

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 28 May 2018

For Immediate Release

Entries open for the Melbourne Prize for Literature 2018

Victorian writers vie for \$100,000 plus prize pool

Victoria's vibrant literary community is sharpening up for big rewards as entries open today for one of Australia's most prestigious and sought after literary prizes – the Melbourne Prize for Literature 2018 and Awards.

Valued at more than \$100,000, the Melbourne Prize for Literature 2018 and Awards provides significant opportunities to reward and recognise published Victorian authors across all career stages and promote Melbourne as a lively **UNESCO City of Literature**.

This year marks the 14th year of the annual Melbourne Prize, which runs in a three-year cycle to benefit and demonstrate the importance of the creative sectors in Victoria in literature, music and urban sculpture. This year's program will offer three award categories, as well as a public voting award.

An exciting new award; **a residency at the Norma Redpath Studio in Carlton** including \$7,500 cash and travel has been added to this year's program. The Prize and awards offered this year are:

The **\$60,000 Melbourne Prize for Literature 2018** is awarded to a Victorian author whose body of published work has made an outstanding contribution to Australian literature, as well as to cultural and intellectual life. The author's work can include all genres and forms for example fiction, non-fiction, essays, plays, screenplays and poetry. **The Melbourne Prize is supported by Principal Partner, The Vera Moore Foundation and The Tallis Foundation.**

The **\$30,000 Best Writing Award 2018** is awarded for a published work of outstanding clarity, originality, and creativity by a Victorian writer. The work can be any genre, for example fiction, non-fiction, essays, plays, screenplays and poetry, and published between 2015 -18. **This Award is supported by its sole patron, The Robert Salzer Foundation.**

The new **Readings Residency Award 2018** will be awarded to an early career Victorian author. This award includes **a residency at the Norma Redpath Studio at The University of Melbourne** in Carlton, an affiliation with the School of Culture and Communication in the Faculty of Arts, plus \$5,000 cash courtesy of **Readings** and a \$2,500 **Qantas** travel voucher.

The 2018 judges comprise some of Australia's most respected literary identities, including esteemed authors **Andrea Goldsmith** and **Nam Le**; **Marieke Hardy**, Artistic Director, Melbourne Writers Festival; **Khalid Warsame**, Writer and Creative Producer; and **Michael Williams**, Director, The Wheeler Centre.

The **\$4,000 Civic Choice Award 2018, supported by Hardie Grant Books**, will be awarded to one of the finalists across all three award categories. The winner will be determined by popular vote following the finalist announcement on 12 September 2018. A free public exhibition of finalists work will be held at Event and Exhibition Partner **Federation Square** from 12 to 26 November 2018.

Voters will have a chance to win an overnight stay at **Sofitel Melbourne On Collins, Melbourne's hotel for the arts.**

Entries can be made online at www.melbourneprize.org by the individual author or by nomination. Entries close on **9 July 2018 at 5pm.**

Melbourne Prize Trust Executive Director, Mr Simon Warrender, said he is delighted to be again offering the annual Melbourne Prize for Literature and Awards to reward and recognise Victoria's abundant literary talent.

"The 2018 Prize and Awards continue our commitment to promote and develop our literary sector. This year has been made possible by the generous participation of our 2018 partners and patrons," Mr Warrender said.

"Melbourne is one of the world's most celebrated literary cities and the Prize supports Melbourne's status as a UNESCO International City of Literature by demonstrating the importance of literature in our community and the central role writers play in our cultural life," Mr Warrender added.

The Victorian Government through **Creative Victoria** and the **City of Melbourne** are the Government Partners this year. Other partners include Principal Patron **The Vera Moore Foundation**, identity and design by Founding Partner **Cornwell** and **Mr P**, and founding supporters **Committee for Melbourne**, **Minter Ellison Lawyers** and **Ernst & Young**.

Federation Square is the exhibition and events partner and 'home' of the annual Melbourne Prize. This long-term partnership makes it possible for the public, visiting the free public exhibition each November, to engage with abundant talent in literature, music and (urban) sculpture. It provides artists with public exposure in one of the country's most visited public spaces. The Melbourne Prize Trust appreciates Federation Square's generous support, which enhances our creative resources and provides opportunities to promote our abundant artistic talent through the annual Melbourne Prize.

Since its inception in 2005, the annual Melbourne Prize has contributed more than \$1.5 million to Victorian writers, musicians and sculptors, as well as overseas travel, residencies and an annual free public exhibition at Federation Square.

--- Ends ---

TWITTER: @Melbourne_Prize

FACEBOOK: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Melbourne-Prize/165519083499496>

Interviews with Melbourne Prize Trust Executive Director, Simon Warrender are available upon request. For more information, please visit www.melbourneprize.org or contact:

Nicolette Baxter
Royce Communications
T: 03 8628 9320 / M: 0438143342

Notes to the editor

Key dates:

Entries open 28 May 2018 / Entries close 9 July 2018 at 5pm.

Finalists announced 12 September 2018

Finalists' work exhibited at Federation Square Monday 12 to Monday 26 November 2018

Winners announced 14 November 2018

Civic Choice Award recipient announced 30 November 2018

All announcements and information will be available at www.melbourneprize.org

Past recipients of the Melbourne Prize for Literature

- 2015 - Prof. Chris Wallace-Crabbe AM
- 2012 - Alex Miller
- 2009 - Gerald Murnane
- 2006 - Helen Garner

Past recipients of the Best Writing Award

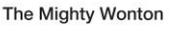
- 2015 - Andrea Goldsmith, *Memory Trap* (4th Estate, 2013)
- 2012 - Craig Sherborne, *The Amateur Science of Love* (Text, 2011)
- 2009 - Nam Le, *The Boat* (Penguin, 2008)
- 2006 - Christos Tsiolkas, *Dead Europe* (Random House, 2006)

Past recipients of the Civic Choice Award

- 2015 - Robyn Annear, *Place Without Poetry* (Essay, 2015)
- 2012 - Tony Birch, *Blood* (UQP, 2011)
- 2009 - Amra Pajalic, *The Good Daughter* (Text, 2009)
- 2006 - Henry von Doussa, *The Park Bench* (Thompson Walker, 2006)

The annual Melbourne Prize is one of the most valuable prizes of its kind in Australia and runs in a three-year cycle, which includes the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture (2017), the Melbourne Prize for Music (2016), and the Melbourne Prize for Literature (2018).

2018 Partners and Patrons:

Government Partners	Patrons	Best Writing Award 2018 Sole Patron	Melbourne Prize for Literature 2018 Partners	Readings Residency Award 2018	Civic Choice Award 2018 Partner	Exhibition Signage & AV
	 vera moore		 vera moore			
	Marc Besen AC					
Exhibition & Event Partner	Diana Gibson AO	Corporate Partners		Print Partners	Media Communications	IT Services
						
Founding Partners		Creative Partners	Professional Services		Banners	Names24
						
				Exhibition Consultant	Trophies	
						
MinterEllison						

Design by Cornwell and Mr P
Committee for Melbourne a founding supporter