

## Media Release

### Evie Wyld named winner of 2014 Miles Franklin Literary Award

*Award brings to life the lasting impact of philanthropy*

**26 June 2014**

Evie Wyld is the winner of the 2014 Miles Franklin Literary Award for her novel, *All the Birds, Singing*.

Ms Wyld's achievement was announced tonight by The Trust Company, part of Perpetual, which has been the Trustee of the Miles Franklin Literary Award since its inception in 1957.

Ms Wyld's novel has been judged as being 'of the highest literary merit' and presents 'Australian Life in any of its phases' in accordance with Miles Franklin's guidelines for the Award. The trust will grant Ms Wyld \$60,000 in prize money.

The Award was established by *My Brilliant Career* author Stella Maria Sarah Miles Franklin to support Australian literature and over the past 58 years has maintained her literary legacy.

Perpetual's General Manager of Philanthropy, Andrew Thomas, said the Miles Franklin Literary Award is a fantastic example of philanthropy for the arts in Australia.

"As an author Miles Franklin has made an impact on all of her readers and as a philanthropist she continues to make her mark on the literary community," Mr Thomas said.

"In 2014 this Award continues to make a difference to talented writers such as Evie Wyld.

"We're delighted to have the honour of being the Trustee of this Award, growing Miles Franklin's initial investment of \$17,844 in decimal currency to its current position of more than \$1.3 million. This growth has allowed us to continue to deliver the current prize money and ensure we keep Miles Franklin's legacy alive."

Ms Wyld's novel was selected from a stellar shortlist of authors which included Richard Flanagan, Fiona McFarlane, Cory Taylor, Tim Winton and Alexis Wright.

Commenting on behalf of the judging panel, State Library of New South Wales Mitchell Librarian, Richard Neville, described Ms Wyld's writing as "spare, yet pitch perfect", with her novel being both "visceral and powerfully measured in tone".

"*All the Birds, Singing* draws the reader into its rhythm and mystery, through wonderfully and beautifully crafted prose, whose deceptive sparseness combines powerfully with an ingenious structure to create a compelling narrative of alienation, decline and finally, perhaps, some form of redemption," Mr Neville said.

"Flight from violence and abuse run through the core of the novel, yet never defeat its central character. *All the Birds, Singing*, an unusual but compelling novel, explores its themes with an unnervingly consistent clarity and confidence."

Mr Neville was joined on the judging panel by 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.

*Join the Miles Franklin conversation on Twitter with #milesfranklin or follow @\_milesfranklin*

*To view a video of the 2014 shortlist including interviews with authors, Andrew Thomas from Perpetual and Miles Franklin judge Richard Neville, please visit*

<http://www.milesfranklin.com.au/>

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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](http://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 advice<sup>i</sup>. 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](http://www.perpetual.com.au/philanthropy)

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<sup>i</sup> as at 31 December 2013