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West Australian, Perth

08 Sep 2017, by Annelies Gartner

General News, page 14 - 372.00 cm²

Capital City Daily - circulation 153,763 (MTWTF--)

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WA writer wins top book prize

Annelies Gartner

Josephine Wilson has become the fifth WA writer to win the prestigious Miles Franklin Literary Award.

In the year of the national literary prize's 60th anniversary, the award went to Wilson for her novel *Extinctions*, which explores themes of ageing and survival.

"I have to say to be long-listed for the Miles Franklin was absolutely unbelievable, to be short-listed was even more amazing and this has reached heights of superlatives for me that don't exist," Wilson said.

"Honestly, the experience of being on the long list and the short list is really wonderful because you feel as if you're part of a community of writers, and that really is the function of these prizes."

Wilson will receive \$60,000 for her novel, published by UWA Publishing, which the judging panel described as "compassionate and unapologetically intelligent".

The author does not plan to spend the money on anything "particularly glamorous" but it will enable her to pull back on teaching and devote more time to her next book. "It's also the recognition it gives you in the sphere of arts ... it counts for a great deal more than just the money but, of course, the money is great," she said.

Wilson's *Extinctions* was selected from a short list of five first-time nominees, which included Emily Maguire, Mark O'Flynn, Ryan O'Neill and WA-born Philip Salom.

Wilson is now part of an elite group of WA writers who have won the Miles Franklin, joining Randolph Stow, four-time winner Tim Winton and two-time winners Elizabeth Jolley and Kim Scott.



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 Photo available at
westpix.com.au

Josephine Wilson has won the Miles Franklin award. Picture: Iain Gillespie