

For immediate release

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2016 CHASS Australia Prizes Shortlists Announced

The Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (CHASS) has announced the shortlists for its prestigious Australia Prizes, which will be presented on 20 October in Melbourne.

For the 2016 CHASS Australia Prize for a Book, the shortlisted titles are **Frank Bongiorno, *The Eighties: The Decade That Transformed Australia*** (Black Inc. Books), **Klaus Neumann, *Across the Seas - Australia's Response to Refugees: A History*** (Black Inc. Books), and **Brenda Niall, *Mannix*** (Text Publishing). The winner will receive \$3,500. Sponsored by Routledge, the Book Prize is being awarded to an Australian author whose non-fiction book, published between January and December 2015, contributes most to Australian cultural and intellectual life.

For the 2016 CHASS Australia Prize for Distinctive Work, the shortlisted entries are ***I Am a Miracle*** by **Malthouse Theatre**, ***Cut the Sky*** by **Marrugeku Theatre**, and ***Am I*** by **Shaun Parker & Company**. The winner will receive \$3,500. Sponsored by Routledge, the Distinctive Work Prize is for a performance, exhibition, project or a specific advance in policy development in any Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (HASS) field between January and December 2015.

For the 2016 CHASS Australia Prize for a Future Leader, the shortlisted nominees are **Dr. Kate Fitz-Gibbon**, Monash University criminologist and senior lecturer, **Jeffrey Jay Fowler**, Black Swan State Theatre Company, and **Sarah Holland-Batt**, poet and writer. The winner will receive \$2,000. Sponsored by Future Leaders, the Future Leader Prize is being awarded to an individual aged under 35 demonstrating clear leadership and potential in any HASS field.

For the 2016 CHASS Australia Prize for a Student, the shortlisted nominees are **Riddhi Blackley**, **Gemma Hamilton** (Deakin University), and **Natalie Lynch** (Griffith University). The winner will receive a voucher valued at \$500. Sponsored by Co-Op, the Student Prize is for a student project, performance, exhibition or thesis that best exemplifies the contribution of HASS areas to our understanding of our nation and us.

"We would like to extend our heartiest congratulations to all shortlisted nominees. Drawn from an entry field of over 230 nominations, these shortlists represent an outstanding and diverse array of talent. We would like to thank all jury members for their dedication and time. We would also like to thank all nominators and nominees for the high overall standard of the nominations received this year. We hope to see all shortlisted nominees at the Prizes Dinner and would also like to invite others in the HASS sector to join us and support them," said CHASS President, Professor Joseph M. Siracusa.

EVENT INFORMATION FOR YOUR DIARY/CALENDAR AND EVENTS PAGES:

What: 2016 CHASS Australia Prizes
Where: Storey Hall Auditorium, Bldg. 16, RMIT University, 336–348 Swanston Street, Melbourne
When: 20 October 2016
Cost per person: CHASS Member: \$121, Non-Member: \$132, Student/Concession: \$108
Web: <https://2016chassausprizes.eventbrite.com.au>

For more information or interviews, please contact Divya Das 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 annually. 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 2016, 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. 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. 2016 marks the third edition of the Australia Prizes.

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 or call (03) 9925 3935.