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From: Progressive PR and Publicity on behalf of *Australian Book Review*

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Michael Adams wins the Calibre Essay Prize



Michael Adams is the winner of the eleventh Calibre Essay Prize – Australia’s most prestigious essay prize. The judges – award-winning author and historian Sheila Fitzpatrick, *ABR* Editor Peter Rose, and Picador Publisher Geordie Williamson – chose Michael Adams’s essay ‘Salt Blood’ from a field of almost 200 essays submitted from fourteen countries. Michael Adams receives \$5,000, and his essay appears in the June–July issue of *Australian Book Review*.

‘Salt Blood’ is a remarkable and highly original meditation on freediving and mortality. On learning that he had won the Calibre Essay Prize, Michael Adams commented: ‘Winning the Calibre Essay Prize is an incredible honour, and a total surprise. I have followed *ABR* and Calibre for many years, and drawn much inspiration and insight from previous winners. I hope my essay highlights some hard issues: I take Rebecca Solnit’s position that we write the stories that we can’t tell anyone.’

This year *ABR* has added a second prize, worth \$2,500. The winner is **Darius Sepehri**, a researcher and PhD student at the University of Sydney. His essay – entitled ‘To Speak of Sorrow’ (to be published in the August issue) – is about the many kinds of grief and their different expressions in writing and culture, as lament, testimony, or ritual.

The judges have commended two other essays: ‘Change, We, Art’ by Meng Jin (USA/UK), and ‘Making Things’ by Sara Dowse’ (Australia), which will be published in coming issues.

About Michael Adams

Michael Adams teaches and researches at the School of Geography and Sustainable Communities at the University of Wollongong, and before that worked for environment NGOs, the national parks service, and Aboriginal organisations. His focus is on human–nature relationships, especially with Indigenous and local communities, and he likes full-immersion methodologies. He writes in a wide variety of forms, including narrative non-fiction, online essays and peer-reviewed academic articles.

About the Calibre Essay Prize

The Calibre Essay Prize (first awarded in 2007) is Australia’s leading award for an original essay. The Prize is intended to encourage brilliant new essays and to foster new insights into Australian culture and society.

Further information

More information about *Australian Book Review* and the Calibre Essay Prize can be found on the *ABR* website. Please contact Progressive PR and Publicity on (03) 9696 6417 or darren@progressivepr.com.au

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