

## **2011 Premier's Literary Awards Panel bios**

### **Literary Awards Advisor**

#### **Ms Caroline Lurie**

BA in Social Science (La Trobe). Founded the Melbourne-based literary agency Australian Literary Management in 1980, which she ran until 1993 when she left to work overseas as a volunteer. The agency represented writers such as Elizabeth Jolley, Tim Winton, Kate Grenville, Robert Dessaix and David Marr. She has also been a publisher with Hodder Headline, has taught writing, reviewed fiction and written journalism for many Australian newspapers and magazines. Caroline has compiled two anthologies of Elizabeth Jolley's writing, *Central Mischief* in 1992 and *Learning to Dance* in 2006.

### **Christina Stead / UTS Glenda Adams Award for New Writing (fiction) panel**

#### **Ms Rhyll McMaster [overall chair of judging panel]**

Rhyll McMaster's poems have been appearing in Australian publications since she was sixteen, and have been broadcast on national radio and television. She has staged her poetry in a performance piece with a singer and a four-piece band. She has been poetry editor of *The Canberra Times*, a freelance editor, and a book reviewer for major newspapers and literary magazines.

Her first novel, *Feather Man* was published in Australia in 2007 by Brandl & Schlesinger to excellent reviews. It won two major awards and was shortlisted for two others. *Feather Man* was published in the UK, USA and Canada in 2008 by Marion Boyars, and will be published in Mandarin in 2010 by the Anhui Literature & Art Publishing House.

#### **Dr Kathryn Heyman**

Dr Kathryn Heyman is the author of four novels, including *The Accomplice* and *Captain Starlight's Apprentice*, published internationally and in translation. She has won an Arts Council of England Writer's Award, the Wingate and the Southern Arts Awards in the UK, and been nominated for the Orange Prize, the Scottish Writer of the Year Award, the Edinburgh Fringe Critic's Awards, the Kibble Prize, and the West Australian Premier's Book Awards. Kathryn Heyman was the Scottish Arts Council Writing Fellow at the University of Glasgow, and the Royal Literary Fund Fellow at Westminster College, Oxford.

#### **Ms Suzanne Leal**

Suzanne Leal worked as a criminal lawyer before being appointed to the Refugee Review Tribunal, the Migration Review Tribunal and the Administrative Decisions Tribunal where she decides cases involving migration and refugee status, child protection, guardianship and licensing. She has been a legal commentator on ABC radio 702 and is a regular facilitator and moderator at literary events and festivals. Her novel *Border Street* was commended in the 2007 Asher Literary Award.

### **Douglas Stewart Prize (non-fiction) panel**

#### **Dr Camilla Nelson (chair)**

Camilla Nelson is a lecturer in Literature and Writing at the University of Notre Dame, Australia, and has previously lectured in Writing and Cultural Studies at the University of Technology, Sydney. Her essays and reviews have been published in Australia and internationally, her most recent work focusing on creativity, creative industries, and the history of ideas. Camilla has worked as a freelance journalist and website producer for the *Sydney Morning Herald*, winning a Walkley Award in 2001 for Best Online News. She is the author of two novels, *Perverse Acts*, for which she was named as one of the *Sydney*

*Morning Herald's* Best Young Australian Novelists, and *Crooked*, which was shortlisted in the 2009 Ned Kelly Awards. Camilla has a Masters degree in History from the University of Sydney, and a Doctorate of Creative Arts from the University of Technology, Sydney.

### **Ms Jacqueline Kent**

Jacqueline Kent was born in Sydney and grew up there and in Adelaide. Originally trained as a radio journalist and broadcaster, she has also been a book editor and occasional reviewer. Among many other jobs over about fifteen years, she has edited the memoirs of Susan Ryan and Tom Uren, worked with Lindy Chamberlain in preparing her book, and imposed order, form and structure on the prose of Graham Richardson. She holds a Doctorate of Creative Arts from the University of Technology, Sydney.

