

Tuesday 30 April 2013

The Trust Company unveils all female shortlist for the 2013 Miles Franklin Literary Award

Miles of Reading Challenge to award prizes for best tweet-reviews of shortlisted novels

The Trust Company, as Trustee, and the 2013 judging panel have today announced an all-female shortlist for this year's Miles Franklin Literary Award.

Regarded as Australia's oldest and most prestigious literary prize, the 2013 Miles Franklin Award shortlist, announced today at the State Library of New South Wales, features five of Australia's most talented female authors - including three first time novelists.

The Miles Franklin Literary Award was established with proceeds from the estate of *My Brilliant Career* author, Stella Maria Sarah Miles Franklin, to support and encourage authors of Australian literature.

The winner will be announced on Wednesday 19 June 2013 in Canberra at the National Library of Australia, and will receive \$60,000 for the novel judged to be of the highest literary merit which "must present Australian life in any of its phases" in line with Miles Franklin's wishes.

Each of the five shortlisted authors will also receive \$5,000 in prize money from the Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund, a long term partner of the Miles Franklin Literary Award.

The 2013 Miles Franklin Literary Award shortlist is:

Romy Ash - *Floundering*

Annah Faulkner - *The Beloved*

Michelle de Kretser - *Questions of Travel* / **Drusilla Modjeska - *The Mountain***

Carrie Tiffany - *Mateship with Birds*

A link to the author bios and novel synopses can be accessed [here](#)

Speaking on behalf of the judging panel, Richard Neville, Mitchell Librarian, State Library of New South Wales said:

"The five novels in the 2013 Miles Franklin Shortlist are at a surface level all about family – the searching for their comfort, the crises when they fail, escaping their pervasive grasp, or the despair when they do not seem possible – but more deeply these books write about the intersection of people's lives with national, indeed international, stories and ideas. Each approaches their subject from very different perspectives, but all deliver complex, engrossing narratives which persist long after the books are closed!"

Miles Franklin Award judges joining Mr Neville on the 2013 panel include Murray Waldren, journalist and columnist at *The Australian* newspaper and Anna Low, a Sydney-based bookseller. Late last year, The Trust Company appointed two new judges to strengthen the depth and breadth of experience of the panel with the appointment of Craig Munro (biographer, book historian, publishing editor and founding chair of the Queensland Writers Centre) and Susan Sheridan (Adjunct Professor in English and Women's Studies at Flinders University, Adelaide).

MILES
FRANKLIN
LITERARY
AWARD
SHORTLIST



**THE
TRUST
COMPANY**
as Trustee

Speaking on behalf of The Trust Company, which manages the estate of the late Miles Franklin and has been Trustee of the award since it was first awarded in 1957, Simon Lewis, Head of Philanthropy and Community, said:

“Congratulations to all the shortlisted authors. The shortlist demonstrates how strong Australia’s pipeline of female literary talent really is, as witnessed with last year’s Miles Franklin winner, Anna Funder, as well as by the growing number of first time female authors included in the long and shortlists in recent years.

“We look forward to announcing yet another outstanding Australian female literary talent on the 19 June as the 2013 Miles Franklin Award winner,” Mr Lewis said.

Expand and Engage the Audience

As announced earlier this year, The Trust Company’s 2013 mission for the Miles Franklin Award is to expand and engage the audience. This has included partnering with *Griffith REVIEW* and Copyright Agency to produce exclusive reviews of longlist novels. For the shortlist, well known authors will be commissioned to write essays encompassing the shortlist themes.

Other elements of the campaign for wider engagement have been the creation of the Miles of Reading Challenge site and the official Miles Franklin Twitter account. At the shortlist event today, The Trust Company revealed the next wave of activity to boost engagement in the award with a Twitter based competition.

The Trustee is encouraging literary lovers to tweet a review of one or all of the shortlisted. More information about the competition at (www.milesfranklin.com.au/challenge) with the winner announced on 5 June.

Followers seeking inspiration can view *Griffith REVIEW*’s exclusive online reviews of the longlisted novels via the Miles of Reading Challenge website [Reading Hub](#)

Further details of public events in both Canberra and Brisbane will be released shortly.

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For further information including full biographies, images or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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Notes to editors:

About the Miles Franklin Literary Award:

The Trust Company Limited is Trustee for the Miles Franklin Literary Award. *My Brilliant Career* author Stella Maria Sarah Miles Franklin left the residue of her estate in 1954 to establish the award. Celebrating Australian character and creativity, the Award was established to support authors for the advancement, improvement and betterment of Australian literature. Last year’s winner of the \$50,000 prize was Anna Funder for her novel, *All That I Am*.

Twitter: [@_milesfranklin](#)

Website: www.milesfranklin.com.au/

The shortlist stats:

- Three debut novels: Romy Ash, Annah Faulkner, Drusilla Modjeska,
- Previous shortlisted: Carrie Tiffany (2006 for *Everyman's Rules for Scientific Living*)



About The Trust Company

The Trust Company is one of Australia's foremost trustee companies, offering trustee services for individuals, companies and charitable trusts from our offices in Australia, New Zealand and Singapore.

The Trust Company Group has almost \$1 billion in charitable funds under administration. Currently serving as trustee for over 850 charitable trusts, this includes the Miles Franklin Literary Award, Marten Bequest Travelling Scholarships and the Portia Geach Memorial Award. Our Engaged Philanthropy program is designed to create lasting social impact in the community. This is led by 17 strategic partnerships inaugurated in 2011 and a further 12 in 2012 with key non-profit organisations across the sector.

The Trust Company provides a wide range of financial services including:

- Personal Client Services offering Estate Planning and Administration, Lifestyle Assist, Financial Planning, Executor Assist, Personal Trusts, Charitable Trusts, Wealth Management and Health and Personal Injury services
- Corporate Trustee, Debt Capital Markets Trustee, Property and Infrastructure Custody, Superannuation Compliance and Trustee. In New Zealand The Trust Company offers trustee services for Debt Securities, Securitisation, Unit Trust, Superannuation and KiwiSaver.

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