Citation for the Ren Potts Medal - Peter Taylor

Peter Taylor received a BSc(Hons) and a PhD in Applied Mathematics from the University of Adelaide in 1980 and 1987 respectively. In between, he spent time working for the Australian Public Service in Canberra. After periods at the Universities of Western Australia and Adelaide, he moved at the beginning of 2002 to the University of Melbourne, where he took up a position as the inaugural Professor of Operations Research. He was Head of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics from 2005 until 2010.

Peter's research interests lie in the fields of stochastic modelling and applied probability, with particular emphasis on applications in telecommunications, biological modelling, healthcare, economics and disaster management. Recently he has become interested in the interaction of stochastic modelling with optimisation and optimal control under conditions of uncertainty and with blockchain technology. He is regularly invited to present plenary papers at international conferences. He has also acted on organising and program committees for many conferences.

Peter was the Secretary of the South Australian Chapter of ASOR in 1983 and 1984, President in 1985 and 1986, and a Committee Member in 1987 and 1988. In August 1985, while still a PhD student, he was the Secretary of the Seventh National Conference of ASOR, held in Adelaide. His greatest memory of this time was having the honour of hosting the plenary lecturer George Danzig for a large part of the conference. Peter has gone on to hold other significant leadership positions in the Australian mathematical science community: Chair of ANZIAM from February 2006 to February 2008, President of the Australian Mathematical Society from 2010 to 2012 and a member of the Australian Academy of Science's National Committee for the Mathematical Sciences from 2007 to 2015. In each of these roles he has advocated for operations research within the wider discipline of applied mathematics.

Peter is the Editor-in-Chief of *Stochastic Models*, and on the editorial boards of *Queueing Systems*, the *Journal of Applied Probability* and *Advances in Applied Probability*. He served on the Awards Committee of the Applied Probability Section of the Institute for Operations Research and Management Science (INFORMS) from 2005-2007 and in 2016 was Co-Chair of the committee for the Nicholson Prize, awarded for the best student paper in operations research. In 2008, Peter became one of the five trustees of the Applied Probability Trust. This trust, which is based in Sheffield UK, is the body which publishes the Applied Probability journals plus 'The Mathematical Scientist' and 'Spectrum'. In 2013 he was awarded a Laureate Fellowship by the Australian Research Council, and in 2016 he became Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Mathematical and Statistical Frontiers (ACEMS).