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A message from the Executive Director of the Melbourne Prize Trust

The Melbourne Prize Trust offers the Melbourne Prize for Literature 2012, Best Writing Award 2012 and Civic Choice Award 2012 as one of the most valuable literary awards in Australia. This catalogue provides details of the prize, awards, and finalists in each category, as well as how to vote instructions for the Civic Choice Award 2012 and quotes from our judges and partners.

To showcase finalists' work and enable the public to engage with the abundant literary talent in Victoria, the finalists work will be exhibited at Federation Square between 5-19 November 2012. The public will have an opportunity to vote for their favourite to win the \$5,000 Civic Choice Award 2012, both online and in this catalogue. Voters go into the running to win a luxury overnight stay at Sofitel Melbourne On Collins.

In 2008, Melbourne was designated by UNESCO as an international City of Literature. The designation recognises the importance of literature to the city and the state and the central role that writers have played, and continue to play, in the cultural life of our community.

The Melbourne Prize for Literature 2012 and awards support Melbourne's status as a UNESCO City of Literature, recognising and rewarding writing talent in our state. We are proud to have the Victorian Government as a partner through its City of Literature initiative.

With the generous support of the City of Melbourne and our partners and patrons, acknowledged in this catalogue, we are delighted to provide opportunities for writers and to demonstrate the importance of literature in a vibrant and creative community. The Trust is pleased to recognise 2012 as the National Year of Reading.

Please refer to our acknowledgements in this catalogue. We would like to thank the literary sector and the many organisations, publications and websites that are immensely supportive in raising awareness of our 2012 program.

Please visit our website at melbourneprize.org
for further information or call (03) 9696 4410.

Simon Warrender
Executive Director & Founder
Melbourne Prize Trust

Finalist Exhibition The Atrium Federation Square, Melbourne

The finalist exhibition is held in the Atrium at Federation Square Melbourne – see site map opposite. This catalogue and the exhibition provide information on the finalists in the Melbourne Prize for Literature 2012 and Best Writing Award 2012, including extracts from their submitted work. The voting box for the Civic Choice Award 2012 is located at the exhibition – see the voting form in this catalogue.

This 2012 finalist catalogue is designed by our partner Cornwell, printed by Rothfield Print Management, with the assistance of Lorimier, and has been generously supported by Readings and Hardie Grant Books.

Thank you to Cornwell for their outstanding exhibition design and the 2012 Melbourne Prize identity.

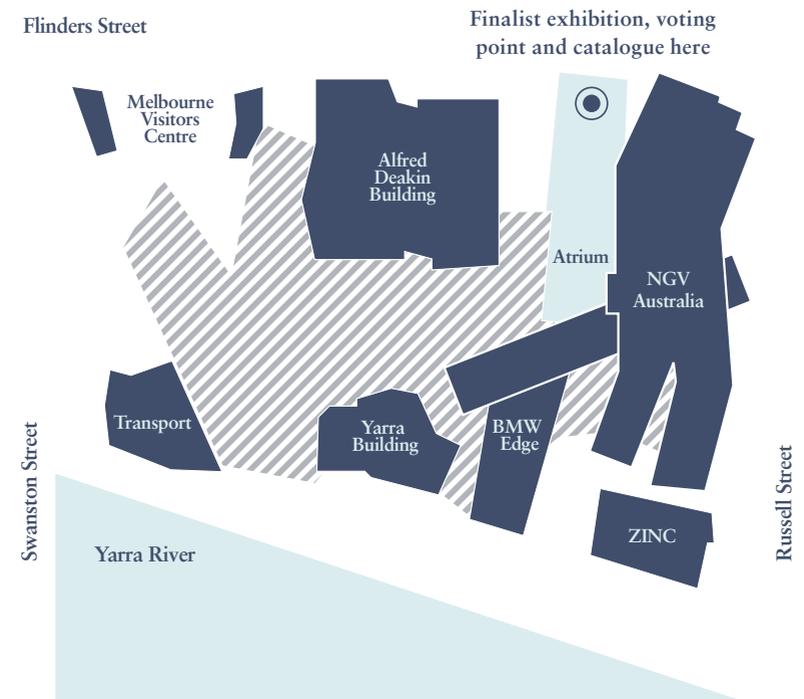
Exhibition of finalists at Federation Square
5-19 November 2012

Winners announced at melbourneprize.org
7 November 2012

Civic Choice Award 2012 winner
announced at melbourneprize.org
23 November 2012



Finalist Exhibition Location



The Melbourne Prize for Literature 2012 is made possible by the generous support of the following partners and patrons

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- Melbourne Prize for Literature 2012 -

The Prize and Awards

MELBOURNE PRIZE FOR LITERATURE 2012

- \$60,000 -

The Melbourne Prize for Literature 2012 is for a Victorian author whose body of published or produced work has made an outstanding contribution to Australian literature and to cultural and intellectual life. The author's work must be published or produced (e.g. for plays, screen plays) and can include all genres and forms, for example, fiction, non-fiction, essays, plays, screenplays and poetry. There is no age limit for this prize.

The Prize is supported by The Vera Moore Foundation, The Tallis Foundation and the Melbourne Prize Trust.

BEST WRITING AWARD 2012

- \$30,000 + \$2,500 Qantas international air travel -

The Best Writing Award 2012 is for a piece of published or produced work of outstanding clarity, originality and creativity by a Victorian writer. The submitted work must be published or produced (e.g. for plays, screen plays) and can be any genre or form, for example, fiction, non-fiction, essays, plays, screenplays and poetry. There is no age limit for this award.

The Best Writing Award 2012 is supported by its sole patron, The Robert Salzer Foundation.

Residency – The University of Melbourne

A residency at the School of Culture and Communication, The University of Melbourne, will be awarded at the discretion of the judges, to either the recipient of the Melbourne Prize for Literature 2012 or the Best Writing Award 2012. Details of the residency will be decided between the recipient and The University of Melbourne following the announcement.

CIVIC CHOICE AWARD 2012

- \$5,000 -

Vote for your favourite finalist – (include tear our voting form), To be awarded in the Melbourne Prize for Literature 2012 and Best Writing Award 2012 with the most public votes cast during the exhibition held between 5-19 November 2012. The voting slip can be found on the front of this catalogue (online voting closes 19 November 2012 at 5pm). The award winner will be announced on 23 November 2012 at melbourneprize.org

The Civic Choice Award 2012 is supported by Readings and Hardie Grant Books.

