

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Friday 5 December, 2014

Tasmanian medical research and literature celebrated with inaugural awards

Excellence in Tasmanian medical research and literature was celebrated today with the presentation of the inaugural Erica Bell Foundation Awards.

Maureen Davey received the Erica Bell Foundation Medical Research Award for her publication *Tasmanian Aborigines step-up to health: evaluation of a cardiopulmonary rehabilitation and secondary prevention program*.

Adam Ouston was presented with the Erica Bell Foundation Literature Award for his work *The Party*.

The recipients received \$10,000 each as part of the award.

The winners were announced at a ceremony this morning, attended by more than 100 guests at the Hobart Function and Conference Centre.

The Erica Bell Foundation was established earlier this year by Erica's husband, Dr Bastian Seidel, to honour the life and work of Dr Bell. They are supported in-kind by the University of Tasmania's Faculty of Health and the Tasmanian Writers Centre.

"These awards are invaluable to emerging novelists and medical researchers to help provide the support and encouragement to pursue their career goals," said Faculty of Health Dean, Professor Denise Fassett.

Dr Erica Bell was the Associate Professor of Health and Policy and Services Research at the University of Tasmania and a member of the Faculty of Health's Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre until her sudden death in July this year.

She published more than 100 academic research papers and five books, as well as two historical novels including *The Voyage of the Shuckeenoor* and *Enzam* and *The Just Prince*.

"It was inspiring to work alongside Erica as her dedication to her studies, across both health sciences and literature, was exemplary," Professor Fassett said.

"These awards honour her hard work and dedication."

The ceremony also awarded runner-up and second runner-up prizes in each category, with winners receiving \$1000 and \$500 respectively.

Emma Nicholson (runner-up) and David Ward (second runner-up) received prizes in the Medical Research category. Anne Blythe-Cooper (runner-up) and Robbie Arnott (second runner-up) were awarded prizes in the Literature category.

Information released by:

University of Tasmania, Communications and Media Office

Phone: (03) 6226 2691

Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au