

## THE TED GLASSON PRIZE

### BACKGROUND AND GUIDELINES

#### SUMMARY

The Ted Glasson Prize is awarded annually to the author of the best article published in the *Australian Law Librarian*.

The recipient receives a cash prize of \$500.

The prize was established in December 2004 in memory of Ted Glasson, who died earlier that year. Ted was the inaugural Law Librarian at Monash University. The award is named after Ted because he produced enduring and scholarly works to assist law librarians, and this inspired other Australian law librarians to write and produce works benefiting law library research in Australia.

The prize was awarded between 2005 and 2012. The prize was reintroduced in 2020 with two changes: it is now called a 'prize' rather than 'award'; and it may be given for any type of article, including feature length articles, conference reports and overseas contributions. It was formerly for feature length articles only.

The prize is awarded by the Editor/s of the *Australian Law Librarian*. Selection of the recipient is entirely at the Editor/s discretion. There may be years in which no prize is awarded.

#### GUIDELINES

1. The prize is for the best article published in the *Australian Law Librarian*. The decision is made by the ALL Editor/s and it is entirely within their discretion to decide what constitutes 'best'. The decision is based on:
  - the topic of the article;
  - how generally useful or informative it is perceived to be for all law librarians; and
  - the quality of the writing.
2. The prize is awarded no more than annually. It is a discretionary prize that is only awarded if the journal's Editor/s believe that an article published in a particular volume is worthy of the accolade. There may therefore be years when an award is not made.

3. The recipient receives a cash prize. Between 2005-2012 this was \$300. As of 2020, the prize is **\$500** (this was decided at the ALLA National Board meeting on 25 September 2020).
4. The prize is awarded after all four issues for the year have been published. It is announced in the first issue of the *ALL* the following year and the recipient is listed on the Ted Glasson Prize page on the ALLA website.

## BACKGROUND

Ted Glasson was the inaugural Law Librarian at Monash University, where he worked from 1967 until his retirement in 1993. His contributions to both the Monash Law Library and law librarianship are outstanding and exemplary. Dick Finlay, the former Law Librarian at University of Adelaide has called Ted quite simply 'the best, and most inspiring, law librarian in Australia'.<sup>1</sup> Jacqui Elliott, the former High Court of Australia Librarian wrote that 'he has left an indelible mark on law librarianship in Australia'.<sup>2</sup> James Butler, the former Supreme Court of Victoria Librarian has written that 'Ted Glasson's name was legendary, and deserved to be so'.<sup>3</sup>

The prize is named after Ted because he produced enduring and scholarly works to assist law librarians, and this inspired other Australian law librarians to write and produce works benefiting law library research in Australia. His pioneering work, which demonstrate his scholarly approach to law librarianship, included the *Union List of Law Reports Held in Australian Libraries*. This was produced single-handed in 1979, in the pre-word processing, pre-computer and pre-internet era, and it was an indispensable tool for all law libraries. Ted was also one of the three authors of the second and third editions of *Legal Research: Materials and Methods* (Law Book Co, 1979 and 1988), along with Enid Campbell and Ann Lahore. This was one of the first books on Australian legal research. Jacqui Elliott writes that 'No one since Ted Glasson's time at Monash University Law Library has done as much to

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<sup>1</sup> Dick Finlay, 'In Memoriam: Edwin (Ted) John Glasson 1934-2004 Law Librarian, Monash University 1967-1993' (2004) 12(2) *Australian Law Librarian* 8, 9.

<sup>2</sup> Jacqueline Elliot, 'In Memoriam: Edwin (Ted) John Glasson 1934-2004 Law Librarian, Monash University 1967-1993' (2004) 12(2) *Australian Law Librarian* 8, 9.

<sup>3</sup> James Butler, 'In Memoriam: Edwin (Ted) John Glasson 1934-2004 Law Librarian, Monash University 1967-1993' (2004) 12(2) *Australian Law Librarian* 8, 10.

encourage Australian law librarians to write and produce works benefiting law library research in Australia'.<sup>4</sup>

Apart from his writing, Ted was instrumental in fighting for and achieving an autonomous law library at Monash University, independent of the Main Library,<sup>5</sup> and is credited with building the Monash Law Library 'from virtually nothing to be one of the very best in Australia'.<sup>6</sup>

On the international stage Ted was the first Australian member of the Board of the International Associations of Law Libraries (IALL). He served two three year terms - from 1974-1977 and 1977-1980. He was also one of the hosts of the IALL Annual Course in Sydney in 1981.

Ted died on 18 June 2004. The decision to create the award in his name was taken at the ALLG National Executive meeting on 10 December 2004, when Dorothy Shea was ALLG National President and Petal Kinder was *ALL* Editor.<sup>7</sup>

The 2005 inaugural award was announced in the first issue of *ALL* in 2006 when James Butler was *ALLA* President and Robyn Nielsen and Yvonne Hopkins were Co-editors of the *ALL*.<sup>8</sup>

From 2005-2012 the prize was called an award and was made to the *best feature length* article.

For more information about Ted Glasson and his outstanding contribution to the profession, see:

Beth Wilson, 'Tribute to Ted Glasson: Interview' (1993) 1(1) *Australian Law Librarian* 3-10. This interview was conducted upon Ted's retirement.

'In Memoriam: Edwin (Ted) John Glasson 1934-2004 Law Librarian, Monash University 1967-1993' (2004) 12(2) *Australian Law Librarian* 8-10. The contributors to this memorial article are:

- Petal Kinder (*ALL* Editor at the time of writing). Petal writes that that he was 'a man of intellect and integrity' and that 'the world of Law Librarianship has lost a fine mind'.

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<sup>4</sup> Jacqueline Elliot, 'In Memoriam: Edwin (Ted) John Glasson 1934-2004 Law Librarian, Monash University 1967-1993' (2004) 12(2) *Australian Law Librarian* 8, 8.

<sup>5</sup> Petal Kinder, 'In Memoriam: Edwin (Ted) John Glasson 1934-2004 Law Librarian, Monash University 1967-1993' (2004) 12(2) *Australian Law Librarian* 8, 8.

<sup>6</sup> James Butler, 'In Memoriam: Edwin (Ted) John Glasson 1934-2004 Law Librarian, Monash University 1967-1993' (2004) 12(2) *Australian Law Librarian* 8, 10.

<sup>7</sup> 'National President's Column' (2004) 12(4) *Australian Law Librarian* 6.

<sup>8</sup> 'Ted Glasson Australian Law Librarian Award' (2006) 14(1) *Australian Law Librarian* 4.

- Jacqui Elliott (High Court of Australia Librarian at the time of writing). Jacqui writes that 'he graced the profession in Australia with such dignity and care'.
- Dick Finlay (former Law Librarian, University of Adelaide). Dick writes that Ted was 'the best, and most inspiring, law librarian in Australia'.
- James Butler (Supreme Court of Victoria Librarian at the time of writing). James writes that by the 1980s 'Ted Glasson's name was legendary, and deserved to be so'.