- All prize and award announcements will be made at melbourneprize.org -

an initiative of the Committee for Melbourne 
 melbourneprize.org **Design by Cornwell**

The Premier and Minister for the Arts

The Victorian Government is proud to support the Melbourne Prize for Literature, which this year celebrates not only Melbourne's City of Literature status but also the National Year of Reading. This prize program showcases the strength and diversity of Victorian writers and in doing so celebrates our vibrant literary culture. The 2012 shortlist ranges from social commentary to fiction, memoir, writing for children and young adults, poetry and playwriting. It also recognises some of our most established voices alongside first time novelists. I congratulate all the shortlisted writers and I hope the Prize program and exhibition inspire the writer and the reader in us all.

Ted Baillieu MLA
Premier and Minister for the Arts

The City of Melbourne

The Melbourne Prize for Literature 2012 recognises the outstanding contribution, excellence and creativity of a Victorian writer. Melbourne is acknowledged as a UNESCO City of Literature and is home to some of Australia's finest authors. This award takes on particular significance across the country during the National Year of Reading. The calibre of finalists for this year reflects the breadth of talent among Victorian writers. I want to congratulate all our entrants and wish them every success in their careers.

Dr Kathy Alexander
Chief Executive Officer
City of Melbourne

The Judges

Judging the Melbourne Prize confirms, if you are a literary person, that you would never want to live anywhere else. But after an overwhelming number of entries in both the Best Writing Award and the Melbourne Prize for Literature one thing is certain: we have a literary culture that is utterly exhilarating. I used to think that the Australian fiction writer didn't know how to hit the ground running. Now, I can feel the gust of energy that blows the pages. This writing is fresh and in your face. It's diverse. It comes at you like a wind sheer – from all directions. The task of choosing a winner is impossible and thrilling.

Hannie Rayson
Playwright

The Melbourne Prize for Literature continues to re-invent and re-energize itself as each new wave of writers emerges from the two year break between awards with a glittering array of narratives, poems, plays and essays distinguished by innovation, invention, imaginative creation and, in some cases, high class scholarly research. In 2012 the number of entrants for the Best Writing Award, liberated by the removal of the age limit, has significantly increased and with this expansion of numbers has come a depth and variety in the entries which is both exciting and inspiring. The range of publishers – small, new, mainstream – and the extraordinary wealth of writers – some chancing their arm for the first time, some known but not 'established', others distinguished and already rewarded with accolades of various kinds – is breathtaking and a testament to the burgeoning good health of the local literary culture. As has been the case in its brief history, the Melbourne Prize for Literature – one of this country's most important, lucrative and respected awards for sustained literary excellence – continues to attract Victoria's most acknowledged, successful and productive writers and will, as in the past, reward one of them in ways that will immeasurably encourage and support their craft and art.

Professor Brian Matthews FAHA
Writer and Emeritus Professor

I have to confess to some sleepless nights since the actual judging of the Melbourne Prize for Literature. Not that I don't think our choices for both prizes are absolutely right. They are – they are very well deserved. But it is the shortlist that is keeping me up. There are always those other books one wishes to champion. Of course, in a perfect world you'd want to give the prize to everyone but that's not how it works. I think it is crucial to keep in mind the shortlist, because it is the shortlist that tells us all we need to know about the vitality and strength of our writing at the moment. It is confident; even when the subject matter is ambiguous, even when the narrative voice is uncertain or wary of easy judgment: the actual writing is assured. I accepted being a judge because I know that those entrusted with managing the prize are committed to honouring and supporting our literary culture. I'm glad I did it but it was tough. Not the reading, that was mostly a tremendous pleasure. No, it was tough getting to those shortlists. There was so much good writing out there, the shortlists prove it.

Christos Tsiolkas
Writer

This is my third time as a judge of the Melbourne Prize for Literature and it gives one a bit of perspective and an opportunity to reflect on Victorian writing. In the Best Writing Award many of the works submitted were by authors who had not entered before; it's a testament to the vibrancy of our literary culture that many of the works submitted and those shortlisted are exciting, original and innovative works. The 2012 Melbourne Prize itself gives the judges and the community the opportunity to "tip their hat" to those writers whose work and career have reflected on and interpreted our communities in such inspiring ways. It has been a great privilege and pleasure to be a part of the process and I owe a great debt to my fellow judges for their insight and dedication.

Mark Rubbo OAM
Managing Director, Readings

Judging the Melbourne Prize is a bit like being drowned in honey: oh, so sweet, but still a drowning. When Judging the Melbourne Prize is a bit like being drowned in honey: oh, so sweet, but still a drowning. When the boxes of entries arrive, even the sturdiest constitution wilts a little; but then you start reading. And reading. And reading. Because if the sheer quantity of entries isn't enough to break your spirit, the extremely high quality of titles under consideration makes sitting in judgement next to impossible. How to choose? This book of poems or that playscript? This essayist or that writer for young people? But flanked by my brilliant judging colleagues, we've come up with two lists of extraordinary shortlistees; new writing from the past three years that demonstrates the vibrancy of our writing scene, and a collection of writers with unparalleled influence and contribution to our ongoing culture. I trust you'll enjoy reading them as much as we did.

Michael Williams
Director, The Wheeler Centre

Melbourne Prize for Literature
2012 Finalists

Alison Lester
Robert Manne
Alex Miller
Joanna Murray-Smith
Peter Temple



Alison Lester

Children's Laureate Alison Lester is one of Australia's most-loved creators of books for young people. She has won many awards, including the 2005 Children's Book Council of Australia Picture Book of the Year Award for *Are We There Yet?*, and the Wilderness Society Award and 2012 Children's Book Council Eve Pownall Award for Information Books for *One Small Island* (co-created with Coral Tulloch), which explores the destruction and renewal of Macquarie Island.

In her latest book, *Sophie Scott Goes South*, Alison uses the experiences of her 2005 Australian Antarctic Arts Fellowship to describe a journey to Antarctica through the eyes of a child. Alison's books mix imaginary worlds with everyday life, encouraging children to believe in themselves and celebrate the differences that make them special. She spends time each year travelling to remote communities, working with adults and children to turn their stories into books.

- Published works include -

Sophie Scott Goes South
Penguin Viking, 2012

One Small Island
Penguin Viking, 2011

Running with the Horses
Penguin Viking, 2010

Noni the Pony
Allen and Unwin, 2010

Are We There Yet?
Penguin Viking, 2004

The Quicksand Pony
Allen and Unwin, 1997

Magic Beach
Allen and Unwin, 1990

Imagine
Allen and Unwin, 1989

Clive East Alligators
OUP, 1985

- Extract -

Are We There Yet?
Penguin Viking, 2004

Uluru is the heart of Australia. A huge red heart, right in the middle of the country. One day we got up early in the cool of the morning, and walked around the rock. I felt as tiny as an ant.



alisonlester.net



Alison Lester, *Writer/Illustrator*



Robert Manne, *Writer*

Robert Manne

Robert Manne was born in 1947 to Jewish refugee parents. He attended the University of Melbourne in 1966, where he studied history. In 1972 Robert completed a postgraduate degree in international relations at Oxford. In 1975 he was appointed Lecturer in Politics at La Trobe University. He presently holds a Personal Chair there.

