

Media Release

Perpetual reveals 2016 Miles Franklin longlist

Tuesday, 5 April 2016

Lovers of Australian literature will welcome today's release by Perpetual of the longlist for one of Australia's most prestigious literary awards, the Miles Franklin Literary Award. As Trustee of the award, Perpetual has announced the nine authors in competition for this year's prize. The authors include new entrants such as Lucy Treloar, A S Patric, and Myfanwy Jones, and previous longlisted authors such as Tony Birch and Stephen Orr.

The Miles Franklin Literary Award is regarded as Australia's most prestigious literature prize and was established through the will of *My Brilliant Career* author, Miles Franklin. First awarded in 1957, the prize is awarded each year to the novel of the highest literary merit and presents Australian life in any of its phases.

The 2016 Miles Franklin Literary Award longlist is:

Author	Novel	Publisher
Tony Birch	<i>Ghost River</i>	University of Queensland Press
Stephen Daisley	<i>Coming Rain</i>	Text Publishing
Peggy Frew	<i>Hope Farm</i>	Scribe Publications
Myfanwy Jones	<i>Leap</i>	Allen & Unwin
Mireille Juchau	<i>The World Without Us</i>	Bloomsbury Publishing
Stephen Orr	<i>The Hands: an Australian pastoral</i>	Wakefield Press
A S Patric	<i>Black Rock White City</i>	Transit Lounge
Lucy Treloar	<i>Salt Creek</i>	Pan Macmillan
Charlotte Wood	<i>The Natural Way of Things</i>	Allen & Unwin

Speaking on behalf of the judging panel, State Library of NSW Mitchell Librarian, Richard Neville, said this year's Miles Franklin Literary Award longlist explored Australian life in novels set across three centuries.

"This year a dominant theme of these novels is the impact of grief and loss – complex families, unstable relationships, accidents, European war crimes, suicide, – and how the experience of these issues deeply determine the narrative and direction of lives. These powerful stories, underpinned by distinct physical environments and each with a unique register and tone, range from the colonial past into the near-future. All possess a quality of writing that indicates Australian literature is strong and thriving."

Nearly all these novels are about families and the dynamics that their dysfunction creates within lives, in regional and urban Australia, and in a dystopian future.

Mr Neville is joined on the judging panel by *The Australian* journalist and columnist, Murray Waldren, Sydney-based bookseller, Lindy Jones, biographer, book historian, publishing editor, and Queensland Writers Centre founding chair Craig Munro and Emeritus Professor, Susan Sheridan.

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

"It is a great achievement for each of these authors to be included in such an esteemed longlist.

"Arguably the most important prize in the Australian literature community, Perpetual is proud to support the Miles Franklin Literary Award. Perpetual has a long and proud history of establishing and managing trusts to provide the right results for beneficiaries, and this award is a marvellous example of the positive impact philanthropy can have."

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/>

<ENDS>

For any enquiries on individual authors/novels please contact their publicist:

Publisher	Contact name	Email	Phone
University of Queensland Press	Rachel Crawford	rachelc@uqp.uq.edu.au	(07) 3346 7932
Text Publishing	Jane Novak	jane.novak@textpublishing.com.au	(03) 8610 4510
Scribe Publications	Cora Roberts	cora@scribepub.com.au	0430 270 411
Allen & Unwin	Anika Berkman (for 'Leap')	anikab@allenandunwin.com	(02) 8425 0143
Allen & Unwin	Sarah Haines (for 'The Natural Way of Things')	sarahh@allenandunwin.com	(02) 8425 0146
Bloomsbury Publishing	Hermione Lawton	Hermione.Lawton@bloomsbury.com	(02) 8820 4906
Wakefield Press	Ayesha Aggarwal	publicity@wakefieldpress.com.au	(08) 8352 4455
Transit Lounge	Barry Scott	barry@transitlounge.com.au	(03) 9332 7847 or 0432 324 194
Pan Macmillan	Tracey Cheetham	tracey.cheetham@macmillan.com.au	(02) 9285 9104

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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*.

