

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Tuesday, September 30, 2014

Love of writing lives on

Tasmanian writers and researchers will benefit from the ongoing legacy of an outstanding University of Tasmania staff member, Dr Erica Bell.

Dr Bell was the Associate Professor of Health Policy and Services Research at the University of Tasmania and a highly valued team member at the Faculty of Health Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre in Hobart, until her sudden death in July this year.

An energetic and enthusiastic scholar, Dr Bell worked at the cutting edge of social research including big data computational linguistics and developing hybrid models of clinical redesign.

Dr Bell's prolific writing career included the publication of 100 academic research papers and two novels.

The Erica Bell Foundation has been established in Erica's memory, and is supported in-kind by the University of Tasmania through the Faculty of Health and the Tasmanian Writers Centre.

The Foundation will continue to foster Dr Bell's pursuit of writing excellence by awarding two annual cash prizes to an emerging novelist and a first-time author of a medical research publication.

The Dean of the Faculty of Health at the University of Tasmania, Professor Denise Fassett, welcomed the establishment of the Erica Bell Foundation, and the role it will play in recognising the work of Tasmanian writers and researchers.

"Erica is fondly remembered by her University of Tasmania colleagues for her enthusiasm and inspirational commitment to quality academic work and literary excellence," Professor Fassett said.

"The Erica Bell Foundation provides practical encouragement for others who aspire to Erica's ideals in the development of their writing skills and research skills."

Professor Fassett will launch the Erica Bell Foundation at 10.30 am on Tuesday, 30 September 2014 at the Hobart Book Shop in Salamanca Square.

For more information about the Erica Bell Foundation and application forms for the two prizes see www.ericabellfoundation.org.

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