Tasmania has a long list of established and emerging writers and its inspirational landscape and vibrant contemporary life make it the chosen subject of many writers both local and from around the globe. The Tasmania Book Prize celebrates works published in the last two years. Its inaugural year, 2005, was won by David Hansen’s *John Glover and the Colonial Picturesque*. This year the Tasmania Book Prize has been increased to $25,000 as a reflection of its growing status and popularity.

You can meet the shortlisted authors in two lunchtime literary events in The Pacific Crystal Palace in the week prior to the announcement. *Ten Days on the Island* will focus on the crucial relationships between the arts, innovation and islands and will also involve artists from the Ten Days program and invite questions and witty comments from the floor. To assist the process and ensure everyone gets a guernsey, the ABC’s own ‘talking head’ and eminent broadcaster, Peter Thompson, is in the chair for this thought-provoking discussion.

For further scholarly insight into the topic and the full list of speakers visit www.tendaysontheisland.com.

A very special Long Literary Lunch prepared by renowned chef Chris Jackman, featuring the freshest and finest locally grown produce and exquisitely matched Tasmanian wines, will be held at Moorilla to celebrate the awarding of the prize. Weekdays throughout the festival writers and lovers of literature can enjoy a leisurely lunch in The Palace while feasting on a diverse program of words, readings, book launches, conversations and special events about writing, reading and ideas. Ako fresh from their week-long workshop, IHOS Opera is conducting a special Librettist’s Forum with acclaimed librettist and dramaturg Willem Bruls.

For information and bookings for IHOS Opera’s Librettist workshop visit www.ihosopera.com