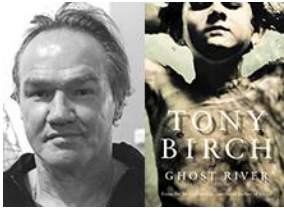
Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund has been a proud supporter of the Miles Franklin Award since 2004, granting more than half a million dollars to this premier Australian literary prize.

www.milesfranklin.com.au

About Perpetual Philanthropic Services

Perpetual is one of Australia's largest managers and distributors of philanthropic funds with \$2.4 billion in funds under advice (as at 31 December 2015). Perpetual is trustee for over 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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Tony Birch
Ghost River

BIOGRAPHY

Tony Birch is the author of *Blood* (UQP, 2011), which was shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Award. He is also the author of *Shadowboxing* (2006), and two short story collections, *Father's Day* (2009) and *The Promise* (UQP, 2014). Tony is a frequent contributor to ABC local and national radio and a regular guest at writers' festivals. He lives in Melbourne and is a Senior Research Fellow at Victoria University.

SYNOPSIS

Sonny Brewer and 'Ren' (Charlie) Renwick become neighbours and then unlikely best friends. Ren's mum Loretta and her partner Archie Kemp, are both hard-working and caring. Sonny's mum cleared out years before with his younger sibling, and left him with his hard-drinking often violent father. Ren is a quiet kid who spends a lot of his time drawing birds. Sonny has a smart mouth and is often in trouble at school, but can do anything with his hands. The boys had been loners but become firm friends with a shared love for the river where they befriend a group of homeless 'river men'. 'Differences between the boys could have set them apart, but their shared loss drew them together. Sonny and Ren were also the only kids around the neighbourhood without brothers or sisters living under the same roof, which was unusual.' (p 10) After Sonny is expelled, his dad leaves home and Sonny finds work as a paper boy. Ren wants to buy a good camera to take beautiful photos of birds so he helps Sonny out. In the course of their work they discover some of the unsavoury types in their neighbourhood. Sonny's uncle Rory comes to look after him and also gives him work as an 'emu' at the races. Meanwhile a strange preacher moves in next door to them with his family, and his daughter Della seems to be reaching out to Ren, but is obviously troubled herself. And when the boys discover that 'their' river is to make way for a freeway, Sonny decides to do something about it.



Stephen Daisley
Coming Rain

BIOGRAPHY

Stephen Daisley was born in 1955 and grew up in the North Island of New Zealand. He has worked on sheep and cattle stations, on oil and gas construction sites and as a truck driver, among many other jobs. Stephen's first novel, *Traitor*, won the 2011 Prime Minister's Literary Award for Fiction. He lives in Western Australia with his wife and five children.

SYNOPSIS

Western Australia, 1955. Lew McLeod has been travelling and working with Painter Hayes since he was a boy. Shearing, charcoal burning—whatever comes. Painter made him his first pair of shoes. But Lew's a grown man now. And with this latest job, shearing for John Drysdale and his daughter Clara, everything will change.

Stephen Daisley writes in lucid, rippling prose of how things work, and why; of the profound satisfaction in hard work done with care, of love and friendship and the damage that both contain.



Peggy Frew
Hope Farm

BIOGRAPHY

Peggy Frew's debut novel, *House of Sticks*, won the 2010 Victorian Premier's Literary Award for an unpublished manuscript. Her story 'Home Visit' won The Age short story competition. She has been published in *New Australian Stories 2*, *Kill Your Darlings*, *The Big Issue*, and *Meanjin*. Peggy is also a member of the critically acclaimed and award-winning Melbourne band *Art of Fighting*. Her latest novel is *Hope Farm*.

SYNOPSIS

They were inescapable, the tensions of the adult world — the fraught and febrile aura that surrounded Ishtar and those in her orbit, that whined and creaked like a wire pulled too tight.

It is the winter of 1985. *Hope Farm* sticks out of the ragged landscape like a decaying tooth, its weatherboard walls sagging into the undergrowth. Silver's mother, Ishtar, has fallen for the charismatic Miller, and the three of them have moved to the rural hippie commune to make a new start.

At *Hope*, Silver finds unexpected friendship and, at last, a place to call home. But it is also here that, at just thirteen, she is thrust into an unrelenting adult world — and the walls begin to come tumbling down, with deadly consequences.

Hope Farm is the masterful second novel from award-winning author Peggy Frew, and is a devastatingly beautiful story about the broken bonds of childhood, and the enduring cost of holding back the truth.



Myfanwy Jones
Leap

BIOGRAPHY

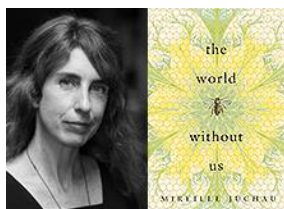
Myfanwy Jones is the author of *The Rainy Season*, shortlisted for The Melbourne Prize for Literature's Best Writing Award 2009, and co-author of the bestselling *Parlour Games for Modern Families*, Book of the Year for Older Children ABIA 2010. She lives by a creek in Melbourne with her human and non-human family.

