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New sponsor steps in to fill Fairfax void

Former investment banker John M. Green and his wife, the sculptor Jenny Green, have stepped in to fill the void left when Fairfax Media decided last week to withdraw its sponsorship of the Walkley Awards for Excellence in Journalism.

The annual Walkley Awards recognise excellence in Australian journalism across all mediums. The prestigious Gold Walkley is considered the pinnacle of journalistic achievement and the awards are considered this country's version of the Pulitzer Prize.

"We are grateful to John and Jenny for their recognition of the Walkley Awards as being a key promoter of high quality journalism," said Christopher Warren, CEO of the Walkley Foundation. "It will allow us to continue the aims of Sir William Gaston Walkley when he founded the awards in 1956: to encourage and promote the best in Australian journalism, and to advance the interests of professional and ethical journalism."

The Greens have purposely taken up a different category "Newspaper Feature Writing" to help urge the Fairfax Board to reinstate Fairfax's support of the Walkley Award for Excellence in International Journalism, which honours the late Robert Haupt & Peter Smark.

John Green said: "We were surprised to see Fairfax axe its financial support for the coveted Walkley Awards. The Walkleys are a vital Australian institution, so we wanted to help shore up their foundations."

"Fairfax says it plans to launch company excellence awards instead of supporting the Walkleys. These internal recognition awards will be valuable, but they won't get close to matching the stature of a long-respected honour from industry wide-peers," Mr Green said.

"As well as our other business, arts and philanthropic activities," Mr Green added, "we've had a long-term interest in quality publishing and writing. We're making our contribution to the Walkleys through Pantera Press, our family's new book publishing venture. Pantera Press has an objective of 'profits for philanthropy' and launches in 2009.

"We're delighted to support the Walkleys, but we urge Fairfax to reinstate its backing for the Walkleys – awards that have been won by so many Fairfax journalists over the years," Mr Green said.

Fairfax Winners since 1956 (see attached)

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About John M. Green & Jenny Green

John M. Green is a company director and writer. For many years, he was an Executive Director in *Macquarie Bank's* investment banking group. Prior to his banking career, he was a senior partner in leading national law firm *Freehills*.

Today, he is a non-executive director of *WorleyParsons*, a listed ASX top 50 global engineering group, as well as three not-for-profits: *General Sir John Monash Foundation*, an educational foundation; *The Centre for Independent Studies*, an independent public policy think tank; and *Macquarie Group Foundation*, Macquarie's philanthropic arm which actively helps fund the arts.



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The Media, Entertainment
& Arts Alliance – Proud
trustee of the Walkley
Awards since 1956



Mr Green also writes op-eds on business and markets for several publications, including *The Australian Financial Review*, *The Australian* and *Company Director* magazine. He is writing a business book on avoiding corporate crisis and two mystery/suspense novels.

Jenny Green is a professional sculptor and president of the *Sculptors Society*, a voluntary artist-run organisation that promotes public interest in sculpture. Her website is www.jennygreen.net. A graduate of the National Art School, Jenny previously had a successful career in the IT industry.

The Green family is currently setting up ***Pantera Press***, a trade book publishing venture with a 'profits for philanthropy' objective that launches in 2009. Mr Green has prior business experience in publishing, including as a non-executive director of *UNSW Press*.