Entries open for prestigious Tasmanian book prize

Entries are now open for the inaugural Dick and Joan Green Family Award for Tasmanian History, valued at $25,000.

The prestigious biennial book prize was launched earlier this year to recognise high quality published work that makes a significant contribution to understanding Tasmania’s history and culture.

The family created the award in partnership with the University of Tasmania to commemorate the contribution Dick and Joan Green made to the State.

“The award is a special way to recognise the contribution of our parents to the preservation of the built heritage and its history and to the community generally,” Caroline Johnston, daughter of Joan and the late Dick Green, said.

“There is a great deal of excitement for us about the prize and the opportunity to shine a spotlight on Tasmanian scholarship and writing. We encourage everyone working in this field to consider entering.”

The award is open to all authors who publish books of original research on Tasmanian history.

The first eligibility period for the award will be for books published from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2017.

Both from Launceston, Joan and the late Dick Green were key players in the establishment of the National Trust in Tasmania during the 1960s and remained involved for decades. As well as playing an integral role in the preservation and celebration of Tasmanian built heritage, the Greens were strong supporters of the arts.

A former alderman, Deputy Mayor and Mayor of Launceston, Dick Green served on the boards of the State Library of Tasmania, the Tasmanian Theatre Company and the Tasmanian Ballet Company, among others.
Joan Green was a champion golfer, a member and volunteer of the National Trust for 50 years, and continues to be a contributor to organisations such as The Australiana Fund, the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra and the Order of Australia Association.

“We were imbued with a sense of history at home and books were an integral part of the household too so it seems fitting to combine them in this award,” Caroline said.

Entries close on 8 September, 2017, with the long list, shortlist and winners to be announced in 2018.

For more information on the award, visit the Dick and Joan Green Family Award for Tasmanian History page here or visit http://greenfamilyaward.org/.

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