Robert has written or edited twenty books and many essays. His books and essays have won various awards including the Washington National Intelligence Centre Prize and the Queensland Premier's Prize. He has been a columnist for News Limited and Fairfax, and a regular ABC commentator. Between 1990 and 1997 he was a controversial editor of *Quadrant*. Since then he has been Chair of the editorial boards of *Australian Book Review* and *The Monthly*. In 2005 he was voted Australia's leading public intellectual.

Robert is married to the writer Anne Manne. They have two daughters.

- Published works -

Making Trouble: Essays against the New Australian Complacency
Black Inc., Agenda, Melbourne, 2011

Sending Them Home: Refugees and the New Politics of Indifference
Quarterly Essay, no. 13, 2004
(with David Corlett)

In Denial: The Stolen Generations and the Right
Black Inc., Melbourne, 2001

The Way We Live Now
Text Publishing, Melbourne, 1998

The Culture of Forgetting: Helen Demidenko and the Holocaust
Text Publishing, Melbourne, 1996

The Petrov Affair: Politics and Espionage
Pergamon Press, Sydney, 1987

- Extract -

Making Trouble
Black Inc., Agenda, Melbourne, 2011

As soon as he entered Auschwitz, Primo Levi began composing his testimony in his head. 'For some reason that I cannot fathom', he told Marco Vigevari, 'something anomalous happened to me, almost an unconscious preparation for the task of bearing witness.' Even in English translation, the cadence and the rhythm of *If This is a Man* are reminiscent of the style of myth and legend. On one occasion Levi spoke of himself as a storyteller in the traditions of Asia and Africa. There are several references in his work to biblical marches or ancient slavery. The episodes – the journey; the arrival; the initiation; the dream; the selection; the hanging – bear meaning both particular and general; the changing of the landscape and the passing of the seasons at Auschwitz are both recollected with fidelity but pregnant with the seed of evil. It was as if from the time of his entrance through the gates of Monowitz-Buna, Primo Levi was aware that he had been given the duty of recording for future generations one of the stories that needed to find a place in the collective memory of humankind.

Alex Miller

Alex Miller is a Melbourne writer and author of ten novels. His books are published internationally and widely in translation. He is twice winner of Australia's premier literary prize, The Miles Franklin Literary Award, the first time in 1993 for *The Ancestor Game* and then in 2003 for *Journey to the Stone Country*. He is an overall winner of The Commonwealth Writers Prize and has twice won the Christina Stead Prize for Fiction in the NSW Premier's Literary Awards. He also won *The Age* Book of the Year Award in 2010 for his bestselling novel *Lovesong*. In the same year he was awarded the Manning Clark Medal for an outstanding contribution to Australian cultural life. Alex was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities in 2011. His most recent novel, *Autumn Laing*, was published to national critical acclaim in 2011. A collection of Miller's essays and short stories, *Chasing My Tale*, will be published in September 2013.

- Published works -

NOVELS

I Am Bobby Blue, (due September 2013)
Allen & Unwin

Autumn Laing, 2011. Allen & Unwin

Lovesong, 2009. Allen & Unwin

Landscape of Farewell, 2007. Allen & Unwin

Prochownik's Dream, 2005. Allen & Unwin

Journey to the Stone Country,
2002. Allen & Unwin

Conditions of Faith, 2000. Allen & Unwin

The Sitters, 1995. Viking

The Ancestor Game, 1992. Penguin

The Tivington Nott, 1989. Robert Hale

Watching the Climbers on the Mountain,
1988. Macmillan

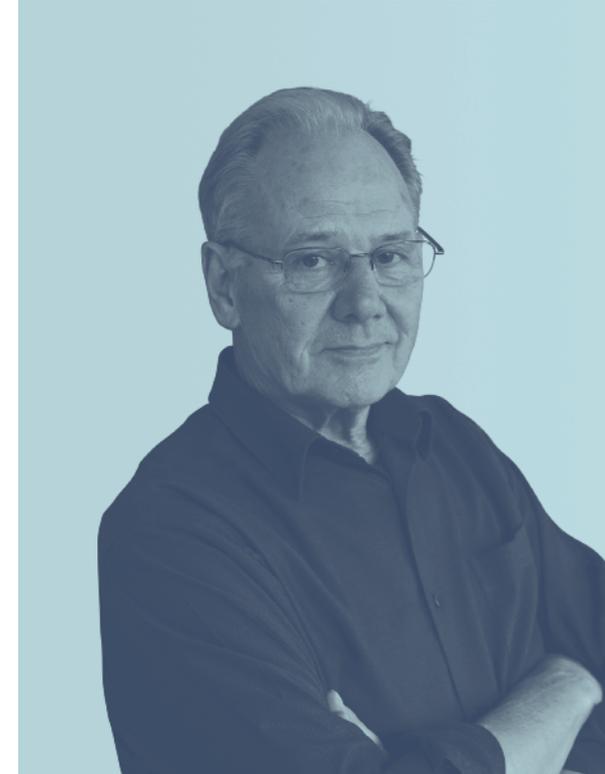
- Extract -

Autumn Laing
Allen & Unwin

-

Standing at the window, her fingers still touching her mother's lilac patterned teacup, the smell of the wood stove in the air, something of hot iron and smokiness, Edith thinks; How peaceful it is here. How lovely. How at home I might so easily know myself to be in this little house with him, if only... The horse is a mare. It is an old brood mare, the points of its hips prominent, gut-hung, its spine bowed with the bearing of many foals, its brown coat dry and wintry. Equus caballus. Edith has known the companionship of horses since her childhood on her father's farm. The old brown mare stands side-on to the hill, her hollow flank towards Edith. She, the mare, looks as if she is expecting someone to come over the horizon, ears pointed forward, the imagination of oats in her distended nostrils. Edith wonders where she has come from and what has prompted their frugal neighbour to offer her the generous pasturage of his paddock.

alexmillier.com.au



Alex Miller, *Writer*

Joanna Murray-Smith

Joanna Murray-Smith is a Melbourne-born playwright, screenwriter, librettist and novelist. Her plays have been performed in many languages all over the world, including on the West End, at the Royal National Theatre in London and on Broadway. They include *True Minds*, *Fury*, *Honour*, (first read in public by Meryl Streep), *The Female of the Species*, *The Gift*, *Bombshells*, *Songs for Nobodies*, *Rockabye*, *Ninety*, *Nightfall*, *Rapture*, *Redemption*, *Love-Child*, *Day One A Hotel Evening* and many others. Her novels include *Truce*, *Judgement Rock* and *Sunnyside* (all published by Penguin Books).



