

# Media Release



## Fancy a crack at Australia's first humour writing prize?

17/12/2014

The State Library of NSW has announced the launch of the inaugural Russell Prize for Humour Writing, the only award of its kind in Australia.

Light or dark, fun or farce – published works of fiction, memoir, poetry and verse by Australian writers will be considered for the biennial \$10,000 prize, with entries now open.

The Prize has been made possible by the generous bequest of the late Peter Wentworth Russell, a farmer, businessman and passionate reader.

Administered and presented by the State Library of NSW on behalf of the estate, the prize aims to celebrate, recognise and encourage humour writing, and to promote interest in this genre.

As a proud and long-time supporter of Australian literature, the State Library of NSW and its Foundation are thrilled to announce this unique new prize as part of its large stable of awards and prizes it administers, including the NSW Literary and History Awards and the National Biography Award.

“The Russell Prize for Humour Writing will celebrate the written works that have amused us over the last two years, and encouraged us to ponder what is so unique about the Australian sense of humour,” said Alex Byrne, NSW State Librarian & Chief Executive.

Rachel Hill, who fondly remembers her godfather Peter Russell’s “sense of the ridiculous,” hopes that the prize will “make a difference to our literary world and put a smile on many faces.”

Author and journalist Peter FitzSimons is so enthusiastic about this new addition to Australia’s literary awards landscape that he has agreed to be the Patron for the prize.

“Australians are self-deprecatory by nature, and as part of the larrikin streak to laugh at ourselves, it is fortunate we've always had plenty of material to work with. I am thrilled that the nation’s best humour writing will be officially recognised with this new prize,” said Mr FitzSimons.

Works nominated for the 2015 prize must have been first published in the previous two years, between 1 January 2013 and 31 December 2014.

Works of fiction and non-fiction, including collections of short stories, poetry and verse are eligible for consideration.

All  
**GREAT**  
*stories*  
LEAD BACK *to* us.

# Media Release



There will be an extended nomination period to allow for the Christmas and New Year period, with **entries for the 2015 Russell Prize for Humour Writing closing on Friday 6 February 2015.**

Entry forms and guidelines are available here:  
[http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/about/awards/humour\\_award/](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/about/awards/humour_award/)

**The winner will be announced at the State Library of NSW in June 2015.**

**Media contact:**

Vanessa Bond, Media & Communications Manager, State Library of NSW  
(02) 9273 1566, 0411 259 898, [vanessa.bond@sl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:vanessa.bond@sl.nsw.gov.au)