

Geraldine Lopdell Award for Diversity in Communication

Background

Geraldine Lopdell was a successful teacher and artist, with a particular interest in the Pacific, Pacific Island women, and women in general. She spent part of her childhood in Va'vau, Tonga, and part of her school years in Samoa. While teaching, she helped develop a multibase mathematics programme for years 2 and 3. In her last teaching position, she was a fulltime art teacher, working alongside renowned educator and author Elwyn Richardson.

When she retired from teaching in 1987, she channelled her artistic efforts into kite design, winning prizes in Indonesia and China, including "Best Designing Prize" at the prestigious Weifang International Kite Festival. She also continued her aid efforts, both in Fiji and the Philippines.

In recognition of her passion for the Pacific, art and culture, the family of the late Geraldine Lopdell wish to establish an annual prize in her name. Initially that prize will be set at \$1200.00, and commence in April 2019. It is anticipated that this will be offered annually for an initial term of ten years.

Purpose

The prize shall be established in the Pacific Media Centre to recognize academic performance in a Postgraduate qualification in journalism.

Title

The prize shall be known as the Geraldine Lopdell Award for Diversity in Communication.

Tenure and value

One award will be made annually to the value of \$1200.00

Eligibility

The recipient will be a student who has completed the requirements for the a Postgraduate qualification in the previous year.

Selection criteria

To celebrate “a life well lived” the Geraldine Lopdell Award is gifted to a high achieving Pacific Island woman in the area of communications.

It is recommended that a 5 yearly review is undertaken by the school of communications to ensure that the underlying essence (high achieving Pacific Island woman in the area of communications) is continuing to being honoured by aligning with this project.

The Geraldine Lopdell Award for Diversity in Communication may be awarded in conjunction with the David Robie Storyboard Award for Diversity Reporting.