Joanna Murray-Smith, *Writer*

- Published works -

Plays include *True Minds*, *Fury*, *Songs For Nobodies*, *Day One A Hotel Evening*, *The Gift*, *Rockabye*, *Ninety*, *The Female of the Species*, *Bombshells*, *Untitled*, *Rapture*, *Redemption*, *Nightfall*, *Flame*, *Honour*, *Love-Child*, *Atlanta*, *Angry Young Penguins* and *Ghost Trains*.

Novels include *Truce*, *Judgement Rock* and *Sunnyside* (all Penguin) and the children's book *This Is Joseph Speaking* (Reed Books). Operas include *Love in the Age of Therapy* and (the upcoming) *The Divorce*. Screenplays include episodes of *Janus*, the mini-series *Cassidy* and teleplays *Greed* and *Mimi Goes to the Analyst*.

- Extract -

The Gift
Melbourne Theatre Company, 2011

-
Chloe: Some nights... I can barely breathe. We imagine things for Eleanor and it's terrifying. It's unspeakable. The accidents that could befall...

Martin: The Swine flu pandemics and the plane crashes, the careering cars, the bike wheels caught in tram tracks -

Chloe: The tsunamis. I watched that footage over and over again, seeing us there, imagining her in my arms as the water surged - The paedophiles in European resorts, heroin, schizophrenia, the falling ladders, the planes in towers, ovarian cancer, the nuclear armaments, the financial crashes. The children she will have who cause her pain. The men who will leave her. The employers who will fire her. The banks that will foreclose on her. The scars that will befall her. The unstoppable flood of disappointments.

Beat.

Sadie: (Sweetly:) But -

Chloe: What - ?

Sadie: Well -

Martin: What - ?

Sadie: Isn't that how you measure love?

Chloe: What?

Sadie: By - by - the volume of - terror?

Peter Temple

Peter Temple was born in South Africa in 1946 and moved to Australia in 1979. He lived in Sydney and Bathurst before moving to Melbourne. He has worked as a journalist and editor in several countries and taught journalism, editing and media studies at a number of universities.

As Melbourne's RMIT University's first senior lecturer in editing and publishing, Peter Temple played an important part in establishing the Professional Writing and Editing course.

In 1995, he became a full-time editor and writer. Peter Temple is the author of nine novels, which have been published in twenty countries. *The Broken Shore* won the UK Crime Writers' Association's Duncan Lawrie Gold Dagger in 2007, making Temple the first Australian to win the world's most prestigious crime writing prize. Its sequel, *Truth*, published in 2009, won the Miles Franklin Literary Award for 2010. He has won a number of other prizes.

- Published works -

NOVELS

Truth (2009) Text Publishing, 2009

Winner, Miles Franklin Literary Award 2010
Winner, Vance Palmer Prize, Victorian Premier's Literary Awards
Winner, General Fiction Book of the Year, Australian Book Industry Awards 2006
Winner, German International Crime Prize 2012

The Broken Shore (2005)

Winner, Duncan Lawrie Gold Dagger, UK Crime Writers' Association 2007.
Winner, Ned Kelly Award for Best Crime Novel 2006.
Winner, Colin Roderick Award 2006.
Winner, General Fiction Book of the Year, Australian Book Industry Awards 2006.
Longlisted, Miles Franklin Award 2006.
Winner, Martin Beck Award, Swedish Crime Writers' Academy 2008.
Named one of the ten best crime novels of the decade by *The Guardian*

White Dog (2003)

Winner, Ned Kelly Award for Best Crime Novel 2003

- Extract -

Truth,
Text Publishing, 2009

Villani rose in the dark and stifling house, stood in the shower, dressed, took his canvas bag and left. The world was spent, only the desperate were on the streets. On the ramp before the exit, a tall black man, head shaven, was walking, behind him a shorter person, hidden in grey garments.

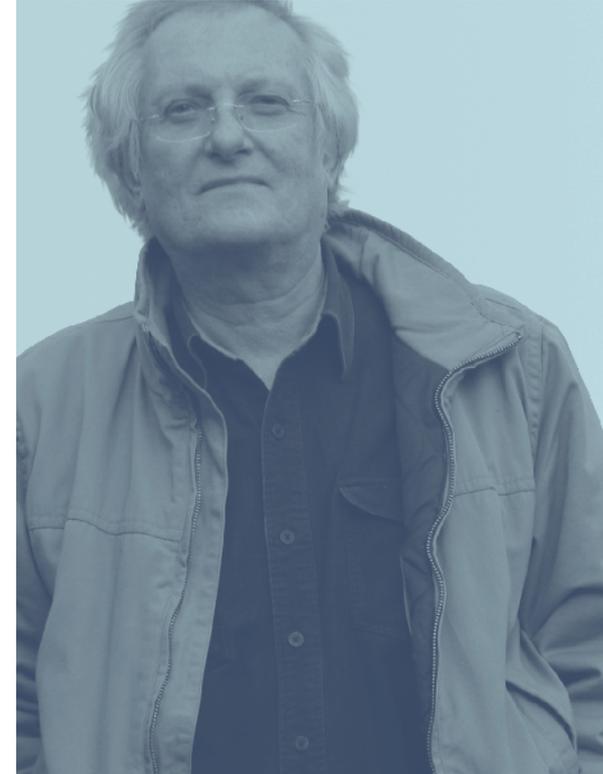
In the mirror, Villani saw she had only a slit through which to see the world. It took three hours, the country drying out, the last stretch up the long yellow hills, paddocks skun, the livestock skinny, handfed.

...today is a day of total fire ban. Four fires are still burning out of control in the high country around Paxton and the town of Morpeth has been evacuated. Firefighters fear the blazes will join into a sixty-kilometre fire front...

From a cafe called Terroir in the last town before Selborne, Villani bought poached chicken breasts, a loaf of sourdough, a lettuce and a container of mayonnaise. He asked for the bread to be sliced.

'If you wish,' said the man, too old for his tipped, gelled hair, silver nostril stud.
'You realise it won't keep as well.'

textpublishing.com.au/books-and-authors/author/peter-temple/



Peter Temple, *Writer*



Best Writing Award
2012 Finalists

Tony Birch
Anna Goldsworthy
Sonya Hartnett
Paul Kelly
Wayne Macauley
David McCooey
Favel Parrett
Craig Sherborne
Carrie Tiffany
Ouyang Yu

Tony Birch

Tony Birch is a Melbourne writer, who uses his home city as the setting for his writing.

