

THOMAS RANKEN LYLE MEDAL 1977
KURT MAHLER

Citation

The 1977 medal is awarded to Kurt Mahler, FAA, FRS, Emeritus Professor in the Australian National University. Professor Mahler is internationally famous for his research in the theory of numbers, especially for his numerous and fundamental contributions to diophantine approximation, the theory of transcendental numbers, geometry of numbers, and p -adic analysis.

Driven from his native Germany by the events of the 1930s, Kurt Mahler spent some years in Holland, then settled in Manchester in 1938, where he quickly rose from Assistant Lecturer to Professor. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1948, and after joining the Department of Mathematics in the Institute of Advanced Studies of the Australian National University in 1963, a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science in 1965. Upon reaching Australian retiring age, he continued his active teaching and research career for several more years at Ohio State University, before returning to Canberra where, now in his 74th year, he continues his research with undiminished success.