

Purpose of the Prize

This prize (est. 2026) honours the work and legacy of the Institute of Worship. The Institute was founded and directed by Dr Lyell Heise from 2004 to 2015. A joint ministry of the South Pacific Division and Avondale University, it served the churches, schools and institutions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church throughout the South Pacific. It offered resources and training for pastors and congregational worship leaders in the skills needed for effective worship planning and leadership.

Selection Criteria

This prize will be awarded based on the following criteria:

1. An Avondale University student in any year of study, drawn possibly, but not exclusively, from among student in Avondale Conservatorium or Avondale Seminary.
2. Awarded based on:
 - A demonstrated passion for excellence in congregational worship leading.
 - A demonstrated awareness of the make-up of Adventist worship congregations, including their multigenerational and increasingly multi-cultural natures.
 - A demonstrated awareness of the interplay in Adventist worship between its theological and cultural dimensions.
 - An acknowledged and respected place in the worship leading and planning networks of Avondale University. This acknowledges that the nominated student recipient may be an on-campus or distance student approved in consultation with Lyell Heise, Valmai Hill, Avondale Conservatorium, Avondale Seminary.
3. The nominating committee reserves the right not to award the prize in any given year.

Administration of the Prize

1. Each year, the Scholarships and Prizes Officer will confer with Avondale's business office to ascertain the balance of the Institute of Worship Leadership Reserve and then confer with the Director of Avondale Conservatorium. The principal supporting this prize means it has a limited life.
2. Any changes to the criteria will be forwarded by the Scholarships and Prizes Officer to the Scholarships and Prizes Committee, and once approved, will be uploaded to the Avondale website.
3. Nominations for the prize shall be made by the Director of Avondale Conservatorium, in consultation with
 - a. Dr Lyell Heise and Mrs Valmai Hill, (past Director, and Assistant Director of the Institute of Worship)
 - b. A representative from the Avondale Seminary.
4. The prize can be awarded more than once to the same student.
5. The name will be presented to the Learning and Teaching Committee for approval.

Sponsorship

Sponsorship is provided from the Institute of Worship Leadership Prize Reserve, established with the remainder of funds in the Institute of Worship Reserve at the time of its closure in 2026. Ongoing sponsorship of this Reserve is drawn from the Avondale Conservatorium Reserve. The prize shall be provided by way of a pre-paid gift card to the value of \$500 (determined annually on available funds).

Presentation of Prize

The prize will be presented during the year-end graduation ceremony. Prize recipients who are not graduating in the current year will receive their prize at the Welcome to Avondale ceremony at the commencement of the next academic year.

Citation

The INSTITUTE OF WORSHIP LEADERSHIP PRIZE
is awarded for outstanding involvement and leadership in the worship activities of the
Avondale University and Church communities.
This prize (est.2026) honours the work of the Institute of Worship,
founded and directed by Dr Lyell Heise, and serving Avondale University and the entire Seventh-day Adventist
Church in the South Pacific, from 2004 until 2026.

The prize is awarded to
[name of recipient]