

Three past winners make the esteemed Miles Franklin Literary Award longlist, revealed by Perpetual

EMBARGOED Wednesday, 23 May 2018: Three former winners of the Miles Franklin Literary Award have been named on the 2018 Longlist. Peter Carey, Michelle de Kretser and Kim Scott are joined by eight other established authors, all of whom have received numerous literary accolades throughout their careers, making the 2018 longlist a remarkable collection of Australian stories.

Perpetual, the trustee of the Miles Franklin Literary Award, today announced eleven authors will be competing for the rich literary prize of \$60,000, arguably the most prestigious literary accolade in Australia.

The Miles Franklin Literary Award was established through the will of *My Brilliant Career* author, Stella Maria Sarah Miles Franklin. Patrick White, the first winner of Australia's most prestigious literature prize was crowned in 1957 with Voss, and since then the Miles Franklin Literary Award has presented more than \$1.1 million to Australian authors.

The Award shines light on some of Australia's most talented writers, and while the prize has been given to a truly wide scope of novels, it has always remained true to the terms of Miles Franklin's will; to be of the highest literary merit and presenting Australian life in any phase.

The 2018 Miles Franklin Literary Award longlist is:

Author	Novel	Publisher
Peter Carey	<i>A Long Way from Home</i>	Penguin Random House
Felicity Castagna	<i>No More Boats</i>	Giramondo Publishing
Michelle de Kretser	<i>The Life to Come</i>	Allen & Unwin
Lia Hills	<i>The Crying Place</i>	Allen & Unwin
Eva Hornung	<i>The Last Garden</i>	Text Publishing
Wayne Macauley	<i>Some Tests</i>	Text Publishing
Catherine McKinnon	<i>Storyland</i>	HarperCollins Publishers
Gerald Murnane	<i>Border Districts</i>	Giramondo Publishing
Jane Rawson	<i>From the Wreck</i>	Transit Lounge
Michael Sala	<i>The Restorer</i>	Text Publishing
Kim Scott	<i>Taboo</i>	Picador Australia (Pan Macmillan Australia)

"The longlist for the Miles Franklin Literary Award 2018 spans many genres of the novel: historical, fantastical, realist, satirical, allegorical and autobiographical," said Richard Neville, Mitchell Librarian of the State Library of NSW and head of the Award judging panel. "The books take us back in time to consider the effects of the past, or address the issues of contemporary life, or give glimpses of an uncertain, even frightening future."

“Whether dealing with disconnection, dispossession, the many varieties of grief and its resolutions, the violence done to those close or those unknown, or the deeper questions of existence, the eleven longlisted novels engage and reward the reader,” added Neville.

Joining Richard Neville on the judging panel is *The Australian* journalist and columnist, Murray Waldren, book critic Dr Melinda Harvey, Sydney-based bookseller, Lindy Jones and Emeritus Professor, Susan Sheridan.

Perpetual’s National Manager of Philanthropy, Caitriona Fay, commended the longlisted authors.

“The authors named on this year’s longlist represent some of Australia’s most talented and provocative novelists. For more than 60 years, the Miles Franklin Literary Award has been supporting authors and helping to foster a uniquely Australian literature.

“The Award is a testament to the generosity of Miles Franklin and shows the difference one person can make to a community. Perpetual is proud to support Australia’s most prestigious literature prize. It’s a great example of how, with management, philanthropic donations can grow well beyond their original intentions.,” added Fay.

Some of the notable winners of the Miles Franklin Literary Award include: Tim Winton with *Breath* (2009), *Dirt Music* (2002), *Cloudstreet* (1992) and *Shallows* (1984). Winton shares the crown for most wins with Thea Astley for *Drylands* (2000), *The Acolyte* (1972), *The Slow Natives* (1965) and *The Well Dressed Explorer* (1962). Peter Carey has won three times for *Jack Maggs* (1998), *Oscar and Lucinda* (1989) and *Bliss* (1981), and Kim Scott twice for *That Deadman Dance* (2011) and *Benang* (2000).

The shortlisted finalists will be revealed on Sunday, 17 June at the Annual Australian Booksellers Association (ABA) Gala Dinner in Canberra. The winner announcement will be made on Sunday, 26 August in Melbourne.

