

Media Release

Australia's finest authors feature on 2014 Miles Franklin shortlist

15 May 2014

As Trustee of the Miles Franklin Literary Award, The Trust Company, part of Perpetual, today announced the 2014 shortlist.

Revealed at an event at the State Library of New South Wales, the 2014 Miles Franklin Literary Award shortlist features both debut and well established authors:

Author	Novel	Publisher
Richard Flanagan	<i>The Narrow Road to the Deep North</i>	Random House Australia
Fiona McFarlane	<i>The Night Guest</i>	Penguin Group Australia
Cory Taylor	<i>My Beautiful Enemy</i>	Text Publishing
Tim Winton	<i>Eyrie</i>	Penguin Group Australia
Alexis Wright	<i>The Swan Book</i>	Giramondo Publishing
Evie Wyld	<i>All the Birds, Singing</i>	Random House Australia

The Award, which was created through the will of *My Brilliant Career* author Stella Maria Sarah Miles Franklin to support authors of Australian literature, was first presented in 1957. Each year the prize is awarded for the novel which is of the "highest literary merit" which presents "Australian Life in any of its phases".

Speaking on behalf of the judging panel, State Library of New South Wales Mitchell Librarian Richard Neville said it had not been easy this year to select a shortlist from such a strong longlist, given the diversity and achievement represented by those 11 works of fiction.

"All the novels on our shortlist explore fascinating and varied facets of Australian life and experience from prisoner of war camps and a sinister windswept island to a seedy highrise apartment block and a future dystopia where Swan Lake becomes a polluted pond in a high energy narrative unlike anything ever heard before in Australian literature," Mr Neville said.

Joining Mr Neville on the 2014 Miles Franklin Literary Award judging panel are: *The Australian* journalist and columnist, Murray Waldren; Sydney-based bookseller, Anna Low; biographer, book historian, publishing editor, and Queensland Writers Centre founding chair; Craig Munro; and Emeritus Professor, Susan Sheridan.

Perpetual's General Manager of Philanthropy, Andrew Thomas, said that with its own rich heritage as a Trustee company, Perpetual is delighted to see Miles Franklin's legacy brought to life through the shortlist.

"As Trustee, Perpetual shares with Miles Franklin a commitment to protecting and growing a legacy which is being brought to life through this award," Mr Thomas said.

"The award enabled Miles Franklin to create something that was important to her which, six decades later, is also now important to the broader Australian literary community. The shortlist announcement is another stage of that journey to support the continuing development of Australian literature, which Perpetual is proud to be part of."

To encourage people to read all six shortlisted novels and support Australian literature, Perpetual has launched the Miles of Reading Challenge. Readers of the novels can take part in the challenge and share their book reviews at www.milesfranklin.com.au/challenge.

The winner of the 2014 Miles Franklin Literary Award will be announced at an event in Sydney on Thursday 26 June 2014.

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About the Miles Franklin Literary Award:

The Trust Company, part of Perpetual, is Trustee for the Miles Franklin Literary Award. *My Brilliant Career* author Stella Maria Sarah Miles Franklin left the residue of her estate to establish the award in 1954. Celebrating Australian character and creativity, the Award was established to support authors for the advancement, improvement and betterment of Australian literature. The 2013 winner of the prize was Michelle de Kretser for her novel *Questions of Travel*.

Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund is a proud supporter of the Miles Franklin Literary Award.

www.milesfranklin.com.au

About Perpetual Philanthropic Services

Perpetual is one of Australia's largest managers and distributors of philanthropic funds with \$1.9 billion in funds under advice¹. Perpetual is trustee for more than 870 [charitable trusts and endowments](#) and coordinates on behalf of its clients Australia's largest annual distribution of funds from philanthropic trusts to charitable organisations.

Perpetual provides individuals and families with advice on establishing charitable foundations and structured giving programs. Perpetual also assists charities and not-for-profit organisations with [investment advice and management](#).

In December 2013, Perpetual completed its acquisition of The Trust Company. The Trust Company and Perpetual share a long history as fiduciaries, providing services for charitable trusts. For more information visit www.perpetual.com.au/philanthropy

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¹ as at 31 December 2013