

18 June 2021

### **True crime hits spotlight at State Library award ceremony**

Criminal networks from the Fitzgerald Inquiry era will be investigated by the winner of a prestigious State Library of Queensland fellowship announced this evening.

The recipient of the John Oxley Library Honorary Fellowship, Associate Professor Mark Lauchs, will gain access to the restricted records of journalist Phil Dickie, held at State Library, that helped inform the 1989 Fitzgerald Inquiry report into police corruption.

He plans to uncover the social dynamics between criminals and public officials by mapping these previously hidden networks. By tracing social networks, his research will reveal how public institutions and individuals fall into corruption.

The winner of the \$20,000 John Oxley Library Fellowship, Dr Henry Reese will create a podcast on 'everyday machines' in colonial societies.

"From scientific spectacles to consumer goods and government-provided infrastructure, technologies such as the telegraph, telephone, electric lighting, cinema, sound recording, radio and music have played an important role in the complex visions Queenslanders have forged of themselves and their wider world," according to Dr Reese.

He aims to provide the first cultural history of electronic and communications technologies in Queensland in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

The seven Queensland Memory fellowships and awards are collectively worth \$70,000.

*The Queensland Memory Awards are made possible by the support of donors through the Queensland Library Foundation.*

#### **2021 QUEENSLAND MEMORY AWARDS WINNERS:**

- **John Oxley Library Fellowship (\$20,000 plus 12-month residency):** Dr Henry Reese for his project *Electrifying Queensland: Modern Machines in the Sunshine State*.
- **John Oxley Library Honorary Fellowship (12-month residency):** Associate Professor Mark Lauchs for *Social Networks of Crime and Corruption: the First and Second Jokes*.
- **John Oxley Library Award:** Tracey Olivieri and Chris Dawson, Friends of South Brisbane Cemetery.
- **John Oxley Library Community History Award (\$5,000):** Montville History Group for Montville Stories Series.
- **Mittelheuser Scholar-in-Residence (\$15,000 plus 12-month residency):** Jo-Anne Driessens for her project - *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lens perspectives*.

#### **Media enquiries**

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Interviews and images are available upon request.

- **Monica Clare Research Fellowship (\$15,000 plus 12-month residency):** Rachel West-Captain her project – *A Murruwarri Family of South West Qld and North West NSW - The 'West & Captain' Family - Aboriginal History Research.*
- **Queensland Business Leaders Hall of Fame Fellowship:** Dr Robin Trotter, for her project *Sir Arthur Petfield: from tinplate to porcelain* (History of the Queensland Can Company).

**Quotes from Minister for the Arts Leeanne Enoch:**

“Our stories define who we are, which is why it’s important to encourage new research about the history of Queensland and shine a light on our untold stories.

“I join the State Library of Queensland in congratulating the 2021 Queensland Memory Award winners.

“Each of these award-winning stories is making a significant contribution to Queensland’s greater ‘memory’ and will help to create an enduring legacy for future generations.”

**Quotes from State Librarian and Chief Executive Officer Vicki McDonald AM:**

“The Queensland Memory Awards provide State Library with an opportunity to expand and fill gaps within the state’s evolving historical record.

“It has been said that history is written by the victors and here at State Library we seek voices and views that have often been excluded from this canon.

“Monica Clare Research Fellowship winner, Rachel West-Captain, and Mittelheuser Scholar-in-Residence Jo-Anne Driessens will explore First Nations perspectives that view history through a very different lens.

“I congratulate all the winners who will inspire possibilities through knowledge, stories and creativity through the use of State Library’s significant historical documents and treasures.”