



40 YEARS
ABR
AUSTRALIAN BOOK REVIEW

Annual Review 2018



Australian Book Review

ABR is national in title, content, authorship, readership, influence, events, and partnerships. Founded in 1961 in Adelaide and revived in Melbourne in 1978, it is an independent, not-for-profit monthly magazine, managed by a small, experienced editorial and management team, and committed to publishing critical and creative writing of the highest standard. Through its print and digital publishing, website, prizes, fellowships, events, and partnerships, it makes a major contribution to Australia's culture of ideas.

The magazine publishes in-depth literary and arts reviews as well as new poetry and fiction, essays and commentaries, interviews, diaries, and travel writing. *ABR* reviews films, television, music, theatre, opera, dance, festivals, and art exhibitions.

ABR is a strong advocate of proper support and remuneration for freelance reviewers. We pay for everything we publish – print and online – and we pay increasingly well.

ABR is a powerful generator of ideas and creative writing, and a key supporter of fresh talent. No other Australian magazine supports writers and editors through such varied and lucrative programs. The magazine welcomes contributions from both established and emerging writers. We offer young writers national workshops, close editing, professional mentoring – and we pay them all, from the outset. Thus *ABR* contributes to the long-term health and renewal of the sector.

ABR supports Australian writers through a range of prizes, fellowships, themed issues, and events. The Calibre Essay Prize, the *ABR* Elizabeth Jolley Short Story Prize, and the Peter Porter Poetry Prize all reflect *ABR*'s support for major literary forms. These prizes, fellowships, and events depend on support from private donors, and philanthropic foundations. Their donations go directly to Australian writers and editors.

The *ABR* office is located in a studio managed by the City of Melbourne's Creative Spaces program.

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Jack Callil, Assistant Editor
Grace Chang, Business Manager
Christopher Menz, Development Consultant
John Hawke, Poetry Editor

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Dr Ben Wellings
Dr Terri-ann White
Professor Rita Wilson

Year in review

2018 was always going to be a special year for *Australian Book Review*. Not many literary magazines celebrate forty years in print. And of course, *ABR* goes back even further than 1978: the first series, based in Adelaide, ran from 1961 to 1974.

Conscious though we are of the magazine's long history, our focus is very much on the future. *ABR* continues to evolve in ways that weren't possible even a few years ago. Our arts coverage goes on changing the magazine in appreciable ways. In scope, partnership, engagement, and programs, *ABR* has never been more ambitious or influential.

Reflecting *ABR*'s openness to new critics and writers, we were delighted to welcome almost a hundred newcomers – some highly distinguished and experienced, others publishing their first reviews. Our search for new writers continues.

As always, the diversity of *ABR*'s programs and the quality of its publishing are due to the hard work and commitment of our tiny staff. Special thanks to Amy Baillieu, Grace Chang, and Jack Callil. Christopher Menz's contribution as Development Consultant is pivotal. Funding from government, philanthropic foundations, Copyright Agency, and private donors enables us to consolidate the magazine.

As we look forward to another year's publishing, we remain grateful to our readers, subscribers, Patrons, and partners.



Peter Rose, Editor and CEO



Colin Golvan AM QC, Chair

2018 highlights

ABR Fortieth Birthday Fellowship

10% increase in our base rate for freelance reviewers

300 writers from around Australia, 93 of them new to the magazine

Total payments to *ABR* prize winners and fellows reach \$365,000

Prominent role in the ABC and Australian Research Council controversies

Successful four-week publishing masterclass at Monash University

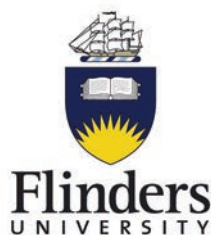
Third *ABR* tour of Germany in June

27% increase in our website hits

Thanking our partners

Australian Book Review is assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body. *ABR* is supported by: the NSW Government through Create NSW; the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria; the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland; the Western Australian Government through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries; and the South Australian Government through Arts South Australia.

We also acknowledge the generous support of our university partners Monash University and Flinders University; and we are grateful for the support of the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund; The Ian Potter Foundation; Eucalypt Australia; RAFT; the City of Melbourne; and Arnold Bloch Leibler.



