

Irish Famine Memorial Prize past recipients

2006 - Lauren Wilson, the first recipient, was presented with an illuminated manuscript and a cheque at the Irish Famine Memorial in March 2006 by visiting Irish Government Minister, Mr Brian Cowan, T.D. Lauren was an outstanding student who gained first class Honours and a university medal.

2007 - Julia Kensey's Honours thesis explored the ways governments have tried to find solutions to the 'Aboriginal problem'. Using the abolition of ATSIC as a case study, she argued that policy decisions must be seen against a wider, shifting backdrop of understandings of Australian history and Indigenous and Non-Indigenous experiences and relations. Julia went on to work as an Energy Analyst.

2008 - Eleanor Cameron Modern History Honours thesis was on the demise of the White Australian immigration policy between the 1950s and 1970s. Her examination showed, for example, how groups such as the Returned & Services League (RSL) and the Australian Natives Association gradually came to accept, and at times even embraced, the slow dismantlement of the policy. The prize was presented during 'Irish week' by a visiting Minister in the Irish Government, Mr Noel Dempsey TD, Minister for Transport. A beautiful wreath was laid by Mr Patrick Scullion, Irish Consul General in Sydney. The Irish Ambassador, Mr Mairtin O Fainin, and representatives from Macquarie University, Hyde Park Barracks and the Sydney GIFCC were in attendance.