

Keith Farrer Award of Merit 2024

BACKGROUND

This award is the Institute's highest honour, acknowledging an individual whose work has resulted in significant positive change for the food industry, the food science and technology profession, food research and innovation, and/or food science education, and/or has promoted the health and enjoyment of the wider community regarding food. The recipients' achievements must also include substantial contributions made to further the aims and objectives of the AIFST.

The award is named after Dr Keith Farrer OBE, a pioneering scientist and author, who was involved in the formation of the AIFST in 1967. Dr Farrer was the second president of AIFST from 1969-71 and a recipient of the award (then known as the IFT Australian Award) in 1959.

The Award may be made annually at the discretion of AIFST.

CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION

- a) A nominee for the Award must be a member of the Institute (Professional or Fellow).
- b) The nomination must be by a member of the Institute (Professional or Fellow)
- c) The nominee must indicate their acceptance of the nomination by signing the nomination form or providing a signed letter stating that they accept the nomination.
- d) A nomination can be made posthumously, with the nomination to be accepted as above by a next of kin.
- e) The nominee will have demonstrated a clear commitment to advancing AIFST's role in supporting Australia's food industry professionals.
- f) The nominee will have made a clear contribution to advancing the food industry via either food science and technology research or practice and/or education.
- g) The Award will be made at the discretion of AIFST.
- h) There will not be more than one recipient in any one year.
- i) The AIFST may decide not to make the award in any one year.
- j) An Awardee cannot receive more than one AIFST Keith Farrer Award of Merit.

NOMINATION PROCESS

- a) AIFST shall call for nominations for the Award via channels deemed appropriate and aligned with the overall AIFST awards program. The call for nominations shall outline the closing date of entries; provide the award guidelines and nomination form; and details for return nominations.
- b) Nominations can be made independently of the AIFST call for nominations but may only be considered if received before the closing date.

- c) Nominations are to be completed via the AIFST Nomination Form which includes a supporting statement, not exceeding 1,000 words, together with adequate supporting documentation including a bibliography not exceeding 250 words.
- d) No late submissions shall be accepted, although AIFST reserves the right to extend, or change the closing dates for entries at its discretion and without prior notice.
- e) Each nominee shall give an undertaking to make a presentation at a mutually agreed AIFST event if they are the Award recipient.

JUDGING CRITERIA

The merit of a nomination of a person to receive the Award shall be determined by the Judging Panel assessed against the following criteria and their nominated weightings:

- a) The nature and significance of the nominee's contribution to AIFST (30%) - ESSENTIAL
- b) Nominee's achievements within food science and technology in the areas of research, industry and/or education (50%) – ESSENTIAL
- c) Contributions that have been of benefit to the wider community either in Australia or internationally, e.g., food safety, public or food policy, food innovation, industry growth or profitability (20%) - SUPPORTING

JUDGING PROCESS

- a) AIFST shall invite three (3) Judges who are appropriate members of the food industry to act as the Award Judging Panel. The members of such Judging Panel shall not be members of the AIFST Board and shall not be professional or close personal associates of the nominee/s. AIFST shall act as Convener of the Award Panel. However, AIFST shall have no primary voting rights and in the case that the Judging Panel cannot reach a majority decision, the AIFST CEO or delegate shall have the casting vote.
- b) AIFST shall notify the Judging Panel of their appointment.
- c) Should a Judging Panel member withdraw at any stage, the AIFST CEO or delegate shall appoint a substitute panelist.
- d) AIFST shall acknowledge each nominee on receipt of their valid nomination.
- e) AIFST shall provide the Judging Panel copies of each nomination, together with the judging guidelines which outline the system for assessing nominations. The Judging Panel shall read the submission(s) entered for the award and select the nomination of greatest merit based on the judging guidelines.
- f) If the Judging Panel determines there are no nominations of sufficient merit, the Judging Panel shall recommend to AIFST that no award be made that year. AIFST's decision on whether an award shall be made, and the outcome of the judging decision is final.
- g) AIFST shall notify the successful nominee as determined by the Judging Panel in line with the award timelines. AIFST shall also notify non-successful nominees at this time.

AWARD PRIZE

If mutually agreed, the winner of the Award shall deliver an Award Address at the Annual AIFST Convention. The subject of the address shall be the speaker's own choice, but generally relevant to the achievements regarding which the award is made, and the duration of the address shall be up to thirty minutes.

In the event of the death of the Awardee before the time of presentation of the Award, the Award shall be presented posthumously, and the address shall take such form as is decided by AIFST.

AWARD TIMELINE

Date	Action	Responsible
25 March 2024	Call for nominations	AIFST
20 May 2024	Close of nominations	AIFST
21 May - 7 June 2024	Judging of awards	Judging panel
17 June 2024	Nominees advised of outcome	AIFST
6 August 2024	Awards Ceremony @ AIFST24	AIFST