

The Trevor Zweck Award

by Philip Harvey

At this year's conference of the Australian and New Zealand Theological Library Association, the members at the AGM formally approved the following updated terms for the Association's most prestigious form of professional recognition, The Trevor Zweck Award.

The Terms

1. An Award, known as the "Trevor Zweck Award" may be made at each ANZTLA annual conference.
2. The recipient of the award should be a person who, in the opinion of the Board, has made a significant contribution to the development of theological libraries and librarianship in Australia or New Zealand in any way during the previous twelve months. Recipients need not necessarily be librarians or members of ANZTLA.
3. No person may receive the Award on more than one occasion.
4. The Board will decide each year whether or not the award is to be conferred. This decision will be made after consideration of nominations received from ANZTLA members and Chapters. The Board is free not to grant the Award if no nominations are received or if it cannot agree on a nomination for a particular year. If more than one nomination for the Award is received, then the Board may decide to confer more than one Zweck Award in the same year.

If the Award is to be conferred, then:

5. The Conference Committee, in consultation with the Board, will allocate a time for a ceremony at which the Award will be presented, normally at either the conference dinner or the Annual General Meeting.
6. The Board will arrange the ceremony at which the Award will be presented.
7. The Award has no monetary value, but consists of a certificate stating:

"Awarded by the Australian and New Zealand Theological Library Association to record the outstanding contribution made by [name] to theological libraries and librarianship in Australia and New Zealand [date]."

Further details of the recipient's contribution may be added to the certificate and changes made be made by the Board where appropriate. The certificate should be framed, attractive and dignified.
8. The certificate will be supplied by the Board from ANZTLA funds for presentation at the Conference.
9. The recipient should be informed in advance of the Award by the Board and be invited to attend the presentation ceremony.

Background and Brief History

At the Annual General Meeting of ANZTLA in 1994, held at Ormond College in Melbourne, Coralie Jenkin proposed from the floor that an Award be instituted "to a person who has contributed to theological libraries in Australia or New Zealand." This was a new idea for the Association members, one that was met with positive approval. After some careful consideration of the detail by different members, the terms of this Award were finally presented to the meeting as a series of motions. The full set of original terms can be found at item 7 in the 1994 AGM Minutes. Significant amongst the terms were that "the recipient be a person who, in the opinion of the Executive Committee [the forerunner of the present Board], has made a significant contribution to the development of theological libraries in Australia or New Zealand in any way during the previous twelve months"; that "recipients will not necessarily be librarians"; and that "no person receive the Award on more than one occasion."

The motions were duly put to the AGM and passed. These included the first motion, namely that the Award "be known as the Trevor Zweck Award." This was greeted as a great marvel by many of the members in attendance, not least Trevor Zweck himself, who had been sitting in the Chair for the entire proceedings. Trevor was Librarian of the Lohe Memorial Library at Luther Seminary in North Adelaide. He was one of the founding figures in the creation of ANZTLA and a driving force in helping establish the chapter system. He was instrumental in adopting and promoting key ANZTLA initiatives, his word often being decisive for their implementation. When the Award was formally voted on that night in 1994, Trevor had been President of ANZTLA for eight years.

In fact, the Trevor Zweck Award is the highest accolade that ANZTLA can award. It is awarded to an individual (not an institution) in recognition of an outstanding contribution which has furthered the course of theological librarianship. It can be awarded annually but, since its inception in 1996, has only ever been awarded once before. Members of the Association nominate a person to receive the award and this must then be approved by the Board. Before this year only one Zweck Award had been given, to Tony McCumstie for his work in producing AULOTS 3.

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Ruth Millard Receives the 2004 Zweck Award

Ruth Millard, librarian at Ridley College in Melbourne since 1992, was nominated by certain members in the South Australian chapter of ANZTLA. Ruth received the award for her leadership work in organising the Consortium Task Group. She led some thirty-one theological libraries, and universities that teach theology, in protracted negotiations with vendors. This resulted in three separate consortia for online databases of 27, 18 and 11 libraries respectively. Subscribing as a consortium reduces the cost and has enabled many libraries which would not have been able to access these valuable resources to now provide this service to their students. The job was seriously challenging, gathering information and decisions from libraries and then negotiating with vendors about any number of different scenarios. It was a huge organisational task done with Ruth's characteristic efficiency and grace. In keeping with the terms of the Award, Ruth was presented with the Award at the Conference Dinner in Brisbane in early July.

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