught throughout the school in a meaningful way. With a large student population of Chinese and Malay immigrants, she has been instrumental in creating a strategic plan for science teaching from Kindergarten to Year 10, catering for English as a Second Language learners.

**Monique Hill  
Joint Winner Premier's Prize for  
Excellence in Science Teaching:  
Primary 2006**



Monique Hill's dedication to science and the environment manifests itself in everything she does at Rossmoyne Primary School. She actively encourages students to experience real life science situations.

She is involved in Primary Connections, a federally-funded Science-Literacy Program. Her efforts have elevated the status of science at the school.

**Penny Kelliher  
Joint Winner Premier's Prize for  
Excellence in Science Teaching:  
Primary 2006**



Penny Kelliher believes that no child should be excluded from learning and has applied this to her role as a science specialist and Deputy Principal at Leeming Primary School. She has developed a cross-curricular program for students with learning and behaviour management difficulties such as ADHD. As a result of this hands-on program these students have engaged science learning and returned to their classrooms.

**Fremantle Light and Sound  
Discovery Centre –  
Richard Rennie  
Premier's Prize for Excellence  
in Science Communication 2006**



Since 2003, Fremantle Light and Sound Discovery Centre has been communicating science from the Western Australian Museum's Fremantle History facility. The centre demonstrates science concepts through a collection of rare and historic light and sound technologies and gadgets.

The centre offers 25 educational programs for all learning levels, professional development for teachers and support for special events. Founder Richard Rennie has 37 years experience as a science teacher, and uses his skills to inspire young people and young teachers alike and performs his role as a volunteer.



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