SYNOPSIS

Joe lives—despite himself. Driven by the need to atone for the neglect of a single tragic summer's night, he works at nothing jobs and, in his spare time, trains his body and mind to conquer the hostile environment that took his love and smashed up his future. So when a breathless girl turns up on the doorstep, why does he let her in? Isn't he done with love and hope?

On the other side of the city, graphic designer Elise is watching her marriage bleed out. She retreats to the only place that holds any meaning for her—the tiger enclosure at the zoo—where, for reasons she barely understands, she starts to sketch the beautiful killers.

Leap is a beautiful urban fairytale about human and animal nature, and the transformative power of grief. While at its heart is a searing absence, this haunting and addictive novel is propelled by an exhilarating life force, and the eternally hopeful promise of redemptive love.



Mireille Juchau
The World Without Us

BIOGRAPHY

Mireille Juchau is a critically acclaimed and accomplished Australian novelist. *The World Without Us* is her third novel, already published in Australia and the UK and soon to be published in US. *The World Without Us* was the winner of The Victorian Literary Premier's Award 2016 and has been shortlisted for the Stella Prize 2016. Her previous novel *Burning In*, was published in 2007 and shortlisted for the Prime Minister's Literary Award 2008, Commonwealth Writers' Prize 2008, the Age Book of the Year Award 2008 and the Nita B. Kibble Award 2008. Her debut, *Machines for Feeling* was shortlisted for the 1999 Vogel/Australian Literary Award. She is also known for her short fiction, essays and reviews and her international award winning play, *White Gifts*, was performed and published in the US.

SYNOPSIS

It has been six months since Tess Müller stopped speaking. Her silence is baffling to her parents, her teachers and her younger sister Meg. The girls' secluded lives in a northern rainforest town are shaken up when their father Stefan discovers human remains on their farm.

As locals in the transient community speculate on who has gone missing, Tess and Meg have a more urgent mystery. Where does their mother Evangeline go each day, pushing an empty pram and returning home muddy and dishevelled?

One day Tess's teacher Jim stumbles across Evangeline by the wild Repentance River. Jim is in flight from his own troubles in Sydney, and Evangeline is in search of elusive truths about her time in a mountain commune. Their charged encounter propels Evangeline's past into the present and sparks a change in all their lives.

As the forest trees are felled and the lakes fill with run-off from the expanding mines, the landscape of the family undergoes shifts of its own. When the rainy season descends and they become separated, each of the Müllers will be forced to decide where they truly belong.



Stephen Orr
The Hands: An Australian pastoral

BIOGRAPHY

Stephen Orr is a celebrated South Australian author whose award-winning novels have won critical acclaim internationally and at home. His novel *Time's Long Ruin* – an 'eloquent, unusual, bold but responsible retelling' of the disappearance of the Beaumont children – was longlisted for the Miles Franklin Award in 2011 and *One Boy Missing* was shortlisted for the Best Crime Novel in the 2014 Ned Kelly Awards.

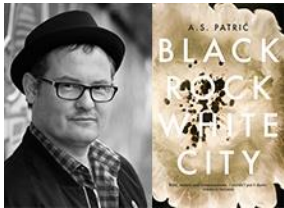
An original and sometimes controversial thinker, Stephen also contributes essays and articles to many publications, on themes literary, historical and topical. He works as a teacher, and enjoys visiting the homes of literary greats around the world.

SYNOPSIS

He didn't look like he could jump a bull, but she knew he could. It was all in the hands, he'd often explain. The will. The bloody mindedness.

On a cattle station that stretches beyond the horizon, seven people are trapped by their history and the need to make a living. Trevor Wilkie, the good father, holds it all together, promising his sons a future he no longer believes in himself. The boys, free to roam the world's biggest backyard, have nowhere to go.

Trevor's father, Murray, is the keeper of stories and the holder of the deed. Murray has no intention of giving up what his forefathers created. But the drought is winning. The cattle are ribs. The bills keep coming. And one day, on the way to town, an accident changes everything.



