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STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 8.30PM THURSDAY 20 OCTOBER

New \$15,000 award will kickstart careers for Queensland female musicians in honour of Australia's first Rock Chick

The Queensland Government and Queensland Music Festival (QMF) tonight announced the launch of The Carol Lloyd Award, a new annual \$15,000 award that will support emerging female singer songwriters and honour Australia's first 'Rock Chick'.

One exceptional artist will receive the funding each year to help them record an original album, or an EP with a tour, as well as broadening their experience in the music industry and connecting them to some of Queensland's most respected artists.

QMF Artistic Director, musician and The Carol Lloyd Award judge Katie Noonan said she was thrilled to help create a new award for young female musicians in the name of a true icon of Australian music.

"Carol Lloyd is a legend and a much loved and highly respected member of the Queensland music industry family," Ms Noonan said.

"She has paved the way for countless female musicians like me. In honour of Carol's incredible legacy, this award will enable and inspire the next generation - women who can continue to carry the flame lit by Carol more than four decades ago."

Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk said the award would be a key platform to showcase and develop new Queensland musical talent to follow in Carol's footsteps.

"To maintain the momentum that Carol has generated throughout her amazing career, I am delighted that the Queensland Government has helped to establish a new award in Carol's name," Ms Palaszczuk said.

Since 2014, Carol has been fighting terminal pulmonary fibrosis, a serious respiratory disease in which scars form in the lung tissue, leading to serious breathing problems. Recently her health has taken a sudden decline, revealing a diagnosis from her specialist that 'she is now in the final stages'.

The Carol Lloyd Award announcement was a highlight of the Goodbye Ruby Tuesday concert, a special all-star concert held in benefit of Carol at the Concert Hall, QPAC on Thursday 20 October.

The Carol Lloyd Award is presented by Queensland Music Festival with the generous support of Queensland Government, APRA AMCOS and Hutchinson Builders.

“Carol Lloyd has set a trail blazing lead for young female songwriters,” said APRA AMCOS CEO Brett Cottle.

“APRA AMCOS is committed to developing the next generation of Australian music creators and we’re very proud to support this Award.

“It’s a fantastic opportunity for a female songwriter, and a fitting recognition of Carol Lloyd’s place in Australia’s rock history.”

Carol Lloyd was the first female singer/songwriter in Australia to front a successful rock band, making her name in the ultimate boys club when she started out with Railroad Gin in the 1970s, then the Carol Lloyd Band, and finally as a solo artist, stacking up number one hits along the way.

Her talent soon took her across the world and she became the first Australian artist to secure a worldwide EMI publishing contract, releasing hits like *A Matter of Time*, *Do Ya Love Me* and *You Told The World* in 27 countries.

Carol Lloyd’s legacy as Australia’s wild woman of rock has inspired generations of talented female singer songwriters.

Joining Katie Noonan on the judging panel will be Time Off Media’s Sean Sennett, Rock & Roll Writers Festival Director Leanne de Souza, QUT Head of Music John Willsteed and former co-owner of The Zoo Joc Curran.

Entries for the inaugural award will open on 21 October 2016 and close in March 2017. The process will involve both written and recorded material. More details, terms and conditions can be found at gmf.org.au.

The recipient of the inaugural The Carol Lloyd Award will be announced at the 2017 Queensland Music Festival launch next year.

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Queensland Music Festival is an initiative of the Queensland Government and state-wide celebration of music with a vision to transform lives and communities through music.



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