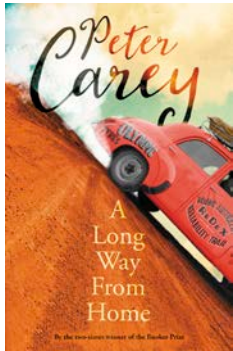
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For further information about the Miles Franklin Literary Award, visit <http://www.milesfranklin.com.au/>

For enquiries related to The Miles Franklin Literary Award, Perpetual, Copyright Agency’s Cultural Fund or to request an interview with finalists or judges please contact:

Jane Morey
Morey Media
02 9229 9922
0416 097 678
jane@moreymedia.com.au

Background Information – 2018 Miles Franklin Longlist



Peter Carey
A Long Way From Home

BIOGRAPHY:

Peter Carey was born in Bacchus Marsh, Victoria, and now lives in New York. He is the author of fourteen novels (including one for children), two volumes of short stories, and two books on travel. Amongst other prizes, Carey has won the Booker Prize twice (for *Oscar and Lucinda* and *True History of the Kelly Gang*), the Commonwealth Writers' Prize twice (for *Jack Maggs* and *True History of the Kelly Gang*), and the Miles Franklin Literary Award three times (for *Bliss*, *Oscar and Lucinda* and *Jack Maggs*).

SYNOPSIS:

Irene Bobs loves fast driving. Her husband is the best car salesman in western Victoria. Together they enter the Redex Trial, a brutal race around the ancient continent over roads no car will ever quite survive. With them is their lanky fair-haired navigator, Willie Bachhuber, a quiz show champion and failed schoolteacher whose job it is to call out the turns, the grids, the creek crossings on a map that will finally remove them, without warning, from the lily-white Australia they know so well.

This thrilling, high-speed story starts in one way and then takes you someplace else. It is often funny, the more so as the world gets stranger, and always a page-turner, even as you learn a history these characters never knew themselves.



Felicity Castagna
No More Boats

BIOGRAPHY:

Felicity Castagna won the 2014 Prime Minister's Literary Award for Young Adult Fiction for her previous novel, *The Incredible Here and Now*, which was shortlisted for the Children's Book Council of Australia and NSW Premier's Literary Awards, and adapted for the stage by the National Theatre of Parramatta. Her collection of short stories, *Small Indiscretions*, was named an *Australian Book Review* Book of the Year. Castagna's work has appeared on radio and television, and she runs the storytelling series Studio Stories.

SYNOPSIS:

It is 2001. 438 refugees sit in a boat called Tampa off the shoreline of Australia, while the TV and radio scream out that the country is being flooded, inundated, overrun by migrants. Antonio Martone, once a migrant himself, has been forced to retire, his wife has moved in with the woman next door, his daughter runs off with strange men, his deadbeat son is hiding in the garden smoking marijuana. Amid his growing paranoia, the ghost of his dead friend shows up and commands him to paint 'No More Boats' in giant letters across his front yard.



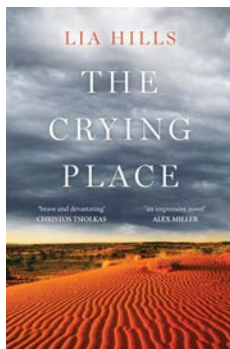
Michelle de Kretser
The Life to Come

BIOGRAPHY:

Michelle de Kretser was born in Sri Lanka and emigrated to Australia when she was 14. Educated in Melbourne and Paris, Michelle has worked as a university tutor, an editor and a book reviewer. She is the author of *The Rose Grower*, *The Hamilton Case*, which won the Commonwealth Prize (SE Asia and Pacific region) and the UK Encore Prize, and *The Lost Dog*, which was widely praised by writers such as AS Byatt, Hilary Mantel and William Boyd and won a swag of awards, including: the 2008 NSW Premier's Book of the Year Award and the Christina Stead Prize for Fiction, and the 2008 ALS Gold Medal. The *Lost Dog* was also shortlisted for the Vance Palmer Prize for Fiction, the Western Australian Premier's Australia-Asia Literary Award, the Commonwealth Writers' Prize (Asia-Pacific Region) and Orange Prize's Shadow Youth Panel. It was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize and the Orange Prize for Fiction. Her last novel, *Questions of Travel*, received 14 honours, including winning the 2013 Miles Franklin Literary Award.