His first work of fiction, *Shadowboxing* (2006), set in inner city Melbourne, tells the story of Michael Byrne, a boy growing up in the backstreets of Fitzroy. His second book, *Father's Day* (2009), a short story collection, deals with the lives of people living often on the margins of society. With *Blood* (2011) Tony Birch explores the lives of two children, brother and sister Jesse and Rachel, who must test their capacity for courage as they are pursued across a fractured landscape of Gothic menace by a pair of violent criminals out to harm them. *Blood* has been acclaimed by both critics and readers and was shortlisted for the 2012 Miles Franklin Literary Award.

Tony lectures in the writing program in the School of Culture and Communication at the University of Melbourne, where he has been an academic researcher and teacher for fifteen years. He holds a PhD in History and a Master of Arts in Creative Writing.

- Published works -

In 2006, Tony Birch's first work of fiction, *Shadowboxing*, was shortlisted for the Queensland Premier's Literary awards. The book was widely acclaimed and has since been taught regularly in the Victorian Secondary and Tertiary education sector.

His second book, *Father's Day*, published in 2009, was described by the *Melbourne Age* as 'perfectly realised, inflected with the kind of humour reminiscent of Raymond Carver's dark wit.' *Father's Day* is also widely taught in Victorian secondary schools. With the release of his first novel, *Blood*, in 2011, Birch produced, according to the writer and critic Chris Flynn, 'a humanist masterpiece' (*Australian Literary Review*). The novel has enjoyed a remarkable reception and was shortlisted for the 2012 Miles Franklin Literary Award.

Tony Birch is also a widely published short story writer. His short fiction has appeared in prestigious literary magazines and journals including, *Meanjin*, *Overland*, *Griffith Review*, *Best Australian Stories* and *McSweeney's*.

- Extract -

Blood,
University of Queensland Press, 2011

-
Gwen was so excited about her new fella she couldn't keep still. I knew she'd want me to be nice to him. I wasn't in any mood to help her out. I'd hardly said two words to her since she'd picked us up from Pop's place. She was wasting her time if she thought I'd suck up to a new boyfriend. From the second I'd hopped in the back seat of Mary's car I'd thought of nothing but running away for good, even if it meant leaving Rachel behind. She was always falling behind and never stopped complaining. I felt bad for her, but knew I couldn't take her with me and look after her properly.

Gwen nudged me in the back and pushed me forward. She ruffled a hand through my hair, trying to be friendly.

'Ray. This is my little man, Jesse.'

He looked me up and down, like I was his enemy.

'Don't look like a man to me, big or little.'

'How old are you, boy?'

'He's thirteen, going on fourteen.'

He shaped his hand into a pistol and aimed the trigger finger between my eyes.

'Bang! Bang!' Jesse, hey? Like Jesse James.

The outlaw. Are you an outlaw?'

[facebook.com/pages/Blood-by-Tony-Birch/288994371126443](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Blood-by-Tony-Birch/288994371126443)



Tony Birch, *Writer*

Anna Goldsworthy

Anna Goldsworthy is an Australian classical pianist and writer. In October 2009 her memoir *Piano Lessons* was released in Australia by publisher Black Inc. In November 2010 it was published in the United States by St Martin's Press (Macmillan). She is Artistic Director of the Port Fairy Spring Music Festival, a Kenneth Moore Memorial Music Scholar at Janet Clarke Hall at the University of Melbourne, and a founding member of Seraphim Trio. Anna won Newcomer of the Year at the 2010 Australian Book Industry Awards and her CD *Piano Lessons* is available on the ABC Classics label. Anna's acclaimed stage adaptation of *Piano Lessons*, commissioned for the Queensland Music Festival, was nominated for a Matilda Award. Her most recent CD is *Trout*, recorded with Seraphim Trio, released in February 2012 by ABC Classics.



Anna Goldsworthy, *Writer/Playwright*

- Published works -

BOOKS

Piano Lessons
Black Inc., 2011

PLAYS

Piano Lessons (2011)
Maestro (co-written with
Peter Goldsworthy) (2009)

CDs

Trout (2012)
Piano Lessons (2011)
Come With Us (2008)
Carnival of the Animals (2011)
The Classical Trio (2011)
The Mendelssohn Sibling (2008)

- Extract -

Piano Lessons,
Black Inc., 2011

-

It was my grandfather who found her. He pronounced her name with an extravagant French accent that spoke of her mystery, her glamour. Mrs *Siv-an*. She had recently arrived in Adelaide with her husband and teenage son and was teaching piano at a western-suburbs high school. My grandfather was a regional director of the Education Department, and he had chanced upon one of her lessons during a routine inspection.

'He was true gentleman, of course, very charming,' she told me later, 'but with a natural authority.' She furrowed her brow and pointed her finger: 'You will teach my granddaughter.'

I was nine years old and learning piano from a local jazz muso. After our lessons, he liked to join my parents in the kitchen, roll strange-smelling cigarettes and talk about Stevie Wonder. My father had for many years resisted my grandfather's natural authority, and saw no reason for this arrangement to change, until one afternoon the jazz muso rolled a cigarette and announced it was time for me to move on.

annagoldsworthy.com

Sonya Hartnett

Sonya Hartnett was born and raised in Melbourne. She had her first novel, *Trouble All the Way*, published when she was 15 years old. Since then she has published more than 20 works for adults, teenagers and children, including *Of a Boy*, winner of *The Age Book of the Year*, *The Silver Donkey*, winner of the Children's Book Council Award for Younger Readers, and, most recently, the e-book essay, *Life in Ten Houses*. In 2008 she was awarded the prestigious Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award for writing for young people. She lives in Northcote.

- Published works include -

The Children of the King
Penguin Viking, 2012

The Midnight Zoo
Penguin Viking, 2010

Butterfly
Penguin Hamish Hamilton, 2009

Surrender
Penguin Viking, 2005

The Silver Donkey
Penguin Viking, 2004

Of a Boy
Penguin Viking, 2002

Thursday's Child
Penguin, 2000

- Extract -

The Children of the King
Penguin Group (Australia), 2012

Cecily called Byron closer. 'These boys who are here ... are they scary boys?'

'I don't think so. They're gloomy.'

'Gloomy!' It sounded harmless, even hilarious; still Cecily kept hold of the dog. Side by side the girls and the hound pushed through the grass, edging between the heaps of stone until the castle loomed above them, and they stopped.

'Hello?' called May.

Nothing living moved, not a sparrow or a fieldmouse; the hem of the kitchen cloth wavered in a breeze that wasn't strong enough to rustle the wiry weeds. But the castle spoke: it answered them. Hello, it said. Hello.

