



2015 Newington Medal - International

The Newington Medal recognises outstanding contributions, actions and achievements of Old Boys who have gone beyond the normal expectations. This is the highest honour Newington can bestow on an Old Boy for meritorious and commendable achievement. The Medal acknowledges an Old Boy (both Australian and International residents) whose work, profession, skill, dedication, generosity and/or support has involved meritorious and commendable achievement in business, the professions, community service, industrial development, technology, human relations, education, cultural development, sport, international relations, the arts or philanthropy.

Professor Chris Rodger (ON 1973)

Chris Rodger was at Newington from 1968 to 1973 and his list of achievements whilst a student at the College is outstanding and diverse. For four years in a row, Chris was awarded the Bellhouse Prize for excellence in and contribution to Music. A keen and accomplished cricketer, Chris was in the 2nd XI for two years before rising to the 1st XI in 1973. Academically, he excelled and won the Wigram Allen Award for outstanding scholarship in Year 11 and the George Lane Prize as runner up to Dux in Year 12. In 1973 as a Prefect, he was awarded the Jack Thorncraft Trophy for loyalty and service. His brothers Mark Rodger (ON 1976) and Stuart Rodger (ON 1970) also attended Newington.

Currently, Professor Chris Rodger holds the Don Logan Chair in Mathematics at Auburn University of Sciences and Mathematics in Alabama. His research area, is Discrete Mathematics: Combinatorics; Graph Theory and Design Theory and he has published prolifically in this area with over 180 research papers, chapters, journal volumes and books to his name.

It is for his passion and brilliance for teaching mathematics and his innovative mathematics instruction outreach programs where Chris' exceptional commitment and talents are evident. As an award winning mentor, he has seen his own PhD and Masters students flourish academically with several receiving prestigious awards. His own list of major grants and awards for mathematics outreach programs is staggering and varied, spanning a multi-million maths curriculum development project to a Maths camp in Central Australia for Years 5 to 9 students.

When in Australia, Chris reconnects with Newington and inspires and engages our current students in the maths classroom as a guest teacher.