SYNOPSIS:

Set in Sydney, Paris and Sri Lanka, *The Life to Come* is a mesmerising novel about the stories we tell and don't tell ourselves as individuals, as societies and as nations. Pippa is a writer who longs for success. Celeste tries to convince herself that her feelings for her married lover are reciprocated. Ash makes strategic use of his childhood in Sri Lanka but blots out the memory of a tragedy from that time. Driven by riveting stories and unforgettable characters, here is a dazzling meditation on intimacy, loneliness and our flawed perception of other people.



Lia Hills
The Crying Place

BIOGRAPHY:

Lia Hills is a poet, novelist and translator. Her debut novel, *The Beginner's Guide to Living*, was released to critical acclaim and was shortlisted for the Victorian, Queensland and Western Australian Premiers' Literary Awards and the New Zealand Post Book Awards. It has been translated into several languages. Other works include her award-winning poetry collection *the possibility of flight* and her translation of Marie Darrieussecq's acclaimed novel, *Tom is Dead*. She lives with her family in the hills outside Melbourne.

SYNOPSIS:

A stunning literary debut that takes the reader into the mysteries and truths that lie at the heart of our country. After years of travelling, Saul is trying to settle down. But one night he receives the devastating news of the death of his oldest friend, Jed, recently returned from working in a remote Aboriginal community. Saul's discovery in Jed's belongings of a photo of a woman convinces him that she may hold the answers to Jed's fate. So he heads out on a journey into the heart of the Australian desert to find the truth, setting in motion a powerful story about the landscapes that shape us and the ghosts that lay their claim. *The Crying Place* is a haunting, luminous novel about love, country, and the varied ways in which we grieve.



Eva Hornung
The Last Garden

BIOGRAPHY:

Eva Hornung, formerly published as Eva Sallis, was born in Bendigo and now lives in rural South Australia. Her first novel *Hiam* won the Australian/Vogel Literary Award in 1997 and the Nita May Dobbie Award in 1999 while *The Marsh Birds* won the Asher Literary Award in 2005. The highly acclaimed *Dog Boy* was shortlisted for numerous prizes and won the Prime Minister's Literary Award in 2010. *The Last Garden* won the Premier's Award in the 2018 Adelaide Festival Awards for Literature and has been shortlisted for the ALS Gold Medal.

SYNOPSIS:

The settlement of Wahrheit, founded in exile to await the return of the Messiah, has been waiting longer than expected. Pastor Helfgott has begun to feel the subtle fraying of the community's faith. Then Matthias Orion shoots his wife and himself, on the very day their son Benedict returns home from boarding school. Benedict is unmoored by shock, severed from his past and his future. Unable to be inside the house, unable to speak, he moves into the barn with the horses and chooks, relying on the animals' strength and the rhythm of the working day to hold his shattered self together.

The pastor watches over Benedict through the year of his crazy grief: man and boy growing, each according to his own capacity, as they come to terms with the unknowable past and the frailties of being human.



Wayne Macauley
Some Tests

BIOGRAPHY:

Wayne Macauley is the author of the acclaimed novels *Blueprints for a Barbed-Wire Canoe*, *Caravan Story*, *The Cook* and *Demons*. *The Cook* was shortlisted for a Western Australian Premier's Book Award, a Victorian Premier's Literary Award and the Melbourne Prize Best Writing Award. *Some Tests* has been shortlisted for an Adelaide Festival Award for Literature and an Australian Book Design Award.

SYNOPSIS:

It begins with the normally healthy Beth—aged-care worker, wife of David, mother of Lettie and Gem—feeling vaguely off-colour. A locum sends her to Dr Yi for some tests. 'There are a few things here that aren't quite right,' says Dr Yi, 'and sometimes it is these little wrongnesses that can lead us to the bigger wrongs that matter.'

