



Innovation: The Race to the Future

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About Prof Michelle Simmons

Professor Michelle Simmons is the 2018 Australian of the Year. She is an Australian Research Council Laureate Fellow & Director of the Centre of Excellence for Quantum Computation and Communication Technology based at the University of New South Wales.

Professor Simmons has pioneered unique technologies internationally to build electronic devices at the atomic scale, opening up the prospect of developing a silicon-based quantum computer: a powerful new form of computing with the potential to transform information processing. She is one of a handful of researchers in Australia to have twice received a Federation Fellowship and now a Laureate Fellowship, the Australian Research Council's most prestigious award of this kind.

She has won both the Pawsey Medal (2006) and Lyle Medal (2015) from the Australian Academy of Science for outstanding research in physics and was, upon her appointment, one of the youngest fellows of this Academy. She was named Scientist of the Year by the New South Wales Government in 2012 and in 2014 became one of only a few Australians inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

In 2015 she was awarded the CSIRO Eureka Prize for Leadership in Science and in 2016 the Foresight Institute Feynman Prize in Nanotechnology for her work in the new field of atomic-electronics, which she created.

Recently recognised by the American Computer Museum as a pioneer in quantum computing, she is Editor-in-Chief of Nature Quantum Information and was named the 2017 L'ORÉAL-UNESCO Asia-Pacific Laureate in the Physical Sciences.

For further information, please visit www.cqc2t.org.