Cecily glanced up - she thought she'd glimpsed movement at the peak of the highest wall. A weed was growing from a crack there, flurrying gently, but that wasn't what she thought she'd seen. She had had a sense of flatness and falling, like a lean bird coming to land. She flexed her fingers around the dog's collar.

sonyahartnett.com.au



Sonya Hartnett, *Writer*



Paul Kelly, *Writer/Singer/Songwriter*

- Photo by Daniel Boud -

Paul Kelly

Paul Kelly is recognised as one of the most significant singer/songwriters in the country. As well as producing an enduring body of work both solo and with his bands, including The Dots, The Coloured Girls and The Messengers, Kelly has written film scores (*Lantana* and *Jindabyne*), and produced albums for and written songs with some of Australia and New Zealand's finest artists. He was inducted into the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) Hall of Fame in 1997 and had two songs included in the Australasian Performing Rights Association's (APRA) 2001 list of the Top 30 Australian songs of all time – 'To Her Door' and 'Treaty' (written with Yothu Yindi). His hits also include 'Dumb Things' and the classic 'From Little Things Big Things Grow' (with Kev Carmody). His most recent album was *Stolen Apples*.

In 2011 Paul Kelly received the Ted Albert Award For Outstanding Services to Australian Music at the APRA Music Awards.

- Published works -

How To Make Gravy was the winner of the ABIA Biography of the Year 2011 and was shortlisted for the Prime Minister's Literary Prize 2011, the Indie Awards 2011 and the National Biography Award 2011 among others. Prior to this, Paul's collected works of lyrics were released by Allen and Unwin in 1997, with updated editions in 2004 and 2012.

Besides these literary works, Paul is better known as a songwriter – arguably Australia's greatest. He has released 19 studio albums, as well as 3 live albums and two greatest hits compilations. He has also worked as an award-winning film composer, writing the scores for *Lantana*, *Jindabyne* and *One Night The Moon*, as well as several TV shows.

He has also written songs with and for artists such as Archie Roach, Kev Carmody, Renee Geyer, Nick Cave, Kate Ceberano, Yothu Yindi and Kasey Chambers. He was inducted into the ARIA Hall Of Fame in 1997, and in 2011 was awarded the Ted Albert Memorial award for Outstanding Service to the Music Industry by APRA, as well as winning numerous ARIA, APRA, Country Music and Mo awards.

- Extract -

How to Make Gravy
Penguin Group (Australia), 2010

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In the middle of the journey of my life I found myself inside a tent of mirrors. Ahead lay a labour of trouble. All around, a thronging darkness. A deep slumber had caused me to stray, and to go forward was the only way back. Six weeks previously, in October 2004, my manager Rob had rung to say the Spiegel tent was coming to Melbourne for the summer. Would I do some shows? I'd played in the tent before, at the Edinburgh Festival. Built by Belgians in 1920 of wood and canvas, and decorated with mirrors, velvet, brocade and leaded glass, it travels around the world hosting cabaret shows. Spiegel is Flemish for mirror, and the mirrors in the booths and on poles all around are the main feature, multiplying the audience in the intimate circular space. The staff like to tell you that Marlene Dietrich performed there back in the day. It's a fun place to play, fits around three hundred people. They walk in with a different kind of buzz, like children at the circus. 'They've suggested you put together a show you wouldn't do elsewhere,' said Rob. 'You know, an exclusive. They'll give you a few nights.'

paulkelly.com.au

Wayne Macauley

Wayne Macauley is a Melbourne writer whose short fiction has been widely published over many years in *Meanjin*, *Overland*, *Westerly*, *Island*, *Griffith Review* and other magazines. He is also a former winner of *The Age* Short Story Competition. His debut novel, *Blueprints for a Barbed-Wire Canoe*, was released in 2004 to wide acclaim and was included on the Victorian Secondary Schools' VCE English reading list. His second novel, *Caravan Story*, was nominated a 2007 Readings Bookshop Book of the Year. *Other Stories*, his short fiction collection, was shortlisted for a 2011 Queensland Premier's Literary Award. His latest novel, *The Cook*, has been shortlisted for the West Australian and Victorian Premier's Literary Awards, as well as the Melbourne Prize Best Writing Award, and has now been published in both the UK and Canada. *The Age* has called Wayne 'a compelling voice in contemporary Australian literature'.

- Published works -

The Cook
Text Publishing, 2011

Other Stories
Black Pepper, 2010

Caravan Story
Black Pepper, 2007
Republished by Text, 2012

Blueprints For A Barbed-Wire Canoe
Black Pepper, 2004
Republished by Text, 2012

- Extract -

The Cook
Text Publishing, 2011

So here I am and no going back. There are sixteen of us all stupid kids from shitkicking suburbs we all sleep in the shearers' shed. It's an old building but they've fixed it up. I am on the top bunk Hunter is on the bottom Hunter is from Coolaroo he likes death metal and wants to be a traffic controller but now he is going to be a chef like me. I won't tell you what he done I don't think it's right to tell you what everybody done I won't tell you what I done either. A year below me just turned seventeen most of us are sixteen or seventeen I think I'm the oldest here.

Cook School is a nice place but that doesn't mean it's a holiday if that's what you're thinking we get up at six! An hour and a half in the minibus from Melbourne. On that first Sunday they showed us around. It is very big the land I mean there are sheep and cows and pigs and chickens we'll learn to kill and cook them all a big vegetable garden too which is organic that means they don't put chemicals on it...

waynemacauley.com



Wayne Macauley, *Writer*



David McCooley, *Writer/Poet*

David McCooley

In addition to the 2012 Best Writing Award, David McCooley's latest collection of poetry, *Outside*, was shortlisted for the 2012 Queensland Literary Awards. His first collection, *Blister Pack*, won the Mary Gilmore Award, and was shortlisted for four other awards, including the Melbourne Prize for Literature's 2006 Best Writing Award. David is the Deputy General Editor of the *Macquarie PEN Anthology of Australian Literature*, and the author of a critical study of modern Australian autobiography, *Artful Histories*. Both works were awarded NSW Premier's Literary Awards. He is the author of numerous book chapters, essays, reviews, and poems, published in national and international books, journals, and newspapers. He is associate professor in literary studies and professional and creative writing at Deakin University in Geelong, where he lives.

- Published Works -

POETRY

Outside
Salt Publishing, London, 2011

Graphic
Whitmore Press, Geelong, 2010

Blister Pack
Salt Publishing, Cambridge, 2005

ANTHOLOGY

*Edited work (Deputy General Editor):
Macquarie PEN Anthology of
Australian Literature*
Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 2009

CRITICISM

*Artful Histories: Modern Australian
Autobiography*
Cambridge University Press, Cambridge,
1996 (republished 2009)

- Extract -

AM
Salt Publishing, 2011

-
Newspapers make their way
from the industry of night.