Beth is sent on to Dr Twoomey for more tests. Then to another specialist, and another...Referral after referral sees her bumped from suburb to suburb, bewildered, joining busloads of people all clutching white envelopes and hoping for answers. But what is actually wrong with Beth—is anything, in fact, wrong with her? And what strange forces are at work in the system? As the novel reaches its stunning climax, we realise how strange these forces are. Unnerving and brilliant, *Some Tests* is about waking up one morning and finding your ordinary life changed forever.



Catherine McKinnon
Storyland

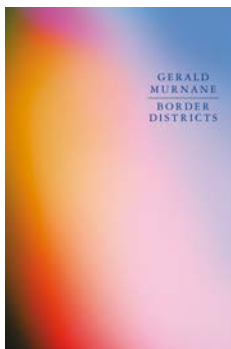
BIOGRAPHY:

Award-winning playwright and novelist, Catherine McKinnon studied theatre performance and cinema at Flinders University, and worked for the Red Shed Theatre and later the State Theatre Company as a theatre director and writer. Her play *Tilt* was selected for the 2010 National Playwriting Festival, and *As I Lay Dreaming* won the 2010 Mitch Matthews Award. Her short stories, reviews and articles have appeared in *Transnational Literature*, *Text Journal*, *RealTime*, *Narrative* and *Griffith Review*. Most recently, McKinnon, along with four other writers, won the Griffith Review Novella 111 Award, 2015, and her novella 'Will Martin' was published by *Griffith Review* in October of that year. She currently lectures in Performance and Creative Writing at the University of Wollongong.

SYNOPSIS:

In 1796, a young cabin boy, Will Martin, goes on a voyage of discovery in the Tom Thumb with Matthew Flinders and Mr Bass: two men and a boy in a tiny boat on an exploratory journey south from Sydney Cove to the Illawarra, full of hope and dreams, daring and fearfulness.

Set on the banks of Lake Illawarra and spanning four centuries, *Storyland* is a unique and compelling novel of people and place - which tells in essence the story of Australia. Told in an unfurling narrative of interlinking stories, McKinnon weaves together the stories of Will Martin together with the stories of four others: a desperate ex-convict, Hawker, who commits an act of terrible brutality; Lola, who in 1900 runs a dairy farm on the Illawarra with her brother and sister, when they come under suspicion for a crime they did not commit; Bel, a young girl who goes on a rafting adventure with her friends in 1998 and is unexpectedly caught up in violent events; and in 2033, Nada, who sees her world start to crumble apart. Intriguingly, all these characters are all connected - not only through the same land and water they inhabit over the decades, but also by tendrils of blood, history, memory and property...



Gerald Murnane
Border Districts

BIOGRAPHY:

Gerald Murnane was born in Melbourne in 1939. He is the author of eleven works of fiction, including *Tamarisk Row*, *The Plains*, *Inland*, *Barley Patch*, *A History of Books*, *A Million Windows*, and *Border Districts*, and a collection of essays, *Invisible Yet Enduring Lilacs*. He is a recipient of an Emeritus Fellowship from the Australia Council, the Patrick White Literary Award, the Melbourne Prize for Literature, the Adelaide Festival Literature Award for Innovation and the Victorian Premier's Literary Award.

SYNOPSIS:

Similar to Gerald Murnane, who moved from Melbourne to a small town on the western edge of the Wimmera Plains, the narrator of this fiction has made a move from a capital city to a remote town in the border country, where he intends to spend the last years of his life. It is a time for exploring the enduring elements of his experience, as these exist in his mind, not as an integral landscape now, but as image-fragments; so that there is an urgency in his attempts to gather them together. Often it is the way the light falls that makes the image memorable. But if *Border Districts* suggests the border land between life and death, it also refers to the narrator's discovery of someone else who might share his world, though she enters it from another direction, across the distance which separates them as human beings.