Her own writing includes young adult fiction as well as social history and biography. *A Certain Style, Beatrice Davis, A Literary Life*, was shortlisted for the NSW Premier's Award and won the 2002 National Biography Award and the Nita B. Kibble Award; *An Exacting Heart, The Story of Hephzibah Menuhin* was shortlisted for the 2008 Victorian, New South Wales and Queensland Premiers' Awards, the Adelaide Festival Award and the Walkley Award, and won the Nita B. Kibble Award. Her most recent book is *The Making of Julia Gillard*, published by Penguin Viking in September 2009, and revised and updated under the title of *The Making of Julia Gillard PM* in November 2010.

### **Mr Joseph Pugliese**

Associate Professor Joseph Pugliese is Discipline Leader of Cultural Studies in the Department of Media, Music, Communication and Cultural Studies. He has published widely in international journals and books on the topics of race, ethnicity, whiteness, migration, refugees, law, and bodies and technologies. His most recent publications include *Biometrics: Bodies, Technologies, Biopolitics* (New York and London: Routledge 2010) and an edited collection *Transmediterranean: Diasporas, Histories, Geopolitical Spaces* (Brussels: Peter Lang, 2010).

## **Kenneth Slessor Prize (poetry) panel**

### **Mr Les Wicks (chair)**

Over 35 years Wicks has performed at festivals, schools, prison etc. Published in well over 200 different magazines, anthologies & newspapers across 12 countries in 7 languages. Conducts workshops around Australia & runs Meuse Press which focuses on poetry outreach projects like poetry on buses & poetry published on the surface of a river. His 8th book of poetry is *The Ambrosiacs* (Island, 2009).

### **Ms Joanna Featherstone**

Johanna Featherstone is the founder and Artistic Director of The Red Room Company. Her poems have been published in journals such as Heat, Quadrant, Sydney Morning Herald and the Best Australian Poems 2004 and 2009. (Black Inc.) Her first collection, *Felt* was published by Vagabond Press in 2010. She received a fellowship in ethical leadership from The St James Ethics Centre in 2007 and is currently running poetry workshops in NSW prisons.

### **Mr Omar Musa**

Omar Musa, 2008 Australian Poetry Slam champion, is not a traditional rapper. The Malaysian-Australian baritone was a winner of the British Council's Realise Your Dream award and he relocated to London to work in the flourishing UK hip-hop scene with grime star Akala and well known slam poet Jahnell. He has been played on Triple J and has recorded with J Records band 2AM Club in Los Angeles. He recorded his debut *The Massive* EP with veteran rock producer Geoff Stanfield (Sun Kil Moon, Black Lab) in Seattle, USA. From his poignant thoughts on big city life in "Hemingway" to the languid summer jam "Opal", *The Massive* EP marries hip-hop, rock and funk.

## **Patricia Wrightson Prize (children) panel**

### **Professor Robyn Ewing (chair)**

Robyn Ewing is Professor of Teacher Education and the Arts, Faculty of Education and Social Work, at the University of Sydney. Initially a primary school teacher, she joined the Faculty in 1989 and lectures in Curriculum, English and Drama across pre-service and postgraduate teacher education programs. Her research in the English and literacy areas has focused on the use of drama strategies to develop critical literary, 'storying' and narrative in children's writing. She was president of the Primary English Teachers' Association 2001-06. Dr Ewing is author/co-author and editor of a number of books including *Curriculum and Assessment: A Narrative Approach* (2010), *Teaching, Challenges and Dilemmas* (2011); *Beyond the Script Take 2: Drama in the Classroom* (2004); *Beyond the Reading Wars: Towards a balanced approach to helping children to read* (2006). She has won many awards for excellence in teaching.

### **Mr Stephen Axelsen**

Born in Sydney, Stephen has been illustrating for children since 1974. He has illustrated hundreds of stories and cartoon strips for THE SCHOOL MAGAZINE, as well as many books such as *Cocky Colin* (Richard Tulloch) and *Aussie Bites* (Margaret Mahy). He is also the author and illustrator of two picture books, *The Oath Of Bad Brown Bill* in 1978 and *Eucalyptus Christmas* in 1983.

### **Mr James Roy**

James Roy is the author of twenty fiction and non-fiction books for children and young adults, including *Town*, which won the Ethel Turner Prize (NSW Premier's Literary Awards) and the Golden Inky Teen Choice Award in 2008, *Anonymity Jones*, *Captain Mack* (2000 Children's Book Council Honour Book) and *Billy Mack's War* (2005 CBCA Honour Book.) His books are published in a number of overseas markets, and he spends much of his time working with students across the Asia Pacific region.

