

2014 3MT Judges

Graduate Research School

2014 3MT Competition - MC and Judges

MC Billie Ganendran

After starting her professional life as a chemical engineer (which didn't excite her), Billie had an 8-year stint in the Lao People's Democratic Republic which fired her passion for international development and, in particular, poverty reduction through education (which REALLY excited her). Back in Australia, she started teaching mathematics in high school, became a university tutor and morphed into a PhD student at UNSW Canberra. She can now see the light at the end of the tunnel of her PhD on statistics and penguins (SUPER exciting!).

Billie was runner-up at the UNSW 3MT Final in 2012 with her presentation 'The curious mix of penguins and statistics', and has been a guest on ABC Radio's 'Science Show'. She has spoken publicly about penguins and statistics to many different audiences. She is an enthusiastic participant in CSIRO's Scientists and Mathematicians in Schools and was recently showcased with her partner school. She was also featured in CSIRO's 'Faces of Science' exhibition this year.



Related links

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Judge - Mark Kenny

Mark Kenny is Fairfax Media's chief political correspondent - appearing daily in The Sydney Morning Herald, The Age, and The Canberra Times. He regularly appears on the ABC's Insiders, Sky News Agenda, and is a sought after commentator on countless radio programs across the country. He has reported from Canberra during the terms of four prime ministers and 9 opposition leaders. The Canberra-based Kenny moved to Fairfax from News Corp in 2012 where he was National Political Editor at The Advertiser after working in television and radio news at the ABC. He is a director of the National Press Club in the capital and is married to the high-profile ABC journalist and feminist author, Virginia Haussegger AM. Kenny has reported from locations as diverse as Kandahar, Bucharest, Vladivostok, and Washington.



Judge - Dr Martin Nakata

Professor Martin Nakata is the Director of Nura Gili at UNSW. Prof N M Nakata (B.Ed.Hons.PhD) is the first Torres Strait Islander to receive a PhD in Australia. His mother is an Indigenous person from the Torres Strait Islands, and his dad was born in Kushimoto-cho, Japan. His current research

work focuses on higher education curriculum areas, the academic preparation of Indigenous students, and Indigenous knowledge and library services. He has presented over twenty plenary and keynote addresses at national as well as international conferences in ten countries, and published various pieces on Indigenous Australians and education in various academic journals and books in Australia and abroad. His book, *Disciplining the Savages-Savaging the Disciplines*, was published in 2007 by Aboriginal Studies Press.



Judge - Professor Cyndi Shannon Weickert

Cyndi's research is focused on the molecular developmental neurobiology of schizophrenia. She earned a PhD in Biomedical Science at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York City and completed postdoctoral training at the National Institute of Mental Health, rising to the level of Unit Chief of Molecules in the Neurobiology and Development of Schizophrenia Unit. Her awards include the Eli Lilly Young Investigator Award, NIH Fellows Award for Research Excellence, Independent Investigator Award and two Young Investigator Awards from NARSD. She has lectured throughout the world, contributed to over 60 publications and in April 2014 presented at TEDx Sydney.



Judge - Robyn Williams

Robyn Williams is a science journalist and presenter of *The Science Show* and *Ockham's Razor* on ABC's Radio National. A witty and engaging presenter, he has the ability to make science fascinating for almost anyone. He is equally prominent on television as narrator of such programs as *Nature of Australia* and *Catalyst*, and appeared on *World Safari* with David Attenborough. Robyn Williams is highly respected in the academic world. In 1993 he was the first journalist elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science. He has Honorary Doctorates in Science from NSW, Sydney, Macquarie and Deakin universities and a Doctorate of Law from ANU. He is a Visiting Professor at UNSW. Robyn was appointed AM in the 1988 Australian Bicentenary Honours list, named a National Living Treasure by the National Trust in 1997 and even has a star named after him by the Sydney Observatory. Robyn has served as President of the Australian Museum Trust, Chairman of the Commission for The Future, President of The ANZAAS Congress, Ambassador of the Queensland Museum Foundation and Deputy Chairman of the Australian Science Media Centre.



Judge - Dr Johannes Luetz

Dr Johannes Luetz is a Lecturer in the School of Social Sciences, teaching courses in international development and environmental sustainability. He has a bit of a "history" with the 3MT academic public speaking competition, having participated as a "spectator" (2011), ASPIRE award winning "competitor" (2012), "Master of Ceremonies" (2013), and invited "panel judge" (2014). He is already worried about "early retirement" from the competition now that his involvement appears to have reached the end of its life cycle. Johannes has conducted PhD research into climate migration and has variously published for World Vision International on matters related to climate justice. He is a Climate Leader trained by Nobel Laureate & former U.S. Vice President Al Gore, and he has been a guest on ABC Radio National - The Science Show. His PhD research has featured in the Sydney Morning Herald. As a happily married family man he has two children ... and counting ... a few more weeks, and then... go on, have a guess!



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