

**Joel Kumwenda**  
**Shanti Rajagopalan Memorial Award**  
**Brisbane September 2021**

**CITATION:**

The Shanti Rajagopalan Memorial Award is presented for the best paper published by a Student Member in *Exploration Geophysics* in the period prior to each national Conference. The award, which is to encourage technical excellence by our Student Members, was established in 2013 in memory of the late Dr Shanti Rajagopalan, who passed away in 2010 at the prime of her career.

Shanti was one of the most respected members and 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. 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.

In 2021, there were three papers which were in close contention for the award. The Highly Commended runners-up, each receiving a \$500 prize, are:

- Xiuyan Ren for her paper, co-authored with James Macnae & Lachlan Hennesy “Three conductivity modelling algorithms and three 3D inversions of the Forrestania test site AEM anomaly”, published in *Exploration Geophysics*, 2019, Vol. 51 (1), 14-24
- Blair McKenzie for his paper “The magnetic gradient tensor of a triaxial ellipsoid, its derivation and its application to the determination of magnetisation direction”. published in *Exploration Geophysics*, 2020, Vol. 51 (6), 609-641

The winner and recipient of the Shanti Rajagopalan Memorial Award for 2021 and a prize of \$1000 is Joel Kumwenda, for his paper co-authored with Mark Lackie entitled “Geophysical interpretation of the geology of the Stanthorpe region using aeromagnetic, gravity and radiometric data” published in *Exploration Geophysics*, 2019, Vol. 50 (6), 653-666.

Since completing his Master of Geoscience at Macquarie University in 2017, Joel returned to Malawi where he worked briefly with the University of Malawi in 2018, before securing a PhD scholarship with Monash University in 2019. He is currently in his third year of the PhD, but he has been studying remotely since October 2020, as he had to attend to family issues due to the Covid-19 pandemic. He hopes to return to Australia to complete his PhD once international borders are open, and after that he would like to continue working in academia in Malawi.