## **Ethel Turner Prize (young people) panel**

### **Mr Stephen Measday (chair)**

Stephen Measday has written seventeen books, mainly junior fiction and young adult fiction. He is also an award-winning scriptwriter in children's and adult television. His awards include a UN Media Peace Award and an Australian Writers Guild (Awdgie) Award for original radio drama. His latest book is the junior fiction time travel novel, *Send Simon Savage*. A German publisher has also bought the series and will start publishing it in 2011. Stephen is currently writing the next two books in the series.

### **Ms Judith Ridge**

Judith has specialised in children's and young adult literature for past 20 years, working as an editor, community arts coordinator and writer and critic. She is the development officer for the Western Sydney Young People's Literature Project, a community-based project designed to engage young people with reading and literature. She also teaches creative writing, with a focus on writing for children and young adults. Judith has written about children's and youth literature for journals such as *Viewpoint* and *Magpies*, *The Horn Book* (US) and *The Melbourne Age* and has written teachers' notes for books by Melina Marchetta and Morris Gleitzman. She has been invited on a number of occasions to speak at conferences and seminars in Australia and the USA. Judith Ridge is a Churchill Fellow and has an MA in children's literature

### **Professor Robyn Ewing (See bio above)**

## **Play Award panel**

**Dr Chris Mead (chair)**

Chris is the inaugural artistic director of PlayWriting Australia. Since 2000 he has been the Literary Manager of Company B Belvoir St Theatre, the curator of the Australian National Playwrights' Conference, the Festival Director of the International Festival for Young Playwrights and the Literary Manager of Sydney Theatre Company. Recent directing credits include Ian Wilding's *Quack* (Griffin 2010) and Damien Millar's *The Modern International Dead* (Griffin 2008) which won Best New Play at the Sydney Theatre Critics' Awards and the WA Premier's Literary Award, as well as being shortlisted for the NSW, Queensland and Victorian Premiers' Literary Awards. Chris has a PhD from Sydney University, was awarded an inaugural Dramaturgy Fellowship by the Australia Council in 2004 and was selected to attend New Visions New Voices at Washington DC's Kennedy Center in 2008. His monograph on institutional racism and outreach strategies was published by Currency House in June, 2008. In 2009 Chris was named as one of the 100 creative catalysts of Sydney he and sits on the steering committee for the next Australian Theatre Forum, the Board of Arena Theatre Company and the artistic directorate of Hothouse Theatre.

**Ms Judi Farr**

Judi Farr has a prolific career spanning theatre, film and television. She has worked for all major Australian theatre companies and her appearances have included roles in *Navigating*, *After the Ball*, *The Visit*, *Angels in America*, *The Women of Troy*, *Buried Child*, *Cloudstreet*, *Wicked Sisters*, *Live Acts on Stage*, *Pack of Lies*, *John Gabriel Borkman*, and *Glorious*. Her television work includes *Go Big*, *Crashburn*, *Changi*, *Stingers*, *All Saints*, *Grass Roots*, *Kingswood Country* and *My Name's Mcgooley*. Her most recent film appearance was in *Unfolding Florence*; other appearances include *December Boys*, *Thunderstruck*, *Walking on Water*, *Oscar and Lucinda*, *Flirting*, and *The Year My Voice Broke*. She also directs and teaches for the theatre. She has been the recipient of the Sydney Theatre Critics' Circle Award for Best Female Performer for *The Women of Troy* and *Lettice and Lovage*. She has also received an AFI award for Best Supporting Actress in *Walking on Water*. Ms Farr has directed graduating students in their final year production at Wollongong University and directed productions for a range of theatres. She was director/editor for Page to Stage, and Young Dramatists in 2003-06. She was also director/editor for ACTT in their production of *Kid Stakes and Other Times*.

**Ms Polly Rowe**

Polly Rowe has been Literary Manager at Sydney Theatre Company for three years. Before joining STC she was Acting Literary Manager then Literary Associate at Belvoir. As a freelance dramaturg and reader she has been employed by Currency Press, Griffin Theatre Company, Playwriting Australia, Belvoir, Sydney Theatre Company and Inscription. Polly holds a BA in Drama, English & Education Studies from the University of Cambridge and an MPhil in Playwriting Studies from The University of Birmingham.

