



Media Release

Sofie Laguna named winner of Miles Franklin Award 2015

Award has supported Australian authors with close to \$1 million in philanthropic funds distributed

23 June 2015

Perpetual, as Trustee of the Miles Franklin Literary Award, today announced Sofie Laguna as the winner of the 2015 award for her novel, *The Eye of the Sheep*.

The Miles Franklin Literary Award, recognised as Australia's most prestigious literary prize, was established in 1954 through the Will of *My Brilliant Career* author, Stella Maria Sarah Miles Franklin, to encourage and support writers of Australian literature.

Ms Laguna will receive \$60,000 in prize money with her novel strongly presenting "Australian Life in any of its phases" and judged to be of the "highest literary merit", in line with the criteria set out by Miles Franklin.

Since moving away from careers in law and acting, Melbourne-based Ms Laguna has written for a wide readership, from picture books for very young children to series for older readers. Her debut novel for adults, *One Foot Wrong*, was long-listed for the Miles Franklin Literary Award in 2009.

The Eye of the Sheep was selected from a short list of powerful Australian voices depicting unforgettable characters, including authors Joan London, Sonya Hartnett, Christine Piper and Craig Sherborne.

Commenting on behalf of the judging panel, State Library of NSW Mitchell Librarian, Richard Neville, said that the power of Ms Laguna's finely crafted novel lies in the "raw, high-energy and coruscating language" which describes the world of central character, young Jimmy Flick.

"Jimmy Flick is a character who sees everything, but his manic x-ray perceptions don't correspond with the way others see his world. His older brother understands him some of the time, and his mother almost all of the time, but other people, including his violent father, just see him as difficult. Weathering successive waves of domestic violence, Jimmy navigates his way through the shoals of alcohol-abuse, illness and tragedy that swamp his parents, and ultimately reaches the possibility of equanimity."

"*The Eye of the Sheep* is an extraordinary novel about love and anger, and how sometimes there is little between them," Mr Neville said.

Mr Neville was joined on the judging panel by *The Australian* journalist and columnist, Murray Waldren; Sydney-based bookseller, Lindy Jones; writer and editor, Craig Munro; and Emeritus Professor, Susan Sheridan.

Over a period of more than 60 years, Miles Franklin's initial investment of \$17,844 in decimal currency has grown to the value of over \$1.3 million through sound investment management, while supporting the Australian literary community with generous distributions which total in \$986,000 including this year's award.

Perpetual's National Manager of Philanthropy, Caitriona Fay, said that the Miles Franklin Award was a prime example of the impact successful philanthropy can have over time.

"As the great success of the Miles Franklin Literary Award shows, diligent investment management which remains attached to mission is the way to provide sustainable philanthropic support."

"This year's Award brings the total prize money distributed by the Trustee to almost one million dollars, confirming Miles Franklin's legacy is well and truly alive. We are very proud to be a part of such an important legacy," Ms Fay said.

Join the Miles Franklin conversation on Twitter with hashtag #milesfranklin or follow @_milesfranklin.

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

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For interview requests with individual authors please contact their publicists:

Author	Novel	Publisher	Contact
Sofie Laguna	<i>The Eye of the Sheep</i>	Allen & Unwin	Stella Chambers (02) 8425 0184 0410 452 879 stellac@allenandunwin.com
Christine Piper	<i>After Darkness</i>	Allen & Unwin	Stella Chambers (02) 8425 0184 0410 452 879 stellac@allenandunwin.com
Joan London	<i>The Golden Age</i>	Random House Australia	Erin Seymour (03) 8537 4663 0418 441 839 eseymour@penguinrandomhouse.com.au
Sonya Hartnett	<i>Golden Boys</i>	Penguin Books Australia	Rhian Davies 0409 701 722 (03) 9811 2509 rhian.davies@au.penguinroup.com
Craig Sherborne	<i>Tree Palace</i>	Text Publishing	Jane Novak (03) 8610 4510 0414 576 201 jane.novak@textpublishing.com.au

For enquiries related to Perpetual or to request an interview with Caitriona Fay, National Manager of Philanthropy, Perpetual Private, or judge, Richard Neville, please contact:

Jarrah Aguera
Honner Media
02 8248 3745 / 0438 672 235
jarrah@honner.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 2014 winner of the prize was Evie Wyld for her novel *All the Birds, Singing*.

www.milesfranklin.com.au

About Perpetual Philanthropic Services

Perpetual is one of Australia's largest managers and distributors of philanthropic funds with \$2.2 billion in funds under advice (as at 31 December 2014). Perpetual is trustee for more than 990 [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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