



20 October 2014

2014 CHASS Australia Prizes Winners Announced

CHASS has announced the winners for four categories of its prestigious 2014 Australia Prizes, which were presented at the CHASS Australia Prizes Dinner at Parliament of Victoria, Melbourne on October 8.

Iain McCalman, *The Reef – A Passionate History* (Penguin Books Australia) won the 2014 CHASS Australia Prize for a Book. Other shortlisted titles were **Joan Beaumont, *Broken Nation: Australians in the Great War*** (Allen and Unwin); and **Mike Smith, *The Archaeology of Australia's Deserts*** (Cambridge University Press). The winner received \$3,500. Sponsored by Routledge, the Book Prize was awarded to an Australian citizen or permanent resident whose book, published between July 2012 and December 2013 contributed most to Australian cultural and intellectual life.

Pure Land/Dr Sarah Kenderdine won the 2014 CHASS Australia Prize for Distinctive Work. Other shortlisted entries were **Ganesh versus The Third Reich (Back to Back Theatre)**, and **LawCite/Professor Andrew Mowbray**. The winner received \$3,500. Sponsored by Routledge, the Distinctive Work Prize was for a performance, exhibition, project or a specific advance in policy development in any Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (HASS) field between July 2012 and December 2013.

The three joint-winners of the 2014 CHASS Australia Prize for a Future Leader were **Simon Abrahams (The Wheeler Centre and Theatre Network Victoria)**, **Claire Maizonnier** and **John Saunders (Sydney Theatre Company)**. Each received \$1,000. Sponsored by Future Leaders, the Future Leader Prize was awarded to an individual aged under 35 demonstrating clear leadership and potential in any HASS field.

Henry Reese (The University of Queensland) won the 2014 CHASS Australia Prize for a Student. Other shortlisted nominees were **Nyah Harwood (Southern Cross University)**, and **Andrea Russell (RMIT University)**. The winner received a voucher valued at \$500 and the runner-ups received vouchers valued at \$150 each. Sponsored by The Co-Op, the Student Prize was for a student project, performance, exhibition or thesis that best exemplified the contribution of HASS areas to our understanding of our nation and us.

Highlights of the evening included:

- Keynote address by Senator Dean Smith, Senator for Western Australia, officially representing the Hon Tony Abbott MP, Prime Minister of Australia and Senator the Hon George Brandis QC, Attorney-General and Minister for the Arts;
- Keynote address by Mr Rupert Myer AM, Chair, Australia Council for the Arts;
- A poetry reading session by Les Murray AO, one of Australia's most well regarded poets

"The CHASS Australia Prizes are designed to honour distinguished achievements by Australians working, studying or training in the humanities, arts and social sciences (HASS). We are delighted with the response to the Prizes and congratulate all the winners for their accomplishments. We would like to thank all the judges for their dedication and time. Special thanks also to our sponsors for their support of the Prizes," said CHASS Executive Director, Emeritus Professor Steven Schwartz AM.



For more information, please contact Divya Das, CHASS on 03 9925 3935 or membership@chass.org.au.

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Further information:

About the CHASS Australia Prizes: The CHASS Australia Prizes are awarded by CHASS at the annual CHASS National Forum Dinner. The Australia Prizes are designed to honour distinguished achievements by Australians working, studying or training in the HASS (Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences) areas, including academics, practitioners, philanthropists, policy makers and students. The Australia Prizes are intended to draw international attention to Australia's achievements in HASS. In 2014, four prizes are being given out. Two are cash prizes of \$3,500 each and are sponsored by Routledge: one for a book that enriches Australian cultural and intellectual life, the second for an exceptional artistic performance, exhibition, film, television show, play, composition or practical contribution to arts policy. The third prize, a cash prize of \$2,000 sponsored by Future Leaders, is for an individual under 35 years of age demonstrating leadership skill and potential in HASS. The Co-Op has sponsored the fourth prize. It is valued at \$500 and is for a student essay, exhibition, performance, project or thesis in a HASS area.

About CHASS: Established in 2004, the Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (CHASS) promotes and provides advocacy services for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences in Australia. It serves as a coordinating forum for teachers, researchers, professionals and practitioners in the sector. Supporting more than 85 member organisations in their relationships with policy makers and the broader community, CHASS is an important network for knowledge and skills. It provides a strong voice to the sector and helps members to contribute to public debate through programs for knowledge exchange and media awareness. For more information, please visit www.chass.org.au or call (03) 9925 3935.