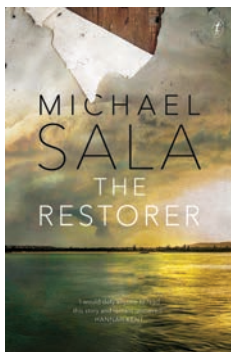
Jane Rawson
From the Wreck

BIOGRAPHY:

Jane Rawson's latest novel, *From the Wreck* (2017, Transit Lounge), won the Aurealis Award for Best Science Fiction Novel and was shortlisted for the Readings Prize for New Australian Fiction and the Adelaide Festival Awards for Literature. Her previous novel, *A wrong turn at the Office of Unmade Lists* (2013 Transit Lounge), won the Small Press Network's 2014 'Most Underrated Book' Award, and her novella, *Formaldehyde* (2015 Seizure), won the Seizure Viva La Novella Prize. She is the co-author of *The handbook: surviving and living with climate change* (2015 Transit Lounge), written with James Whitmore. Her short fiction has been published by Overland, Tincture, Seizure, Griffith Review, Meanjin and Review of Australian Fiction. She works as a public servant.

SYNOPSIS:

From the Wreck is about loss, loneliness, seeking refuge, and our relationship with other species. It is set in Port Adelaide, South Australia, in the late 19th century. There are four main characters. George Hills is a young ship's steward who survives the sinking of the steamship *Admella* by clinging to the wreck for eight days. (George is based on my great-great-grandfather, who survived the real-life wreck of the *Admella*.) Ten years later, George is running a sailors' home and is married with three boys. Henry, aged 10, is the oldest. He is a strange child who falls into trances and is obsessed with life underwater. Their neighbour is Beatrice Gallwey, a free-spirited widow in her 40s who is raising her infant grandson against her will. The fourth character is an unnamed shape-shifting creature who fled her home planet when it was destroyed by human-like invaders, ending up in the South Australian ocean. Shortly after we first meet her she takes the shape of shipwreck survivor, Bridget Ledwith. Minor characters are George's wife, Eliza, her sister Sarah and husband William, and a younger Hills son, Georgie.



Michael Sala
The Restorer

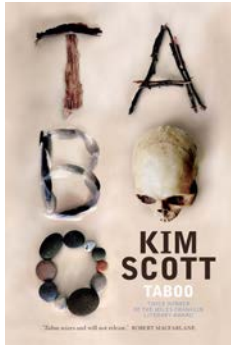
BIOGRAPHY:

Michael Sala was born in the Netherlands in 1975 to a Greek father and a Dutch mother, and first came to Australia in the 1980s. He lives in Newcastle. His critically acclaimed debut, *The Last Thread*, won the 2013 NSW Premier's Award for New Writing and was the regional winner (Pacific) of the 2013 Commonwealth Book Prize. In 2018, *The Restorer* was shortlisted for a Victorian Premier's Literary Awards for Fiction, the NSW Premier's Christina Stead Prize for Fiction and the ABIA's Small Publisher's Adult Book of the Year.

SYNOPSIS:

After a year apart, Maryanne returns to her husband, Roy, bringing their eight-year-old son Daniel and his teenage sister Freya with her. The family move from Sydney to Newcastle, where Roy has bought a derelict house on the coast. As Roy painstakingly patches the holes in the floorboards and plasters over cracks in the walls, Maryanne believes, for a while, that they can rebuild a life together.

But Freya doesn't want a fresh start—she just wants out—and Daniel drifts around the sprawling, run-down house in a dream, infuriating his father, who soon forgets the promises he has made.



Kim Scott
Taboo

BIOGRAPHY:

Kim Scott grew up on the South Coast of Western Australia. As a descendant of those who first created human society along that edge of ocean, he is proud to be one among those who call themselves Noongar. He began writing for publication when he became a teacher of English and has had poetry and short stories published in a number of anthologies. *That Deadman Dance* has won several awards, including the 2011 Miles Franklin Award and the 2011 Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Fiction – regional winner. Kim lives in Coolbellup, Western Australia, and is currently employed at the Curtin Health Innovation Research Institute, Curtin University.

SYNOPSIS:

Taboo takes place in the present day, in the rural South-West of Western Australia, and tells the story of a group of Noongar people who revisit, for the first time in many decades, a taboo place: the site of a massacre that followed the assassination, by these Noongar's descendants, of a white man who had stolen a black woman. They come at the invitation of Dan Horton, the elderly owner of the farm on which the massacres unfolded. He hopes that by hosting the group he will satisfy his wife's dying wishes and cleanse some moral stain from the ground on which he and his family have lived for generations. But the sins of the past will not be so easily expunged.