

MEDIA RELEASE

Top Australian authors shortlisted

Tuesday, 18th October 2016

The winner of one of Australia's oldest and most prestigious literary awards has been chosen by the Foundation for Australian Literary Studies.

This year's winner is Gail Jones for *A Guide to Berlin*.

"*A Guide to Berlin* is a very Australian book, but not one parochially so," says Colin Roderick Award Judge Dr Victoria Kuttainen. "It reconnects the Australian story to the experience of travel, to displacement, to unsettlement, and to world literature which is also the shared Australian heritage.

"Australia has a long tradition of travel and expatriotism: in fact one could say that travel is a key part of the Australian experience—the other side of settlement that is unsettlement. Increasingly, much 'Australian' literature can be read in a context of 'world' literature."

Celebrating its 50th year, the Foundation presents the annual Colin Roderick Award and H. T. Priestley Memorial Medal. The Foundation is based at James Cook University and aims to foster the study and appreciation of Australian literature. To celebrate the Foundation's golden anniversary the prize money has been increased to \$20,000.

The award and medal are presented to the author of the book, published in Australia in 2015, which in the judges' opinion, best deals with any aspect of Australian life.

The Award's judges were impressed by the year's entries stating that they were of a uniformly high standard across several genres ranging from biography and memoir, to history and social commentary, to fictional and imaginative work.

The presentation was made at TAFE North in Pimlico at 8pm on Wednesday 19 October.

Shortlisted books:

Collins, Christy. *The End of Seeing*

Harding, Leslie and Morgan, Kendrah. *Modern Love*

Jones, Gail. *A Guide to Berlin*

Kinsella, John. *Crow's Breath*

Niall, Brenda. *Mannix*

Winton, Tim. *Island Home*

Further information:

Lorna Hempstead AM, Board Member FALS

(07) 4781 4303 or 0438 760 386

lorna.hempstead@jcu.edu.au



ACN 127 317 266

HANNAH CAMERON
Foundation Administration Officer

JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4811

P 07 4781 5404
E FALS@jcu.edu.au
W jcu.edu.au/fals