

Media Release

2018 National Biography Award shortlist announced

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Six compelling personal stories have been shortlisted for the \$25,000 National Biography Award 2018, the State Library of NSW announced **TODAY [Monday 9 July]** at a special event.

The shortlisted works are:

- *Songs of a War Boy* by Deng Thiak Adut with Ben Mckelvey (Hachette Australia)
- *Paul Keating: The Big-Picture Leader* by Troy Bramston (Scribe Publications)
- *A Writing Life: Helen Garner and Her Work* by Bernadette Brennan (Text Publishing)
- *The Enigmatic Mr Deakin* by Judith Brett (Text Publishing)
- *Writing for Raksmei: A Story of Cambodia* by Joan Healy (Monash University Publishing)
- *The Boy Behind the Curtain* by Tim Winton (Penguin Random House Australia)

Senior Judge, Associate Professor Richard White commented: “Australia’s long tradition of evocative memoir and illuminating biography is alive and well, as these six shortlisted books demonstrate.”

“Biography allows us to peer into another life, with all its individuality tempered by a sense of common humanity. But importantly, it also helps us see the world through another pair of eyes. Today, perhaps, that is a skill we need more than ever,” Professor White said.

The 2018 award attracted 81 entries which were assessed by a judging panel comprising of Associate Professor Richard White, Dr Georgina Arnott and Dr Chris Cunneen.

According to State Librarian Dr John Vallance: “Whether it’s fact or fiction, history or herstory, biography has been a central part of the literary diet for millenia and looks set to stay that way. In Australia, the National Biography Award continues to attract some of our best writers.”

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A total of \$31,000 in prize money will be awarded, with the overall winner receiving \$25,000 and each shortlisted author receiving \$1,000 in recognition of their achievement.

The winner will be announced on Monday 6 August 2018 at a special free event at the State Library of NSW. For more information and bookings visit: www.sl.nsw.gov.au/awards or call (02) 9273 1770.

Established in 1996 by Dr Geoffrey Cains and generously supported by the late Michael Crouch AC, the National Biography Award encourages the highest standards of writing in the fields of biography and autobiography, and promotes public interest in these genres.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact:

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