Shortlist announced for Australia's most prestigious business literature prize

9/4/2018

Books about the Tasmanian gambling industry, gender inequality in the workplace and leaving the corporate world for the not-for-profit sector are all contenders for Australia’s richest award for business writing, the State Library of NSW announced today.

The following works have been shortlisted for the $30,000 Ashurst Business Literature Prize 2017:

- *Losing Streak: How Tasmania was gamed by the gambling industry* by James Boyce (Black Inc.)
- *Stop Fixing Women: Why building fairer workplaces is everybody's business* by Catherine Fox (NewSouth)
- *Jumping Ship: From the world of corporate Australia to the heart of social investment* by Michael Traill (Hardie Grant)

The shortlist was selected by an independent judging panel comprising of Richard Fisher AM, General Counsel and Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Sydney; leading business journalist, editor and author, Narelle Hooper; and Margie Seale, a Non-Executive Director of Telstra Corporation, Bank of Queensland and Ramsay Health Care, and former CEO of Random House Australia and New Zealand.

The award was established by law firm Ashurst (formerly Blake Dawson) and the State Library of NSW in 2004 to encourage the highest possible standards of literary commentary on business and financial affairs written by an Australian author.

Chair of the judging panel, Richard Fisher AM, commented: “The shortlisted books this year cover a diverse range of issues including the interplay between various Tasmanian Governments and the gambling industry (a topical book in the context of the recent election in that State), making the workplace fit for women rather than women fit for the workplace and the application of good business practices to the not-for-profit sector.”

Ashurst’s Head of Region - Australia Phil Breden comments: “Now in its 15th year, the Ashurst Business Literature Prize continues to be one of the most significant literature prizes in Australia. The shortlist this year features exceptional works, and we are delighted to be partnering with the State Library of NSW again to award this prestigious prize to a deserving author.”
NSW State Librarian Dr John Vallance said: “The State Library and its Foundation are delighted by Ashurst’s continued support for this important prize which rewards Australian writers whose detailed research offers fascinating insights into the business community - good, bad, at work, at play and everything in between.”

The winner will be announced at a special presentation dinner on 31 May 2018.

**Background information:**

- Books nominated for the 2017 Ashurst Business Literature Prize must have been first published between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017, and be commercially available in Australia within this period.
- Writers whose works are nominated must be living Australian citizens or persons holding permanent resident status.
- Last year’s prize was won by historian Catherine Bishop for *Minding Her Own Business: Colonial businesswomen in Sydney* (NewSouth).

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