



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

# THE 2007 AUSTRALIAN CENTRE LITERARY AWARDS

## KATE CHALLIS RAKA AWARD

Award to Indigenous creative artists, made possible by a donation from Professor Emeritus Bernard Smith. The 2007 Award is in the field of drama. Award value, \$25,000

**WINNER:**

David Milroy for his play *Windmill Baby*

**HIGHLY COMMENDED:**

Wesley Enoch for his play *Cookie's Table*

David Milroy's 'Windmill Baby' is a powerful tale set in a pastoral station in the Kimberley. Old Maymay recalls her time as a young girl on the homestead as she recounts the intertwined and silenced histories of the white Boss and Missus and the Aboriginal workers. This tale of love and loss is both moving and funny. Milroy's script gives voice to the musicality of Aboriginal English in a piece that skilfully combines emotional reach and deft characterisation.

The judges note that the field for the 2007 Award was remarkably strong, attesting to the compelling and inspiring story-telling that characterises contemporary Indigenous theatre. Wesley's Enoch's 'Cookie's Table' was Highly Commended as a fresh and edgy narrative that traces the transformation of Nathan from an angry boy who feels he has been denied his rightful story into a powerful man who has been taught how to imagine a future.

Judges: Kate Darian-Smith, Melissa Lucsashenko, Phillip Morrissey, Rhoda Roberts and Kathryn Riding.

## THE 2008 PETER BLAZEY FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship for biography, autobiography and life-writing, made possible by the donation of funds from Clive Blazey and Tim Herbert.

Award value, \$15,000 plus a residency at the Australian Centre.

**WINNER:**

\$10,000 Andrew Lindsay for his work-in-progress *The God of Morphine*

**WINNER:**

\$5,000 Dmetri Kakmi for his work-in-progress *Motherland*

The judging panel was extremely impressed with the fifty three entries received for this year's Peter Blazey Fellowship; there was a great deal of extremely high quality writing which, coupled with some very original ideas and quite innovative approaches to the work, made the decision a difficult one.

Life writing, memoir and autobiography were all treated in very imaginative ways with many compelling narratives competing for the judges' attention. However, after much deliberation a long list of seventeen was whittled down to a short list of six before the final decision was reached. In the end, and in the light of the increased funds available this year, the judges agreed to make two awards to support the writing of two very different, but both equally impressive books.

Judges: Robyn Ferrell, Clare Forster, Robert Kenny and Simon Clews.

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## THE ASHER LITERARY AWARD

The Award, for women writers offering an anti war theme, is presented in association with the Australia Council. Award value, \$10,000

**WINNER:**

Brenda Walker for *The Wing of Night: A Novel of Love and War*, Penguin Books.

**HIGHLY COMMENDED:**

Suzy Zail for *The Tattooed Flower: A Memoir*

**COMMENDED:**

Suzanne Leal for *Border Street*

The applications for the Asher Literary Award for 2007 were outstanding. The standard of the submitted works was impressive and the subjects covered were broad, engaging and illuminating.

The winning book, Brenda Walker's *The Wing of Night: A Novel of Love and War* is a powerful, eloquently written and compelling novel. It captures the profound effect World War One had on the soldiers who fought, but significantly, also offers a perspective on the women whose lives were drawn into its enduring legacy. The judges also wished to offer a high commendation to Suzy Zail's *The Tattooed Flower: A Memoir*, which in its exploration of the relationship between the past and present, is a moving and engaging account of the inter-generational impact of the Holocaust. Suzanne Leal's poignant novel, *Border Street*, was commended.

Judges: Fay Anderson, Jill Jones, and Joy Damousi.



**Australian Government**



## THE 2008 DJ (DINNY) O'HEARN MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship for emerging Australian writers, in memory of the late Dinny O'Hearn. Award value, \$5,000 plus a residency at the Australian Centre.

**WINNER:**

Meg Mundell

**HIGHLY COMMENDED:**

Sarah Holland-Batt  
Elizabeth Campbell  
Sarah-Jane Norman

**COMMENDED:**

Patrick Cullen  
Joanna Kujawa  
Carolyn Leach-Paholski

The judges were extremely impressed with the strength and diversity of applications received for the Dinny O'Hearn Memorial Fellowship for emerging writers. There was a very high standard of fiction and an equally strong poetry contingent, which made a winner especially difficult to choose.

From this rich diversity, it was Meg Mundell's work that most compelled the judges' attention. The judges also highly commended the work of Sarah Holland-Batt, Elizabeth Campbell and Sarah-Jane Norman; and commended the work of Patrick Cullen, Joanna Kujawa and Carolyn Leach-Paholski.

Judges: Chris Wallace-Crabbe, Tom Cho, Sophie Cunningham and Crusader Hillis.

