



## Media Release

# Love, death, power and ego permeate 2017 Miles Franklin Literary Award shortlist

**UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 8:00PM EST, 18 JUNE 2017**

60 years ago, author Miles Franklin had a vision: to advance and better Australian literature. As the shortlist for the 2017 Miles Franklin Literary Award is revealed, it's fair to say Miles herself would be delighted to see five first-time nominees, each with their own distinct voice and writing style, recognised in the Award's jubilee year.

Announced today by Perpetual and Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund, the shortlist gives readers an emotional and entertaining insight into Australian life.

The 2017 Miles Franklin Literary Award shortlist is:

- **AN ISOLATED INCIDENT by Emily Maguire (Pac Macmillan Australia):** An intriguing exploration of two women, a murder, and media and masculinity set in a tough regional town.
- **THE LAST DAYS OF AVA LANGDON by Mark O'Flynn (University of Queensland Press):** A warmly empathetic portrayal of a misunderstood but spirited outsider who refuses to concede to society's conventional expectations.
- **THEIR BRILLIANT CAREERS by Ryan O'Neill (Black Inc):** A rich and entertaining satire featuring 15 biographies of imagined Australian writers whose bizarre and exaggerated lives are neatly slotted into real literary history.
- **WAITING by Philip Salom (Puncher & Wattmann):** A deftly executed and very human novel about a pair of odd couples, who are both waiting for something or someone to change their lives.
- **EXTINCTIONS by Josephine Wilson (UWA Publishing):** A clever and compassionate novel exploring ageing, adoption, grief and remorse; rescue and resistance to rescue.

Speaking on behalf of the judging panel, State Library of NSW Mitchell Librarian, Richard Neville, said: "Like all great literature, the five novels on the 2017 Miles Franklin shortlist explore the restorative power of love, the pernicious influence of the past upon the present, the tragedy of the present avoiding the past, the challenge of unconventional identities, the interweaving of lives across communities, the devastation of grief, and the warzone that is the media, masculinity and a small country town.

"Yet again the shortlist celebrates the diversity of voices and approaches to writing about Australian life. None of these novels draw on familiar tropes of Australian literature – yet each brings a distinctive pitch of truth and insight into the Australian experience."

Mr Neville is joined on the judging panel by *The Australian* journalist and columnist, Murray Waldren, Sydney bookseller, Lindy Jones, book critic Dr Melinda Harvey and Emeritus Professor, Susan Sheridan.

Perpetual's National Manager of Philanthropy, Caitriona Fay, congratulated the shortlisted authors.

“Sixty years after the award was established, the Australian literary community continues to thrive as a result of the trailblazing philanthropic endeavour of Stella Maria Sarah Miles Franklin.

“I’d like to congratulate the shortlisted authors, who through their commitment and dedication to the literary community not only provide Australian readers with a must-read list of novels, but also continue the Miles Franklin legacy.”

The Copyright Agency’s Chief Executive, Adam Suckling, said: “We are so pleased to be supporting Australian writing through our longstanding Cultural Fund partnership. It’s always a joy to open the cover on a new reading experience and these five novelists have developed enticing and beautiful stories. In this 60th year especially, Miles Franklin would be pleased.”

Each of the 2017 shortlisted authors will receive \$5,000 from the Copyright Agency’s Cultural Fund.

The 2017 winner, to be announced on 7 September at the State Library of New South Wales, will receive \$60,000.

For further information about the Miles Franklin Literary Award, visit <http://www.milesfranklin.com.au/>

**For enquiries related to The Miles Franklin Literary Award, Perpetual, Copyright Agency’s Cultural Fund or to request an interview with finalists or judges please contact:**

Jane Morey  
Morey Media  
(02) 9929 9922  
[jane@moreymedia.com.au](mailto:jane@moreymedia.com.au)

#### **About the Miles Franklin Literary Award**

Perpetual is Trustee for the Miles Franklin Literary Award. The Award was established in 1954 by the estate of *My Brilliant Career* author Stella Maria Sarah Miles Franklin to celebrate the Australian character and creativity. It supports the betterment of Australian literature by each year recognising the novel of the highest literary merit which presents Australian Life in any of its phases. The 2015 winner of the prize was Sofie Laguna for her novel *The Eye of the Sheep*.

Copyright Agency’s Cultural Fund has been a proud supporter of the Miles Franklin Award since 2004, granting more than half a million dollars to this premier Australian literary prize.

[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 \$2.6 billion in funds under advice (as at 31 December 2016). Perpetual is trustee for approximately 1000 [charitable trusts and endowments](#) and 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](#).

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#### **About the Copyright Agency and Cultural Fund**

Copyright Agency’s Cultural Fund has been a proud supporter of the Miles Franklin Award since 2004, granting more than half a million dollars to this premier Australian literary prize.

The Copyright Agency provides simple ways for people to reproduce, store and share words, images and other creative content, in return for fair payment to creators. We are committed to encouraging the development of lively and diverse markets for published works with our range of [commercial licences](#) and through our [Cultural Fund](#).

The Cultural Fund is the philanthropic arm of the Copyright Agency, contributing meaningfully to a wide range of Australian cultural, educational and artistic programs and creators. Through its support it fosters greater understanding and engagement of national culture both locally and internationally.