

Media Release



Shortlist announced for Australia's most prestigious prize in business literature

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Four fascinating books have been shortlisted in 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 2013 Ashurst Business Literature Prize:

- **Jay Harman** - *The Shark's Paintbrush* (Nicholas Brealey)
- **Malcolm Knox** - *Boom: The Underground History of Australia, from Gold Rush to GFC* (Penguin Group (Australia))
- **Colleen Ryan** - *Fairfax: The Rise and Fall* (Melbourne University Publishing)
- **Pamela Williams** - *Killing Fairfax: Packer, Murdoch and the Ultimate Revenge* (HarperCollins Publishers Australia)

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

Chair of the judging panel, Alan Cameron, commented:

"This year's entries ranged from several works dealing with the media and mining industries, to corporate histories and books dealing with investment strategies and venture capital. There was once again a high standard, and having chosen the short list after much discussion, the judges are now in close consultation in order to agree upon the ultimate winner..."

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.

This year, for the first time in its decade-long history, the \$30,000 Ashurst Business Literature Prize was open to Australian authored works addressing international and global commercial life and its participants.

According to Ashurst Vice-chairman, Mary Padbury: "In an increasingly globalizing world, Australians want, and need, to be better informed about international commercial life. By expanding the scope of the prize, we hope to encourage commentary on all aspects of commercial life

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The shortlisted entries are testament to the quality of Australian business writers and their skill in exploring complex commercial themes, issues and histories in thoroughly engaging ways. Based on the quality of the shortlist this year, the Ashurst Business Literature Prize has never been stronger.”

The winner will be announced at a special presentation dinner on Thursday 8 May 2014.

Background information:

- Books nominated for the 2013 Business Literature Prize must have been first published between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013 and 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 Peter Hartcher for *The Sweet Spot: How Australia made its own luck – and could now throw it all away* (Black Inc.).

For more information, interviews and images please contact
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