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To advance the  
profession of editing

editors  
queensland  
a branch of IPEd

# ADVANCING OUR PROFESSION

**8th IPEd National Editors Conference  
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## IPEd National Conference Papers

Davies, K 2017, 'Inaugural Rosie Award presentation', *Proceedings of the 8th IPEd National Editors Conference: Advancing Our Profession*. 13–15 September, Brisbane. Institute of Professional Editors, pp. 121–22, [http://iped-editors.org/Professional\\_development/IPEdConferences.aspx](http://iped-editors.org/Professional_development/IPEdConferences.aspx).

## Inaugural Rosie Award presentation

Kerry Davies AE

Chair of the Institute of Professional Editors

[chair@iped-editors.org](mailto:chair@iped-editors.org)

We are pleased here to reproduce Kerry Davies' speech at the inaugural Rosie Award presentation.

Good evening all. I trust everyone is enjoying the food and the ambience, especially that beautiful piano rendition earlier this evening!

First I'd like to acknowledge the recipient of the Beatrice Davis Editorial Fellowship for 2016, Annabel Blay, especially for those who weren't able to attend the professional development stream today to hear Annabel's presentation. The Fellowship is awarded by the Australian Publishers Association every two years, and IPEd is very pleased to have sponsored Annabel for her attendance at the conference.

We also award the IPEd Prize each year, to support and foster research in editing and publishing, for an essay or paper written as part of the requirements of a postgraduate degree in editing, publishing or a related field. So, at the national conference, we get to honour two winners – for 2015–16, John Linnegar, with his essay, *Fifteen Shades at Play: The new 'supermodel' guide for text editors*, and, for 2016–17, Robyn Williams for *Defamation Laws: A tale of two civil actions*. Robyn is here tonight. I trust you've received the booklet containing the two essays in your satchels and I urge you to read them. They are both excellent pieces of writing.

And this year we have established another IPEd award, the Rosanne Fitzgibbon Editorial Award, the Rosie. Too often editors are overlooked in literary accolades, and through this we are just beginning to address that imbalance. The award was initiated by Editors Queensland to recognise editorial excellence and to honour the memory of one editor of particular excellence, Rosanne Fitzgibbon DE, herself the recipient of the inaugural Beatrice Davis Editorial Fellowship in 1992.

I welcome tonight Rosie's children, Amanda, Patrick and Abbie; her sister Marion Halligan, who was also one of 'her' authors, as we like to refer to our authorial clients; and Rosie's partner Barry Holland, his daughter Claire Fewtrell and her husband Ben. I thank Rosie's family for their attendance and for so enthusiastically embracing the concept when I first raised it with them in 2013, just a year after her untimely death.

Rosie was a founding member of the then Society of Editors (Queensland) in 1990 and one of the people who pushed for the mentoring program that was run by the Society from 2008 to 2010. She worked for much of her professional life at University of Queensland Press as fiction editor, giving generously to her authors, among them Kate Grenville, Peter Carey, Janette Turner Hospital, Lily Brett and Thea Astley.

The award seeks to recognise and champion the traits of a good editor: diplomacy, management skills, attention to detail, problem-solving skills, research and writing skills, and professionalism and ethics, all qualities noted in the *Australian standards for editing practice*. Nominations were required to be supported by the author and/or publisher of the work, addressing specific criteria to assess these skills.

I would like to thank the team who worked with me on the development of the award, Ruth Davies, Helena Bond and Ross Clark; IPEd staff who assisted with administration and promotion; and IPEd Council for endorsing the award.

When we began to organise the award, we sought assistance from Rosie's close friend and former colleague at UQP, Craig Munro. Craig unfortunately could not be here tonight, though he would have loved to have attended. Subsequent to Craig's initial assistance, we felt it fitting to invite him to be the lead judge for the award. Craig was also a founding member of the Society of Editors (Qld), co-founder of the Queensland Writers Centre, a mentor in the Queensland mentoring program and, since 2012, a judge of the Miles Franklin Literary Award. We also invited to join the judging panel another colleague of Rosie's, Leonie Tyle, who worked alongside her at UQP as Children's and Young Adult Publisher and is also a late apology tonight. The third judge we invited was a very apt choice, and that is her sister, Marion Halligan, who will present the award.

Shortlisted editors, from a field of ten, were Jacqueline Blanchard for her work on *All Fall Down*, Denise O'Hagan for *Jerome & His Women* and Susan Pierotti for *City Kid*. The winner receives a cash prize of \$4000.

Jacqueline Blanchard helped Matt Condon trim 50,000 words from the 215,000-word original manuscript of *All Fall Down* (UQP), the third and final book in a unique nonfiction series chronicling entrenched crime and corruption in the Queensland Police Force from the 1950s. Blanchard's editorial role also included strategic cuts to manage legal risk and incorporating just enough key detail of the backstory to satisfy new readers without alienating those who had read the previous books.

Denise O'Hagan fulfilled the demanding roles of both editor and publisher very professionally for her late mother, Joan O'Hagan. The historical novel *Jerome & His Women* (Black Quill Press), set in fourth-century Rome, explores the life of the saint and the talented ascetic women who helped him translate the Bible into Latin. The editor's role ranged from the all-important choice of whether to write a history or a novel, to fact-checking in a period about which there are contradictory accounts.

Susan Pierotti carved a final 95,000 words out of what was originally a wide-ranging 400,000-word theatre memoir, *City Kid*, by actor Lola Russell (Palmer Higgs 2015, Creative Text Solutions 2016). The result is a highly readable memoir providing a unique perspective on a fascinating period of Australian history. Pierotti helped refine the focus to Lola's career and experiences in Melbourne, undertook extensive fact-checking and selected photographs from the author's private archives to include.

[Announce winner: Jacqueline Blanchard.]

Along with the cash prize, we have commissioned a beautiful certificate, designed pro bono by Queensland member Sharon Felschow, with calligraphic work by Peter Taylor, who in accepting the job at a highly discounted rate said, 'I've had six books traditionally published and each has been vastly improved by the editor, yet I have gained most of the kudos. As a token of thanks, I will therefore be pleased to support the editing and publishing industry and create the master copy for you no matter how long it takes to design an end product that everyone likes.' Here's to that!

Here is your certificate, Jacqueline, and two more to share with your author and publisher. Enjoy. And here's to the next Rosie in 2019!