

19 June 2013

**THE TRUST COMPANY ANNOUNCES MICHELLE DE KRETZER AS WINNER OF THE  
2013 MILES FRANKLIN LITERARY AWARD**

The Trust Company, as Trustee, and the 2013 judges this afternoon announced Michelle de Kretzer as the winner of this year's Miles Franklin Literary Award for her novel, *Questions of Travel* at an event held at the National Library of Australia, Canberra.

The Miles Franklin Literary Award, recognised as Australia's most prestigious literary prize, was established in 1954 through the Will of *My Brilliant Career* author, Stella Maria Sarah Miles Franklin, to encourage and support writers of Australian literature. The annual Award is presented to the novel of the year which is judged to be of the highest literary merit and "presents Australian Life in any of its phases". Ms de Kretzer will receive \$60,000 in prize money.

Speaking on behalf of the 2013 judging panel, Richard Neville, Mitchell Librarian, State Library of NSW said the five novels in the 2013 shortlist, were at a surface level all about families.

"Searching for their comfort, the crisis when they fail, escaping their pervasive grasp, or the despair when they do not seem possible – but more deeply these books are about the intersection of people's lives with national, indeed international, stories and ideas. Each novel approaches its subject from a very different perspective, but all deliver complex, engrossing narratives which persist long after the books are closed," Mr Neville said.

"Michelle de Kretzer's wonderful novel, *Questions of Travel*, centres on two characters, with two stories, each describing a different journey. The stories intertwine and pull against one another, and within this double narrative, de Kretzer explores questions of home and away, travel and tourism, refugees and migrants, as well as 'questions of travel' in the virtual world, charting the rapid changes in electronic communication that mark our lives today.

"She brings these large questions close-up and personal with her witty and poignant observations and her vivid language. Her novel is about keeping balance in a speeding, spinning world."

Richard Neville was joined on the judging panel by Murray Waldren, journalist and columnist at *The Australian* newspaper; Anna Low, a Sydney-based bookseller; Craig Munro biographer, book historian, publishing editor and founding chair of the Queensland Writers Centre and Emeritus Professor Susan Sheridan.

Born in Sri Lanka and emigrating to Australia when she was 14, de Kretzer was educated in Melbourne and Paris, and has worked as a university tutor, an editor and a book reviewer. She is also the award-winning author of *The Rose Grower*, *The Hamilton Case* and *The Lost Dog*. *The Lost Dog*, aside from winning the 2008 NSW Premier's Book of the Year Award, was also longlisted for the 2008 Man Booker Prize and the 2008 Orange Prize for Fiction.

Her fellow 2013 Miles Franklin Literary Award shortlisted authors were; **Romy Ash – *Floundering***; **Annah Faulkner – *The Beloved***; **Drusilla Modjeska – *The Mountain and Carrie Tiffany – *Mateship with Birds****.

In announcing the winner Simon Lewis, Head of Community and Philanthropy at The Trust Company said: "This year's award, like so many, has stimulated great discussion and debate – in particular, the all female shortlist. As Trustee, we appoint and charge an expert judging panel to make their selection from the novels of the 'highest literary merit' that capture 'Australian life in any of its phases', as per Miles Franklin's express wish. This year, an exceptional field of authors has won the support of the judges. Congratulations to Michelle on becoming the 2013 Miles Franklin Literary Award winner."

MICHELLE DE KRETZER  
QUESTIONS OF TRAVEL



THE  
TRUST  
COMPANY  
*as Trustee*

The Trust Company has this year continued its work extending the audience of the iconic literary prize by hosting “Miles On the Road” events in Canberra and Brisbane, giving the public the opportunity to ask questions of the shortlisted authors. The launch of the “Miles of Reading Challenge”, also engaged a new breed of literature lovers online, and was complemented by Miles Franklin on Twitter.

“Making the Award more accessible and interactive with the public who support Australian literature is a major focus for us now to ensure Miles Franklin’s legacy remains relevant to future generations. We will continue this work into 2014, the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Miles’ death,” concluded Mr Lewis.

Join the Miles Franklin conversation on Twitter #milesfranklin or follow @\_milesfranklin

*Link to video*

## ENDS

**For further information (bios, shortlist judges’ report, synopses, images) or to arrange an interview, please contact:**

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### **About the Miles Franklin Literary Award:**

The Trust Company Limited is Trustee for the Miles Franklin Literary Award. *My Brilliant Career* author Stella Maria Sarah Miles Franklin left the residue of her estate to establish the award in 1954. Celebrating Australian character and creativity, the Award was established to support authors for the advancement, improvement and betterment of Australian literature. Last year’s winner of the \$50,000 prize was Anna Funder for her novel *All That I Am*.

Copyright Agency’s Cultural Fund is a proud supporter of the Miles Franklin Literary Award.

### **About The Trust Company**

The Trust Company is one of Australia’s foremost trustee companies, offering trustee services for individuals, companies and charitable trusts from our offices in Australia, New Zealand and Singapore.

The Trust Company Group has almost \$1 billion in charitable funds under administration. Currently serving as trustee for over 850 charitable trusts. Our Engaged Philanthropy program is designed to create lasting social impact in the community. This is led by 17 strategic partnerships inaugurated in 2011 and a further 12 in 2012 with key non-profit organisations across the sector.

The Trust Company provides a wide range of financial services including:

- Personal Client Services offering Estate Planning and Administration, Lifestyle Assist, Financial Planning, Executor Assist, Personal Trusts, Charitable Trusts, Wealth Management and Health and Personal Injury services
- Corporate Trustee, Debt Capital Markets Trustee, Property and Infrastructure Custody, Superannuation Compliance and Trustee. In New Zealand The Trust Company offers trustee services for Debt Securities, Securitisation, Unit Trust, Superannuation and KiwiSaver.

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