

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **Shortlist announced for Australia's most prestigious business literature prize**

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Books about Frank Lowy, the publishing industry, foreign investment in Australia, Qantas and Gunns Limited are all contenders for Australia's richest and most prestigious award for business writing, the State Library of NSW announced today.

The following authors and titles have been shortlisted for the \$30,000 2015 Ashurst Business Literature Prize:

- **Quentin Beresford** – *The Rise and Fall of Gunns Ltd* (NewSouth Publishing)
- **Stuart Kells** – *Penguin and the Lane Brothers: The Untold Story of a Publishing Revolution (Black Inc.)*
- **Jill Margo** – *Frank Lowy: A Second Life* (HarperCollins Publishers)
- **Matt O'Sullivan** – *Mayday: How Warring Egos Forced Qantas Off Course* (Penguin)
- **David Uren** – *Takeover: Foreign Investment and the Australian Psyche* (Black Inc.)

The shortlist was selected by an independent judging panel comprising the former ASIC Chairman and Deputy Chancellor of the University of Sydney and Chairman of the NSW Law Reform Commission Alan Cameron AO; leading business journalist, author and Board member of The Ethics Centre, Narelle Hooper; and Richard Fisher AM, General Counsel and Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Sydney.

Chair of the judging panel, Alan Cameron, commented: "The judges were gratified by the large number of entries, but especially by their high quality. Numerous entries could have been longlisted. The task of settling even a shortlist of five was as difficult as it has ever been in the 13 year history of the prize."

According to Ashurst Vice-Chairman Mary Padbury: "The prize continues to set the standard in business literature, recognising many insightful and thought provoking books over its 13 year history. This year's shortlisted books are no exception, with the authors exploring complex issues in engaging and provocative ways. Ashurst are delighted to again be a part of Australia's most prestigious award for business writing."

The award was established by law firm Ashurst (formerly Blake Dawson) and the State Library of NSW to encourage the highest possible standards of literary commentary on Australian business

and financial affairs written by an Australian author. State Librarian Dr Alex Byrne said “The topics of this year’s shortlisted books again demonstrates the relevance and importance of this unique award and the value of Ashurst’s continuing support.”

The winner will be announced at a special presentation dinner on 12 April 2016.

**Background information:**

- Books nominated for the 2015 Ashurst Business Literature Prize must have been first published between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015 and be commercially available in Australia within this period.
- Writers and illustrators whose works are nominated must be living Australian citizens or persons holding permanent resident status.
- Last year’s prize was won by the award-winning journalist and author Andrew Burrell for *Twiggy: The High Stakes Life of Andrew Forrest* (Black Inc.).

**For more information, interviews and images please contact:**

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