

THOMAS RANKEN LYLE MEDAL 1975

JOHN PAUL WILD

The 1975 medal has been awarded to John Paul Wild, FAA, FRS, who is Chief of the CSIRO Division of Radiophysics, a position he has held since 1971. Dr Wild joined the Division in 1947 and immediately began to study the radio emissions of the sun. He has maintained this interest ever since and today the large group which he has built up in the Division is recognised internationally as pre-eminent in the field of solar radio astronomy.

Personally, he has made numerous major contributions in the conception and development of new kinds of instruments and in the interpretation of the complex phenomena which they have revealed. He has also made significant theoretical contributions in related fields.

The Culgoora radioheliograph is probably the best known of his instrumental developments. Not only has it proved very successful in helping to unravel the complex physical processes which take place on the solar corona, but it has also provided invaluable information about galactic and extragalactic radio sources.

The outstanding nature of Dr Wild's work has been recognised by the award of many international honours and distinctions. He was elected to Fellowship of the Academy in 1964 and Fellowship of the Royal Society in 1970. He has been a member of the Academy Council since 1971 and is at present the Foreign Secretary.