

## Media Release

### Kibble Awards shortlist highlights female talent in Australian writing

*Shortlist authors are competing for \$35,000 in prizes*

**Tuesday, 5 June 2018**

Seven female authors were announced on the shortlists today for the 2018 Kibble and Dobbie Awards (the Kibble Awards). The Awards, run biennially, are presented to female authors who, through their writing, aim to “improve and advance literature for the benefit of our community”.

Established in 1994, with Perpetual as Trustee, the Kibble Awards recognise Australian female literary talent in honour of Nita Kibble, the first female librarian of the State Library of New South Wales. They comprise the Kibble Literary Award for an established author, as well as the Dobbie Literary Award for a first-time published author.

The 2018 shortlisted authors are:

#### **Kibble Literary Award for an established author (\$30,000 prize)**

Maxine Beneba Clarke	<i>The Hate Race</i>	Hachette Australia
Michelle de Kretser	<i>The Life to Come</i>	Allen & Unwin
Helen Garner	<i>Everywhere I Look</i>	Text Publishing
Fiona McFarlane	<i>The High Places</i>	Penguin Random House

#### **Dobbie Literary Award for a first-time published author (\$5,000 prize)**

Madelaine Dickie	<i>Tropo</i>	Fremantle Press
Sarah Krasnostein	<i>The Trauma Cleaner: One Woman’s Extraordinary Life in Death, Decay &amp; Disaster</i>	Text Publishing
Micheline Lee	<i>The Healing Party: A Novel</i>	Black Inc Books

The judging panel of the Kibble Awards includes Emeritus Professor Elizabeth Webby AM, State Library of New South Wales Coordinator – Education and Scholarship, Dr Rachel Franks, and author Dr Eleanor Limprecht.

Speaking on behalf of the panel, Professor Webby said: “This year’s shortlists demonstrate the wide range as well as the continuing high quality of life writing by Australian women.

“The four titles shortlisted for the Kibble Award come from well established as well as newer female authors. Most of them deal with life in contemporary Australia but each author has a

very individual voice and uses a different literary genre. One is a memoir, one a collection of stories, one a novel, and the other a collection of essays.

"The three titles shortlisted for the Dobbie Award include two novels, one of which deals with Australians in Indonesia and the other with a Malaysian family living in Australia, as well as a work of non-fiction which focuses on a little-known aspect of Australian life," she said.

Since 1994, some of Australia's leading female authors have been recipients of the Awards. Highly regarded poet and critic, Fiona Wright, was the most recent recipient of the \$30,000 Kibble Award for her work, *Small Acts of Disappearance*, while first-time author Lucy Treloar was awarded the \$5,000 Dobbie Award for her work *Salt Creek*.

Perpetual's National Manager of Philanthropy and Non-Profit Services, Caitriona Fay, congratulated the shortlisted authors on their achievement.

"To be nominated on the shortlist for such a prestigious Award that celebrates and recognises female authors is a tremendous achievement. As trustee of the Award, it is so pleasing to see the legacy of Nita May Dobbie and Nita Kibble live on through these great writers."

The Kibble Award winners will be revealed in Sydney on 25 July 2018.

- Ends -

For more information about the Award, please visit [www.perpetual.com.au/kibble](http://www.perpetual.com.au/kibble)

**For enquiries related to Perpetual or to request an interview with Caitriona Fay, National Manager of Philanthropy and Non-Profit Services, Perpetual Private, or judge, Professor Elizabeth Webby, please contact:**

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**About Nita May Dobbie**

Nita Dobbie established the Kibble Literary Awards for Women Writers in recognition of her aunt, Nita Kibble, who raised her from birth after her mother died.

In the late 1800s, Miss Kibble had successfully answered an advertisement for a junior assistant at the Public Library of New South Wales, when her signature was taken for a man's. She later became the first woman to be appointed a

librarian with the State Library of New South Wales and held the position of Principal Research Officer from 1919 until her retirement. Throughout her career she worked hard to raise the status of the library profession and was a founding member of the Australian Institute of Librarians.

Miss Dobbie followed her aunt into the library profession and recognised the need to foster women's writing in the community and so established the Awards, named after her inspirational aunt, through her will.

Since the inception of the Kibble Literary Awards in 1994, many of Australia's leading women writers have received prizes, each benefiting from Nita Dobbie's foresight and vision. The trust behind the Awards was established with just under \$400,000 and is managed by Perpetual. Today, it's worth more than \$750,000 and has awarded close to \$600,000 to writers.

#### **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 30 June 2017). 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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