

Dr Paul Blacklow, Honorary Fellow of the Economic Society of Australia

It is my great pleasure and privilege to deliver the citation for the 2024 Honorary Fellow of the Economic Society of Australia which has been awarded to Dr Paul Blacklow of the University of Tasmania. It says a great deal about Paul that he was nominated by the Victorian Branch and described as the unsung hero of Tasmanian economics. This nomination is wholeheartedly supported by the Tasmanian Branch.

Paul has been an active member of the Tasmanian Branch of the Economic Society of Australia since he began employment at UTAS in 1995. In that time, he has been the Chair of the organising committee for at least two Australian Conferences of Economists and a leading player in others. He served as the Tasmanian Branch president from 2004 until 2010 and again from 2020 until 2022. He was President at a time when the Branch was in jeopardy of being non-viable and under his leadership, the membership recovered and was refreshed. Paul's capacity to form warm and lasting relationships as well as his capacity as an academic economist played a key role in achieving this. As a leader within the ESA and a lecturer in the Tasmanian School of Business and Economics, Paul has taught, encouraged and mentored many Tasmanian economists, a number of whom have become leaders in the Society as well as the Women in Economics Network. Arguably, the energy he has put into conducting activities in the Society may have cost him some opportunities for promotion.

Paul is an active researcher in his field, including econometrics, social economics, poverty, equity and household behaviour, and also an effective communicator of his research findings and their policy implications in the Tasmanian media. Those of us who know Paul as a lecturer, mentor or colleague are impressed by his generosity and capacity to inspire others.

Mary Bennett
Branch President
ESA Tasmania