ABR Patrons

Australian Book Review warmly thanks its Patrons and donors for their wonderful support. Donations help Australian writers and underwrite many of our programs.

'What I appreciate so much about *ABR* is the range and depth of its reviews and articles. It is the sort of intellectual forum that is vital for a healthy nation. With the various prizes it has initiated, it is also encouraging more exciting and stimulating writing. I am delighted to be able to support the *ABR* team in their endeavours.'



Ian Dickson, *ABR* Patron since 2010

Parnassian (\$100,000 or more)

Ian Dickson

Acmeist (\$75,000 to \$99,999)

Olympian (\$50,000 to \$74,999)

Colin Golvan AM QC
Maria Myers AC

Augustan (\$25,000 to \$49,999)

Anita Apsitis and Graham Anderson
Dr Steve and Mrs TJ Christie
Peter Corrigan AM (1941–2016)
Morag Fraser AM
Ellen Koshland
Peter and Mary-Ruth McLennan
Kim Williams AM
Anonymous (1)

Imagist (\$15,000 to \$24,999)

Pauline Menz
Ruth and Ralph Renard

Vorticist (\$10,000 to \$14,999)

Helen Brack
Emeritus Professor David Carment AM
Professor Glyn Davis AC
and Professor Margaret Gardner AO
Marion Dixon
Professor Ian Donaldson
and Dr Grazia Gunn
Emeritus Professor Anne Edwards AO
Professor Colin and Ms Carol Nettelbeck
Estate of Dorothy Porter
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Peter Rose and Christopher Menz
Mr John Scully
Anonymous (1)

Futurist (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

Peter Allan
Hon. Justice Kevin Bell AM
and Tricia Byrnes
Dr Bernadette Brennan
John Button (1932–2008)
Des Cowley
Professor The Hon. Gareth Evans AC QC
Professor Margaret Harris
The Hon. Peter Heerey AM QC
Dr Alastair Jackson AM
Allan Murray-Jones
Susan Nathan
Margaret Plant
David Poulton
Ilana Snyder and Ray Snyder AM
Noel Turnbull
Mary Vallentine AO
Susan Varga and Anne Coombs
Ruth Wisniak OAM
and Dr John Miller AO

Modernist (\$2,500 to \$4,999)

Geoffrey Applegate OBE and Sue Glenton
Gillian Appleton
Kate Baillieu
John Bryson AM
Professor Jan Carter AM
Helen Garner
Dr Gavan Griffith AO QC
Cathrine Harboe-Ree
Elisabeth Holdsworth
Dr Kerry James
Neil Kaplan CBE QC and Su Lesser
Dr Susan Lever
Dr Stephen McNamara
Don Meadows
Stephen Newton AO
Jillian Pappas
Dr Trish Richardson
and Mr Andy Lloyd James
Professor John Rickard
Dr Jennifer Strauss AM
Professor Andrew Taylor AM
Dr Mark Triffitt
Lisa Turner
Dr Barbara Wall
Nicola Wass
Jacki Weaver AO
Emeritus Professor Elizabeth Webby AM
Anonymous (6)

Romantic (\$1,000 to \$2,499)

Nicole Abadee and Rob Macfarlan
Jan Aitken
Helen Angus
Bardas Foundation
Professor Frank Bongiorno
Brian Bourke AM
John H. Bowring
John Bugg
Michelle Cahill
John Collins
Donna Curran and Patrick McCaughey
Hugh Dillon
Johanna Featherstone
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Mary Hoban
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Dr Barbara Kamler
Lindsay and John Knight
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Rod Morrison
Dr Ann Moyal AM
Dr Brenda Niall AO
Angela Nordlinger
M.D. de B. Collins Persse OAM MVO

