Shankari Chandran wins 2023 Miles Franklin Literary Award for her novel Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens

By Perpetual

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Highlights from the 2023 Miles Franklin Literary Award winner announcement

Media Release

Shankari Chandran has won the prestigious Miles Franklin Literary Award for her novel, *Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens,* published by Ultimo Press.

On winning the award, Chandran said: “It’s such an honour to win the Miles Franklin Literary Award, honestly, I’m still in shock. To be recognised among my Australian writing peers in this way is extraordinary. It means so much to me that *Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens*, a novel that explores what it means to ‘be Australian’, has been recognised in this way.”

Established through the will of *My Brilliant Career* author, Stella Miles Franklin, for the “advancement, improvement and betterment of Australian literature”, the Miles Franklin Literary Award recognises a novel of “the highest literary merit” that presents “Australian life in any of its phases”. Perpetual serves as Trustee for the Award.

Perpetual’s Managing Partner Community, Social and ESG Investment, Caitriona Fay, said: “Since 1957 the Miles Franklin Literary Award has shone a spotlight on not only the wonderful literary talent we have in Australia, but also, the way in which an individual can leave a lasting

legacy on a community and an industry. Miles' will left provision for the foundation of this Award, and more than 65 years later it continues to impact and shape the lives of many."

Chandran will receive $60,000 in prize money.

When describing this year's winning novel, the judges said, "*Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens* is alive with character, dialogue and action. With enormous skill Chandran recounts a solemn history, largely through a cast of squabbling, endearing elders, and invites us to open our hearts and minds: 'If you read the literature of a country…you will understand it; you will fall in love with it.'"

The 2023 judging panel comprised of author and literary critic, Dr Bernadette Brennan; literary scholar and translator, Dr Mridula Nath Chakraborty; book critic, Dr James Ley; NSW Mitchell Librarian and Chair, Richard Neville; and author and editor, Dr Elfie Shiosaki.

The award was announced at a ceremony at The Ovolo Hotel in Sydney on 25 July.

The award's media partner for 2023 is the ABC.

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

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About the Miles Franklin Literary Award www.milesfranklin.com.au

Perpetual is the 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. Since being established, the Award has distributed over $1.54 million in philanthropic funds to authors. Those wishing to be part of the Miles Franklin legacy can donate to the Franklin Support Fund to become a friend of the Award. Please visit the website for further details.

Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund is a long-time supporter of the Miles Franklin Literary Award, providing $5,000 to each of the finalists and granting more than half a million dollars to this premier Australian literary prize since 2004.

About Perpetual Philanthropic Services

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