

Media Release

Perpetual announces longlists for the 2018 Nita B Kibble Literary Awards

Longlist authors are competing for \$35,000 in prizes

Friday, 20 April 2018

16 female authors were announced on the longlists today for this year's Kibble and Dobbie Awards (the Kibble Awards), as the proud legacy established by Nita May Dobbie to celebrate and recognise Australian female writers continues in 2018.

The Awards, run biennially, are presented to female authors lauded for "improving and advancing literature for the benefit of our community" and recognise both established (Kibble Award) and first-published authors (Dobbie Award). This year, applications were open for works published since the last awards in 2016. Eight authors have been announced on each of the longlists for 2018.

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, Ms Webby said: "Australian women's life writing has continued its remarkable growth in both quantity and quality, requiring us once again to expand the size of the longlists for both the Kibble and Dobbie Awards.

"Most of the sixteen titles longlisted this year focus on life in contemporary Australia and demonstrate the increasing diversity of Australian women's lives and voices," Ms Webby said.

The 2018 longlisted authors are:

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

Maxine Beneba Clarke	<i>The Hate Race</i>	Hachette Australia
Vanessa Berry	<i>Mirror Sydney</i>	Giramondo Publishing
Judith Brett	<i>The Enigmatic Mr Deakin</i>	Text Publishing
Michelle de Kretser	<i>The Life to Come</i>	Allen & Unwin
Helen Garner	<i>Everywhere I Look</i>	Text Publishing
Sofie Laguna	<i>The Choke</i>	Allen & Unwin
Fiona McFarlane	<i>The High Places</i>	Penguin Random House
Sonya Voumard	<i>The Media and the Massacre</i>	Transit Lounge Publishing

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

Melanie Cheng	<i>Australia Day</i>	Text Publishing
Eva De Jong-Duldig	<i>Driftwood: Escape and Survival Through Art</i>	Australian Scholarly Publishing
Madelaine Dickie	<i>Troppo</i>	Fremantle Press
Jennifer Down	<i>Our Magic Hour</i>	Text Publishing
Jessica Friedmann	<i>Things That Helped</i>	Scribe Publications
Roanna Gonsalves	<i>The Permanent Resident</i>	UWA Publishing
Sarah Krasnostein	<i>The Trauma Cleaner: One Woman's Extraordinary Life in Death, Decay & Disaster</i>	Text Publishing
Micheline Lee	<i>The Healing Party: A Novel</i>	Black Inc Books

Some of Australia's leading female authors have been recipients of the Awards since they were first established in 1994. 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 longlisted authors on their achievement.

"To be nominated 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 Awards shortlist will be announced in early June 2018.

- Ends -

For more information about the Award, please visit 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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