A car clears its throat
of predawn dew.

The house on the hill
overlooking the river:

its single light
burning like a tragedy.

Mirrors slowly avail themselves
of the appearance of things.

Wakefulness moves its incremental
way through bedrooms.

The morning broadcasts
on short wave to birds,
the bright receivers
of their predetermined souls.

soundcloud.com/david-mccooley

Favel Parrett

Favel Parrett was a recipient of an Australian Society of Authors Mentorship in 2009 and has had a number of short stories published in journals including *Island*, *Wet Ink*, *Griffith Review* and *Best Australian Stories* in 2011.

Her first novel, *Past the Shallows* – published by Hachette Australia, was shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Literary award 2012 and also won the Dobbie Literary Prize and Newcomer of the Year at the Australian Book Industry Awards (ABIA). She is currently working on her second novel.

- Published works -

Past the Shallows
Hachette, Australia
John Murray, United Kingdom, 2012

Griffith Review
Fiction Edition (Issue 35), 2011

Best Australian Short Stories
Black Inc., 2011

- Extract -

Past the Shallows
Hachette Australia, 2011

—
Out past the shallows, past the sandy-bottomed bays, comes the dark water – black and cold and roaring. Rolling out the invisible paths. The ancient paths to Bruny, or down south along the silent cliffs, the paths out deep to the bird islands that stand tall between nothing but water and sky.

Wherever rock comes out of deep water, wherever reef rises up, there is abalone. Black-lipped soft bodies protected by shell. Treasure.

favelparrett.com.au



Favel Parrett, *Writer*



Craig Sherborne, *Writer*

Craig Sherborne

Craig Sherborne's memoir *Hoi Polloi* was shortlisted for the Queensland and Victorian Premier's Literary Awards. The follow-up, *Muck*, won the Queensland Literary Prize for Non-fiction. Sherborne has also written two volumes of poetry, and his journalism and poetry have appeared in most of Australia's leading literary journals and anthologies. His novel, *The Amateur Science of Love* was shortlisted for the 2011 Victorian Premier's Prize for Fiction.

- Published works -

The Amateur Science of Love
Text Publishing, 2011

Muck
Black Inc., 2008

Necessary Evil
Black Inc., 2006

Hoi Polloi
Black Inc., 2005

Look at Everything Twice, For Me
Currency, 1999

Bullion
Penguin, 1995

- Extract -

The Amateur Science of Love
Text Publishing, 2011

It is an honour to be taken into someone's wounds. Their real wounds, not their emotional gripes. Wounds that cut the body until it is less whole, less human and no amount of healing can make it complete again. To be taken into someone's wounds is to be trusted to recognise that only their flesh has been ruined. It may be revolting to behold, this wound, but it has not wrecked the rest of them.

I was about to be taken into Tilda's wound. I was about to witness the ultimate nakedness. I waited outside our bathroom door until I was called... I turned the knob and eased the door open, making the steam mist swirl out. Tilda had wrapped a towel around herself like a long bra. Her wet hair was furred in a bob and she had brushed blueness onto her eyelids. She smiled with a mouth of purple lipstick, though I could tell it was more scared grimace than smiling. She stood up straight and adjusted her bony shoulders back and forth.

textpublishing.com.au/books-and-authrs/author/craig-sherborne

Carrie Tiffany

Carrie Tiffany was born in West Yorkshire and grew up in Western Australia. She spent her early twenties working as a park ranger in Central Australia and now lives in Melbourne where she works as an agricultural journalist.

Carrie's first novel, *Everyman's Rules for Scientific Living*, was published in the UK, US, Germany, the Netherlands and Australia. In 2006 it was short-listed for the Miles Franklin Literary Award, the Victorian Premier's Literary Award, the Orange Prize for Fiction, the Commonwealth Writer's Prize and the Guardian First Book Award, and was the winner of the Dobbie Literary Award and the Western Australian Premier's Fiction Prize.

Carrie won the ABR Elizabeth Jolley Short Story Award in 2011 and is on the shortlist for the 2012 BBC International Short Story Award. Her second novel is *Mateship with Birds*.

- Published works -

Mateship with Birds
Picador, 2012

Everyman's Rules for Scientific Living
Picador, 2005

- Extract -

Mateship with Birds
Picador, 2012

-
Slashing gorse in the shelterbelt Harry finds the nest of a striped honeyeater underneath the trees. It's a lovely article – a deep hairy cup of woven grasses bound with spider web and beak spittle. The outside of the nest is patterned; tawny and pale like the bird herself. Harry eases the nest into his pocket and forgets about it until later, until tea time when he's slicing his sausages and smearing them with chutney. He coaxes the nest from his trousers and places it on the table next to his plate; watching, as he chews, the suppleness of it as the flattened grass stems unfurl, little by little, to form the circular lip of the cup again. The expansion completed the nest rolls softly onto its side and touches the back of Harry's hand. 'Whoa there,' he says to it, and his throat catches tight. As he rights the nest and wedges it between the salt and pepper shakers he realises that he knows too much. When you look at things for long enough they reveal themselves to you, and then they reveal some more. Harry with his four sausages; 'One for each limb,' his mother used to say. Harry at the kitchen table with his empty nest.

carrietiffany.com.au



Carrie Tiffany, *Writer*



Ouyang Yu, *Writer*
- Photo by Wang Jinjun -

Ouyang Yu

Ouyang Yu, now based in Melbourne, came to Australia in early 1991 and, by 57, has published 65 books of poetry, fiction, non-fiction, literary translation and literary criticism in English and Chinese.

His noted books include: *The Eastern Slope Chronicle* (2002) and *The English Class* (2010), his collections of poetry: *Songs of the Last Chinese Poet* (1997) and *New and Selected Poems* (Salt Publishing, 2004), his translations in Chinese: *The Female Eunuch* (1991), *The Ancestor Game* (1996), *The Man Who Loved Children* (1998) and *The Fatal Shore* (forthcoming 2013), and his book of literary criticism: *Chinese in Australian Fiction: 1888-1988* (Cambria Press, 2008). In 2010, his second novel, *The English Class* (Transit Lounge), was named as one of the Best Books of 2010 in *Australian Book Review* and *The Age* as well as the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

Ouyang Yu was nominated one of the Top 100 Most Influential Melbournians for 2011.

