



20 October 2015

## 2015 CHASS Australia Prizes' Winners Announced

CHASS has announced the winners for four categories of its prestigious 2015 Australia Prizes, which were presented at the CHASS Australia Prizes Lunch in Melbourne on October 15.

**Alan Atkinson, *The Europeans in Australia Volume Three: Nation*** (NewSouth Publishing) won the 2015 CHASS Australia Prize for a Book. Other shortlisted titles were **Carolyn Holbrook, *Anzac: The Unauthorised Biography*** (NewSouth Publishing); and **Tim Low, *Where Song Began*** (Penguin Books Australia). The winner received \$3,500 in cash. Sponsored by Routledge, the Book Prize was awarded to an Australian writer whose non-fiction book published in 2014 contributed most to Australian cultural and intellectual life.

**Pinocchio (Windmill Theatre and State Theatre Company SA)** won the 2015 CHASS Australia Prize for Distinctive Work. Other shortlisted entries were **Black Diggers (Queensland Theatre Company)** and **This Girl Laughs, This Girl Cries, This Girl Does Nothing (Finegan Kruckemeyer)**. **The War That Changed Us (Electric Pictures)** and **Gapuwiyak Calling (Miyarrka Media)** received honourable mentions by the jury. The winner received \$3,500 in cash. 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 in 2014.

**Finegan Kruckemeyer** won the 2015 CHASS Australia Prize for a Future Leader. Other shortlisted nominees were **Lina Andonovska** and **Dr Thom van Dooren**. The winner received \$2,000 in cash. Sponsored by Future Leaders, the Future Leader Prize was awarded to an individual under 35 years of age demonstrating clear leadership and potential in any HASS field.

**Hayley Megan French** (The University of Sydney) won the 2015 CHASS Australia Prize for a Student. Other shortlisted nominees were **Alexandra Roginski** (Australian National University) and **Betty Sargeant** (RMIT University). The winner received a \$500 voucher. 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 afternoon included a keynote address by indigenous soprano and composer Deborah Joy Cheetham AO.

"We are delighted with the strong response to the second edition of the Australia Prizes and congratulate all winners for their accomplishments. We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the other nominees. We would also like to thank the jury members for their dedication and time. The overall quality of the 204 entries received this year was exceptionally high and the jury had to make some difficult decisions to arrive at such strong shortlists. Special thanks also to our sponsors for their continued support of the Prizes and for their encouragement of the HASS sector in Australia," said CHASS Executive Director Emeritus Professor Steven Schwartz AM, FASSA.

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*For more information, please contact Divya Das, CHASS on 03 9925 3935 or [membership@chass.org.au](mailto:membership@chass.org.au).*

**Further information:**

**About the CHASS Australia Prizes:** Established in 2014, the CHASS Australia Prizes are awarded by CHASS at the annual CHASS National Forum. 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 2015, four prizes were given out. Two were cash prizes of \$3,500 each and were sponsored by Routledge: one for a non-fiction 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, was for an individual under 35 years of age demonstrating leadership skill and potential in HASS. The Co-Op sponsored the fourth prize valued at \$500 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 75 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](http://www.chass.org.au) or call (03) 9925 3935.