

HOLMES A COURT EUREKA PRIZE FOR SCIENCE TEACHING

\$10,000

Purpose

The **Holmes à Court Eureka Prize for Science Teaching**, generously sponsored by Peter and Divonne Holmes à Court, is an exciting addition to the Australian Museum Eureka Prizes, Australia's premier and most comprehensive science awards. A record twenty-two prizes worth \$220,000 will be awarded in the 2004 Eureka Prizes across four broad categories: education, industry and innovation, research and science communication.

The **\$10,000 Holmes à Court Eureka Prize for Science Teaching** is one of four Eureka prizes focussed specifically on encouraging science in Australian secondary schools. This new prize will award \$10,000 to a secondary science teacher with a proven capacity to inspire students to pursue curiosity-driven learning in science. By focussing on the outstanding efforts of secondary science teachers, the new prize compliments perfectly the three existing Eureka schools prizes, which reward students for exemplary scientific research activity.

The Holmes à Court Eureka prize highlights outstanding work by a secondary science teacher in inspiring and motivating pupils to become involved in student-centred investigation, where students seek answers to scientific questions posed by themselves. This "curiosity-driven learning" may be undertaken as part of a science teaching and learning program or through a science enrichment program, encouraged through entries for competitions, prizes etc or undertaken as an exercise in itself. The teacher activity to be rewarded reflects very closely Standard 6 of "National Professional Standards for Highly Accomplished Teachers of Science" developed by the Australian Science Teachers Association (ASTA).

Judging Criteria

Entries for this exciting new prize will be judged on how effectively teachers have been able to encourage and develop the following characteristics in their students:

- curiosity
- openness to new ideas
- scepticism
- the demand for reason
- honesty and objectivity
- acceptance of the tentative nature of scientific knowledge.

Entries need to provide evidence, with examples, of how teachers have inspired their students to pursue activity that develops these characteristics – what methods the teacher used and how students responded.

Entry Conditions

The prize is open to all secondary science teachers who are permanent residents or citizens of Australia. Entrants need to be currently employed as science teachers. Teachers can either enter themselves or be nominated by others, including other teachers, parents and/or students.

Further information on the **Holmes à Court Eureka Prize for Science Teaching** will shortly be available with the Entry Form at www.amonline.net.au/eureka or from eureka@austmus.gov.au



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