Blair McKenzie

Shanti Rajagopalan Memorial Award
Brisbane March 2023

CITATION:

The Shanti Rajagopalan Memorial Award, inaugurated in 2013, is presented for the best paper published by a Student Member in Exploration Geophysics in the period prior to each ASEG Conference.

The award is named in memory of the late Dr Shanti Rajagopalan, who passed away in 2010 at the prime of her career. Shanti was one of the best known and respected members of the ASEG and was well known for her outstanding contributions to the geophysical profession.

Shanti was also a major contributor to the ASEG. She was a great supporter of her local branch, served as Victorian Branch President, and was actively involved in the organisation of ASEG conferences in Hobart and Melbourne. She was also Editor of Exploration Geophysics in 2000 and 2001.

But it is most noteworthy in the context of this award that, in 1987, as a student member, Shanti received the inaugural Laric Hawkins Award for the most innovative use of a geophysical technique from a paper presented at the ASEG Conference. It is therefore very appropriate that an award to encourage technical excellence by our Student Members is named in honour of Shanti.

The recipient of the Shanti Rajagopalan Memorial Award for 2023 is Blair McKenzie, formerly of Macquarie University in Sydney, for his paper entitled “The magnetic field and magnetic gradient tensor for a right circular cylinder”. The paper was published in 2022 in *Exploration Geophysics*, Vol. 53 (3), 329-358.

Blair started his PhD at Macquarie University in 2015 on the “Application of magnetic and gravity gradient tensors in exploration: Towards further understanding of some recurring problems in the interpretation of potential fields”. Blair has been undertaking this research on a part-time basis and is expecting to finish later this year. He is currently working as research geophysicist and director of Tensor Research Pty Ltd in Sydney where his role is in the development of new innovative methods and algorithms for the modelling, inversion and interpretation of potential field data in the exploration industry.