Citation - Professor Kenneth Freeman, Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics, ANU College of Physical & Mathematical Sciences.

The Peter Baume Award is the University's most prestigious award. It recognises eminent achievement and merit of the highest order.

Professor Ken Freeman FRS FAA was the recipient of the 2012 Prime Minister’s Prize for Science and holds the distinguished position of Duffield Professor of Astronomy (Level E3) at the ANU’s Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics (RSAA).

Professor Freeman’s career highlights include his discovery of dark matter in galaxies, which changed the course of cosmology, and his foundational work on the structure, chemical properties and formation of galaxies. His work and ideas on the ages, motions and chemical compositions of stars generated the new fields of Galactic archaeology and near-field cosmology. He has inspired a series of major research programs including the MACHO experiment, which demonstrated that Galactic dark matter is not in the form of compact objects, the RAVE survey of the Galaxy, and the on-going GALAH project to reveal the history of the Galaxy’s formation using the chemical tagging technique of which he is the co-inventor. He has more than 450 refereed publications that have been cited more than 27000 times; he has a Hirsch-index of 88.

Professor Freeman’s world-class reputation is reflected in the many prestigious prizes he has received, including the 2014 Gruber Cosmology Prize, the 2013 Matthew Flinders Medal of the Australian Academy of Science, and the Henry Norris Russell Lecturer award for 2013 (the American Astronomical Society’s highest honour in astronomical research). He has contributed his expertise to policy through chairing the National Committee for Astronomy, and has evaluated international astronomy projects on the time allocation committees for the Anglo-Australian Telescope, the Spitzer Telescope, and the Hubble Space Telescope, and as a member of the special Hubble Telescope Multi-Cycle Treasury Programs committee in 2010. He is a member of the Scientific Advisory Boards of the ARC Centre of Excellence for All-Sky Astrophysics and the Max-Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics, and has previously served on the Anglo-Australian Telescope Board and the Australia Telescope Steering Committee.

Professor Freeman has been a staff member at the ANU since 1967. He has supervised 55 PhD students, including five of the ten Australians selected by NASA as Hubble Fellows, regarded as one of the most prestigious post-doctoral positions in world astronomy. Professor Freeman has an outstanding track record of mentoring students and postdoctoral fellows.