



Media Release: Monday, March 1, 2010

2010 WINNER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S PREMIER'S AWARD ANNOUNCED AT ADELAIDE WRITERS' WEEK.

For the first time, the winning entry from the **Children's literature** category of the **Adelaide Festival awards for literature** has also taken out the coveted **Premier's award**.

As well as winning the award for **Children's literature (\$15,000)**, **Shaun Tan** has been named the recipient of the **Premier's award (\$10,000)**. His winning book ***Tales from outer suburbia*** pays homage to the Australian suburb and the diverse families that make their homes there. The book's anonymous narrators tend to be children, sometimes as adults recalling strange, enigmatic events of their childhood, more often a pair of friends or brothers encountering something intriguing, uncanny and amazing in their neighbourhood.

The winners of the **2010 Adelaide Festival awards for literature** were announced yesterday, Sunday 28 February 2010 at **Adelaide Writers' Week** by the **Honourable Mike Rann**.

Established in 1986, the awards, **valued at \$130,000**, are among the nation's most competitive literary awards, with 761 entries submitted for 2010.

There are 10 award categories – six national awards and two awards and two fellowships specifically for South Australian writers.

The national awards are for best works published in Australia in the last two years. The categories are: **Children's literature** (\$15,000), **Fiction** (\$15,000), **Innovation** (\$10,000), **Non-fiction** (\$15,000) and the **John Bray poetry** (\$15,000).

The **Premier's award** (\$10,000) is selected from the winners of these national awards.

"These prestigious awards honour the very best in Australia literature from the last two years. They acknowledge established writers as well as emerging writers. I congratulate all the 2010 State and national winners, particularly 2010 recipient of the **Premier's award – Shaun Tan**" said Premier Mike Rann.

Other national award winners were –

David Malouf - Fiction award for ***Ransom*** (Random House). Re-imagining the events surrounding the siege of Troy, bringing to life the relationships between characters from Homer's *The Iliad*, a memorable meditation on love, forgiveness and mortality.

Jill Roe: Non-fiction award for **Stella Miles Franklin: A Biography** (Fourth Estate/HarperCollins).

A scholarly biography celebrating the extraordinary life of Stella Miles Franklin, the writer of Australia's first novel *My brilliant career*.

Gerald Murnan: Innovation award for **The barley patch** (Giramondo Publishing).

A mesmerizing writing experiment, at once intimate and expansive, exploring the questions "must I write" and "why had I written?"

Bronwyn Lea: John Bray poetry award for **The other way out** (Giramondo Poets)

Quirky, charming, warmly engaging the reader, providing insights from the perspective of an astute external observer; an astute and original collection.

Recipients of two awards and fellowships specifically for South Australian writers:

Amy T. Matthews: Unpublished manuscript award for ***End of the night girl***

End of the night girl is a sassy modern drama of a young woman's search for purpose amid confused family, sexual and social relationships. Set in Adelaide, this compelling page-turner, demonstrates the author's extraordinary skill, intelligence and assurance.

Nina Pearce : Jill Blewett playwright's award for ***This place***

This place is an ambitious and inventive script and proof of Nina's potential as a clever and sensitive playwright. Nina is ripe for this opportunity. Her writing is exciting, courageous and passionate and touches on an issue all too often thought of as taboo.

Nicole Plüss: Carclew Fellowship for ***Alone with me***

The judges acknowledged that Nicole is a well respected and accomplished writer for young people. Her writing is sharp and distinctive, Nicole's subject matter is always topical, and importantly, relevant to today's youth.

Patrick Allington: Barbara Hanrahan Fellowship for ***Potatoes in all their glory* and *How to win at democracy***

Patrick's wry sense of humour and his satirical and affectionate portrait of contemporary Adelaide is impressive. The judges are confident that *Potatoes in all their glory* and *How to win at democracy* judges will be compelling contemporary reading.

2010 marks the **13th biennial** of the **Adelaide Festival awards for literature** and in this time over well over \$1 million dollars has been distributed to Australia's leading writers through its national categories as well as to up-coming South Australian writers through its awards and fellowships.

A full listing of the recipients follows.

Issued by Foster Hill PR on behalf of Arts SA.

For more information or interviews, contact Karyn Foster at Foster Hill PR on (08) 8231 3555 or 0417 733 447 or karynfoster@fosterhill.com.au.

Contact on the day will be Amy Schapel 0409 003 340 or Mandy-Jane Giannopoulos 0401 125 194

2010 Adelaide Festival awards for literature – Full list of winners:

\$10,000 Premier's award (there are no entries in this category)

Tales from outer suburbia by Shaun Tan (Allen & Unwin)

(Shaun lives in Victoria)

\$15,000 Children's literature award (200 entries)

Tales from outer suburbia by Shaun Tan (Allen & Unwin)

\$15,000 Fiction award (144 entries)

Ransom by David Malouf (Knopf/Random House)

(David lives in New South Wales)

\$10,000 Innovation award (54 entries)

Barley patch by Gerald Murnane (Giramondo)

(Gerald lives in Victoria)

\$15,000 Non-fiction award (166 entries)

Stella Miles Franklin: A Biography by Jill Roe (Fourth Estate/HarperCollins)

(Jill lives in New South Wales)

\$15,000 John Bray poetry award (97 entries)

The other way out by Bronwyn Lea (Giramondo Poets)

(Bronwyn lives in Queensland)

South Australian recipients:

\$10,000 Jill Blewett playwright's award (7 entries)

This place by Nina Pearce

(Nina lives in Happy Valley, South Australia)

\$10,000 Unpublished manuscript award (82 entries)

End of the night girl by Amy T. Matthews

(Amy lives in Walkerville, South Australia)

\$15,000 Barbara Hanrahan Fellowship (5 entries)

Potatoes in all their glory and How to win at democracy by Patrick Allington

(Patrick lives in Plympton, South Australia)

\$15,000 Carclew Fellowship (6 entries)

Alone with me by Nicole Plüss

(Nicole currently lives in Sydney but lived in the Prospect area, South Australia)

- ends -