

The Patrick White Literary Award

Encouraging writers to advance Australian literature.

About Patrick White

The son of a wealthy Australian grazier, Patrick White was born in 1912 and spent his younger years in Australia and the UK. After school, he worked as a jackeroo for two years on his parents' property before attending Cambridge University to study languages.

Patrick wrote plays, poetry and short stories but his first novel didn't appear until 1939. Following World War II, he returned permanently to Australia where he produced his greatest works including *Voss* and *Riders in the Chariot*, both of which received the Miles Franklin Award. In 1973 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature for his realistic portrayal of Australian life in novels such as *The Eye of the Storm*. Other awards to his name included the Order of Australia and the 1974 Australian of the Year Award. Patrick continued to write until he passed away in Sydney in 1990.

What started as a small legacy...

As a philanthropist, Patrick White was a generous contributor to the aboriginal community and the arts. With the \$80,000 he received for the 1973 Nobel Prize for Literature, he established The Patrick White Literary Award in 1975.

Under Perpetual's management, the charitable trust behind the award has grown from \$80,000 to almost \$700,000 and gives around \$30,000 in prize money annually.

The Award

The purpose of the award is to continue to advance Australian literature through encouraging writers. The annual award goes to an author who has already made a contribution to Australian literature to encourage them to continue writing. The winner may have written published novels, short stories, poetry or plays, as an individual or jointly with another author.

Preference is given to authors who, in the judges' opinions, have not received due recognition for their contribution to Australian literature. The author does not need to be an Australian citizen but must have resided in Australia for a substantial period. There is no application process, rather the judges review authors who have published works in the relevant year. The 2008 winner will be awarded \$30,000.

Past recipients of the award have included Christina Stead, Tom Hungerford and Thea Astley.

The judging committee

Patrick White appointed the judging panel during his lifetime – Rodney Wetherell, Michael Costigan and Joy Hooton. After 25 years of service, Mr Wetherell retired in 2007 and was succeeded by Debra Adelaide. In 2009 David Carter will join the committee when Ms Hooton retires.

The 2008 award will be presented 7 November 2008 at Perpetual's Melbourne office.

A leader in philanthropy

Perpetual, the manager of the Patrick White Literary Award and Trust, is one of the largest managers of private charitable foundations in Australia, with over \$1 billion in funds under management as at 30 June 2008. Perpetual is trustee to more than 450 charitable trusts which help medical, social, environmental, religious, cultural and educational causes.

For more information

For more information about the Patrick White Literary Award, please contact Tim Scott, Manager, Corporate Affairs and Investor Relations, on 02 9229 9491 or tim.scott@perpetual.com.au.