A.S. Patrić
Black Rock White City

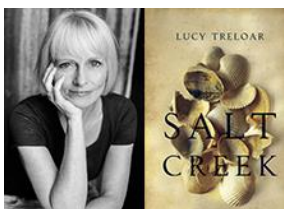
BIOGRAPHY

A. S. Patrić is the award winning author of *Las Vegas for Vegans*, published in 2012 by Transit Lounge. *Las Vegas for Vegans* was shortlisted for the 2013 Queensland Literary Awards' Steele Rudd Prize. His debut novel *Black Rock White City* was launched to critical acclaim in 2015. He is also the author of *Bruno Kramzer* and *The Rattler & other stories*. Alec lives in bayside Melbourne and is a St Kilda bookseller.

SYNOPSIS

During a hot Melbourne summer Jovan's cleaning work at a bayside hospital is disrupted by acts of graffiti and violence becoming increasingly malevolent. For Jovan the mysterious words that must be cleaned away dislodge the poetry of the past. He and his wife Suzana were forced to flee Sarajevo and the death of their children.

Intensely human, yet majestic in its moral vision, *Black Rock White City* is an essential story of Australia's suburbs now, of displacement and immediate threat, and the unexpected responses of two refugees as they try to reclaim their dreams. It is a breathtaking roar of energy that explores the immigrant experience with ferocity, beauty and humour.



Lucy Treloar
Salt Creek

BIOGRAPHY

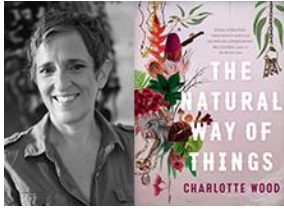
Lucy Treloar was born in Malaysia and educated in England, Sweden and Melbourne. A graduate of the University of Melbourne and RMIT, Lucy is a writer and editor, and has plied her trades both in Australia and in Cambodia, where she lived for a number of years. Her short fiction has appeared in *Sleepers*, *Overland*, *Seizure* and *Best Australian Stories 2013*, and her non-fiction in a range of print media including *The Age*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *Womankind*, *G Magazine*, *The West*, *Visit Cambodia*, *RAM* and *Gardening Australia*. Her first novel, *Salt Creek*, was published by Picador in 2015. Lucy lives in inner Melbourne with her husband, four children and two whippets.

SYNOPSIS

Salt Creek, 1855, lies at the far reaches of the remote, beautiful and inhospitable coastal region, the Coorong, in the new province of South Australia. The area, just opened to graziers willing to chance their luck, becomes home to Stanton Finch and his large family, including fifteen-year-old Hester Finch.

Once wealthy political activists, the Finch family has fallen on hard times. Cut adrift from the polite society they were raised to be part of, Hester and her siblings make connections where they can: with the few travellers that pass along the nearby stock route - among them a young artist, Charles - and the Ngarrindjeri people they have dispossessed. Over the years that pass, and Aboriginal boy, Tully, at first a friend, becomes part of the family.

Stanton's attempts to tame the harsh landscape bring ruin to the Ngarrindjeri people's homes and livelihoods, and unleash a chain of events that will tear the family asunder. As Hester witnesses the destruction of the Ngarrindjeri's subtle culture and the ideals that her family once held so close, she begins to wonder what civilization is. Was it for this life and this world that she was educated?



Charlotte Wood
The Natural Way of Things

BIOGRAPHY

Charlotte Wood is the author of five novels and a book of non-fiction, and editor of The Writer's Room Interviews magazine. Her last novel, *Animal People*, was longlisted for the Miles Franklin award and her other books have been shortlisted for many prizes including the Miles Franklin and the Christina Stead Prize for Fiction. The Australian described her as "one of our finest and most chameleonic writers". She lives in Sydney.

SYNOPSIS

She hears her own thick voice deep inside her ears when she says, 'I need to know where I am.' The man stands there, tall and narrow, hand still on the doorknob, surprised. He says, almost in sympathy, 'Oh, sweetie. You need to know what you are.'

Two women awaken from a drugged sleep to find themselves imprisoned in a broken-down property in the middle of nowhere. Strangers to each other, they have no idea where they are or how they came to be there with eight other girls, forced to wear strange uniforms, their heads shaved, guarded by two inept yet vicious armed jailers and a 'nurse'. The girls all have something in common, but what is it? What crime has brought them here from the city? Who is the mysterious security company responsible for this desolate place with its brutal rules, its total isolation from the contemporary world? Doing hard labour under a sweltering sun, the prisoners soon learn what links them: in each girl's past is a sexual scandal with a powerful man. They pray for rescue -- but when the food starts running out it becomes clear that the jailers have also become the jailed. The girls can only rescue themselves.