- Published works -

Self Translation
Transit Lounge, 2012

What Can Poetry Do About This
and Other Poems
Picaro Press, 2012

Bilingual Love: Poems from 1975 to 2008
Picaro Press, 2012

The Kingsbury Tales: A Complete Collection
Otherland Publishing, 2012

Loose: a wild history
Wakefield Press, 2011

The English Class
Transit Lounge, 2010

The Eastern Slope Chronicle
Brandl & Schlesinger, 2002

- Extract -

The English Class
Transit Lounge, 2010

When he raised his head, it all left his memory. He was no king's son; he was only this unambitious half-century man's dreary son who traded thoughts for fun to while away a winter's day. Before long he would go back to that lake-side college for his English classes, taught by Chinese teachers with colourful accents smelling of unauthenticity. How he wished there was someone from abroad to teach them, especially him, the real stuff! Mr Fu once let out that this might happen sometime in the future.

At the thought he brightened up, an image swimming before him, of someone tall and handsome, a bit Karl Marx-like, with ponds of knowledge, speaking impeccable BBC or Voice of America English, coaching them in a way no other people did or were able to. Once again he fell into a reverie that lasted a few minutes when he heard his father utter a cry of surprise. He looked up to see Jing senior grabbing hold of the basin of water he had used to wash his face, ready to pour it onto the fire. Then he realized what had happened: the pages of the book he had been holding in his hands but hardly reading had caught fire.

ouyangyu.com.au

Acknowledgements

The Melbourne Prize for Literature 2012 and awards and the Federation Square finalist exhibition provide opportunities for Victorian writers. The 2012 program has been made possible by the many partners and patrons whose generous community investment help develop our literary resources.

Thank you to Arts Victoria and the City of Melbourne as Government Partners and to Melbourne as a UNESCO City of Literature.

The dedication of the 2012 judging panel has been overwhelming this year – thank you to Reading’s Mark Rubbo OAM, Emeritus Professor and Writer Professor Brian Matthews FAHA, playwright Hannie Rayson, writer Christos Tsiolkas and Michael Williams of The Wheeler Centre.

The ongoing direction of Melbourne Prize Trust Directors, Simon Warrender (Founder and Executive Director), Dr Janine Kirk AM, Professor Andrea Hull AO, David Laidlaw and Pamela Warrender is appreciated, along with Anthony Poynton and David Blake as members of the Management Committee.

Founding Partners Cornwell, Ernst & Young, Minter Ellison and the Committee for Melbourne have been with the Trust since its inception in 2004 – thank you all. Steve Cornwell and the design team at Cornwell Design play a pivotal role in the identity and design for each annual Melbourne Prize – the Melbourne Prize for Literature 2012 identity reflects their creative genius and sense of design. The Cornwell team designs everything from the entry form to the exhibition at Federation Square. A special thanks to Steve Cornwell and the design team - Anthony Nelson, Nikki Johnstone, James Silvestro, Tigh Farley, Andy White and Fran Azzopardi.

Federation Square have been the event and exhibition partner since inception and their generous support over many years is greatly appreciated – Holly Barker has made every effort to make this year’s events a success at Federation Square – thank you. Thank you to Premier Graphics for their support in building the exhibition in the Atrium and Corporate Vision Australia for their IT equipment support.

We are fortunate to have the generous support of corporate partners. Sofitel Luxury Hotels provide a judges dinner at No. 35 and partner event and make available luxury accommodation for our judges, and a prize for voting for our Civic Choice Award. Qantas provide international air travel for award winners, which encourages local artists to travel to benefit their careers.

The Vera Moore Foundation, The Tallis Foundation and the Melbourne Prize Trust have generously supported the Melbourne Prize for Literature 2012. The Best Writing Award 2012 has been generously provided by its sole patron, The Robert Salzer Foundation. The Civic Choice Award 2012 and exhibition catalogue have been made possible by Readings and Hardie Grant Books. The association of the University of Melbourne who provide the residency is appreciated.

Diana Gibson AO, The Vera Moore Foundation, Dame Elisabeth Murdoch AC DBE and Nathan and Pamela Jacobson are the 2012 patrons and are acknowledged for their generous donations this year.

The Trust is thankful for the generous and ongoing partnership of a number of organisations. Thank you to artsHub as our online content partner for 2012. Royce provide strategic media and communications advice along with Grant Thornton who undertake the annual audit of the Trust. Rothfield Print Management is a generous supporter of the Trust’s print requirements, along with Lorimier for the front cover of the catalogue.

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The Trust would like to also thank Fundere Fine Art Foundry Melbourne for crafting the unique presentation trophies for the awards and for fabricating the miniatures of The Magic Pudding sculpture (located at the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne).

The Trust would like to thank Baillieu Vineyards for their generous support as wine partner and Bokchoy Tang restaurant (Federation Square) for their contribution to the catering at the main awards at BMW Edge.

The Trust would like to thank the literary sector for their interest and support of the 2012 Melbourne Prize. The many sector journals, peak bodies, commercial organisation, library networks, social media and websites made it possible to raise awareness of the prize. We are fortunate to have such a vibrant and generous literature sector in our community.

The Trust was fortunate to have the support of a number of people whose contribution and work during the year is greatly appreciated. These include Annabel and Gillian Cameron, Walter Caune, Amanda Clark, Sara Cook, Tony Faccenda, Sarah Kempson, Paul Levy and Lyndall Metzke.

Thank you to the many entrants this year, and the fifteen finalists for their time and assistance leading up to the awards.

The Trust would like to thank the public and visitors to the Federation Square exhibition for their interest in the Melbourne Prize for Literature 2012.

Melbourne Prize Trust



About the Melbourne Prize Trust

Launched in 2004, the Melbourne Prize Trust was established to recognise and reward excellence and talent, inspire creative development, and enrich public life. The Trust achieves its objectives by running the annual Melbourne Prize, which is funded by a collaboration of public, private and corporate partnerships. The Trust is an Income Tax Exempt Charity with Deductible Gift Recipient status.

The annual Melbourne Prize is one of the most valuable creative development initiatives of its kind in Australia. It runs on a three-year cycle focusing on literature, music and (urban) sculpture. The current cycle is as follows and commences again next year with the Melbourne Prize for Music:

/ Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture (2011)

/ Melbourne Prize for Literature (2012)

/ Melbourne Prize for Music (2013)

The Prize is unique in celebrating artistic excellence in a number of sectors under the banner of Melbourne. With its focus on Victorian artists, the prize provides our local creative talent with significant financial and professional development, and exhibition opportunities.

The major event of the annual Melbourne Prize is the free two-week public exhibition of finalists' work and the prize announcement held each November at Federation Square.

The Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2011 program is supported by the Victorian Government through Arts Victoria, the City of Melbourne and partners and patrons.

Visit melbourneprizetrust.org for further information.

Miniatures of The Magic Pudding sculpture, located at the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne can be purchased from the Melbourne Prize Trust.
Please call (03) 9696 4410 to place your order or for information.

