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## Winners of the 2016 CHASS Australia Prizes Announced

CHASS has announced the winners for four categories of its prestigious Australia Prizes, which were presented at the 2016 CHASS Australia Prizes Dinner in Melbourne on October 20.

**Klaus Neumann, *Across the Seas: Australia's Response to Refugees: A History*** (Black Inc. Books) won the 2016 CHASS Australia Prize for a Book. Other shortlisted titles were **Frank Bongiorno, *The Eighties: The Decade That Transformed Australia*** (Black Inc. Books) and **Brenda Niall, *Mannix*** (Text Publishing). Sponsored by Routledge, the \$3,500 Book Prize was awarded to an Australian writer whose non-fiction book published in 2015 contributed most to Australian cultural and intellectual life.

**I Am a Miracle (Malthouse Theatre)** won the 2016 CHASS Australia Prize for Distinctive Work. Other shortlisted entries were **Cut the Sky: Five Songs for the Future (Marrugeku)** and **Am I (Shaun Parker & Company)**. Sponsored by Routledge, the \$3,500 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 2015.

**Kate Fitz-Gibbon** and **Sarah Holland-Batt** won the 2016 CHASS Australia Prize for a Future Leader. The other shortlisted nominee was **Jeffrey Jay Fowler**. Sponsored by Future Leaders, the \$2,000 Future Leader Prize was awarded to an individual below 35 years of age demonstrating clear leadership and potential in any HASS field.

**Gemma Hamilton** (Deakin University) won the 2016 CHASS Australia Prize for a Student. Other shortlisted nominees were **Riddhi Blackley** (University of Canberra) and **Natalie Lynch** (Griffith 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.

CHASS's new book **Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences: It's everyone's business** was formally launched at the event. Edited by CHASS President Professor Joseph M. Siracusa and published by Routledge, the pocket book features a range of essays by prominent Australian and international researchers, illustrating the diverse ways in which HASS disciplines provide essential services to citizens in all walks of life.

Other highlights of the evening included a keynote address by singer, writer, artistic director, and public advocate for the arts, Robyn Archer AO FAHA CdOAL, who has also written the Foreword to the book.

"We congratulate the winners for their achievements and extend our heartfelt thanks to all the other nominees. We would like to thank the jury members for their dedication and time. We are delighted with the strong response to the Australia Prizes and acknowledge that the overall quality of the 240 entries received this year was remarkably high. Special thanks also to our sponsors for their continued support of the Prizes and for their encouragement of the HASS sector in Australia," said Professor Siracusa.

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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, either working, studying or training in the HASS (Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences) areas and including academics, practitioners, philanthropists, policy makers and students. The Australia Prizes are intended to draw international attention to Australia's achievements in HASS. In 2016, 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.