**Script Writing Award panel****Mr Tony Morphett (chair)**

Between 1957-1967, Tony Morphett worked in the Talks Department of the ABC, doing interviews and documentary programs. During these years Tony had three novels published and some stage plays produced.

In 1968, Tony went freelance and has since written or co-written seven feature films, ten telemovies, twelve miniseries, and some hundreds of episodes of TV series drama as well as devising or co-devising seven TV series. He has won 14 industry awards for TV screenwriting. He has served on AWG board at various periods, Australia Council Literature Board 1977-1981, board of Australian Children's Television Foundation 1985-1994 and Australian Writers' Foundation board 2003-Present.

**Mr Tim Gooding**

Tim Gooding writes for stage, film and television. He is also a musician and songwriter. His theatre productions include the musical plays *King Of Country* and *Rock-Ola, Tentshow Pagliacci, The Astounding Optimissimos*, and a new translation of Molière's *The Miser*. The Sydney Theatre Company production of his comedy *Drums Along The Diamantina* featured Mel Gibson as Wayne from Queensland.

Tim's feature film credits include *Heatwave* and *On the Loose*. He is the recipient of a "Distinctly Australian" Writer's Fellowship from the Australian Film Commission. He devised and co-wrote the ABC TV series *Sweet and Sour*, soundtrack of which achieved platinum sales and was a nationwide hit.

He has written television comedy - *The Aunty Jack Show, The Norman Gunston Show, Wollongong The Brave, Ratbags* - and drama - *Rafferty's Rules, Blue Heelers, Stingers, Water Rats, All Saints*, plus numerous other series involving doctors, lawyers, and police officers, or a blend of the three, on land, sea, and in the air. For younger viewers, he has contributed scripts to *Mortified, Time Trackers, Heartbreak High, CJ the DJ, Penelope K By The Way*, and others. Tim's episode 6 of *Mortified, The Talk*, won First Prize at the 2007 Chicago International Children's Film Festival, and the Theme Prize at 2008 Prix Jeunesse in Munich.

#### **Ms Jane Oehr**

Jane Oehr left the BBC to work as an independent director, making *Tamu - The Guest* about the life of Australian painter Donald Friend in Bali and later working with the same team *Niugini Culture Shock* which won the Rouben Mammoulian Award in 1975 at the Sydney Film Festival. *Stirring* - a controversial feature documentary about corporal punishment in a Sydney boy's school followed and won an AFI Award. *Seeing Red And Feeling Blue* - a film about women's bodies and menstruation broke through many myths. Jane has written and directed drama including the low budget features *On The Loose*, and *Heads 'N Tails* working with inexperienced young people and professional actors. She wrote and directed *The Journey* - a telemovie for the Childrens' Television Foundation. In 2002 she made a feature length intimate portrait *Mum at 88* which revealed hitherto unknown aspects of her mother's life. She has also supported many emerging filmmakers in her time as a Project Manager with the Australian Film Commission. *Tea With Madame Clos* her latest feature length documentary, was screened at Melbourne International Film Festival and Festival des Antipodes in S.Tropez, France 2009 and released nationwide in cinemas in Australia.

### **The Community Relations Commission for a multicultural NSW Award Panel**

#### **Ms Paula Abood (chair)**

Paula Abood is a community cultural development worker, writer, educator and filmmaker. She has written for performance, radio, publications and film. She has completed a doctorate on race, gender and representation of Arabs in Australian popular culture. She is currently teaching and making films in Sydney.

#### **Mr Farid Farid**

Farid Farid is a final year doctoral candidate at the Centre for Cultural Research - University of Western Sydney. His thesis examines the cultural politics of trauma and loss amongst exiled Iraqi artists & writers in Sydney. He has been published in various journals including *Social Semiotics*, *borderlands e-journal*, *The Age*, *Eureka Street*, *Online Opinion* with forthcoming publications in the *Australian Literary Review* & *Australian Book Review*.

#### **Mr Tim Gooding (See above)**