Mark Powell

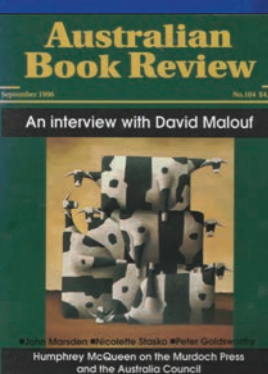
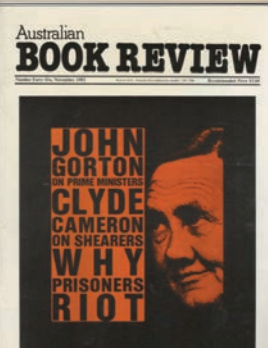
Professor John Poynter AO OBE
Dr Della Rowley (in memory of Hazel Rowley, 1951–2011)
Robert Sessions AM
Dr John Seymour
and Dr Heather Munro AO
Michael Shmith
Professor Terri-ann White
Ursula Whiteside
Lyn Williams AM
Anonymous (4)

Symbolist (\$500 to \$999)

Dr Gae Anderson
Douglas Batten
Professor Trevor Burnard
Joel Deane
Jean Dunn
Professor Helen Ennis
Dr Paul Genoni
Professor Paul Giles
Dr Peter Goldsworthy AM
Emeritus Professor Dennis Haskell AM
Dr Michael Henry AM
Dr Max Holleran
Dr Barbara Keys
Dr Brian McFarlane OAM
Marshall McGuire and Ben Opie
Pamela McLure
Muriel Mathers
Patricia Nethery
Professor Brigitta Olubas
Professor David Rolph
Emeritus Professor Susan Sheridan
and Professor Susan Magarey AM
Emeritus Professor James Walter
Natalie Warren
Anonymous (5)

Realist (\$250 to \$499)

Dr Delys Bird
Jean Bloomfield
Donata Carrazza
Blanche Clark
Allan Driver
Dr Anna Goldsworthy
John McDonald
Michael Macgeorge
Janet McLachlan
Felicity St John Moore
Diana O'Neil
J.W. de B. Persse
Professor Wilfrid Prest
Anthony Ritchard
Margaret Smith
Anonymous (1)



Forty years of *ABR*

1978

Australian Book Review is revived, with John McLaren as Editor

1982

John Gorton writes about six Australian prime ministers

1986

Kerryn Goldsworthy becomes the second Editor

1988

In the 100th issue Manning Clark reviews Kate Grenville's *Joan Makes History*

1989

Rosemary Sorensen becomes the fourth Editor, succeeding Louise Adler

1991

David Malouf reviews David Marr's biography of Patrick White; Robert Dessaix's influential essay on multiculturalism, 'Nice Work If You Can Get It'

1995

Helen Daniel becomes the fifth Editor; forum on the Helen Demidenko controversy

1998

With the closure of the National Book Council, *ABR* becomes fully independent

2000

Tributes to Helen Daniel in the November issue; Aviva Tuffield wins the *ABR* Reviewing Competition

2001

Peter Rose becomes the sixth Editor; *ABR* begins publishing new poems; Peter Porter writes at length about Sylvia Plath and Ted Hughes

2002

La Trobe University becomes principal sponsor

2005

Flinders University becomes a sponsor; Stephen Edgar wins the first *ABR* Poetry Prize

2007

Elisabeth Holdsworth wins the first Calibre Essay Prize

2009

Michelle de Kretser is our first subject on Open Page; Mark Gomes becomes the first of many full-time paid interns

2010

Maria Takolander wins the first *ABR* Short Story Prize

2011

ABR Online is launched; Gregory Day and Carrie Tiffany share the renamed *ABR* Elizabeth Jolley Short Story Prize; Patrick Allington is the inaugural *ABR* Patrons' Fellow; Judith Bishop wins the renamed Peter Porter Poetry Prize

2012

ABR moves to Boyd Community Hub in Southbank

2013

Martin Thomas wins the Calibre Essay Prize – our best-read feature ever; Brian Matthews is our first Critic of the Month; launch of *ABR* Arts

2014

Inaugural Environment issue, with the first *ABR* Eucalypt Fellowship (Danielle Clode); Robert Adamson is the first Poet of the Month; David Malouf is named *ABR* Laureate

2015

Colin Golvan QC succeeds long-time Chair Morag Fraser; first Film & Television issue

2016

New partnership with Monash University; first *ABR* cultural tour (USA); Robyn Archer becomes the second *ABR* Laureate; States of Poetry is launched

2017

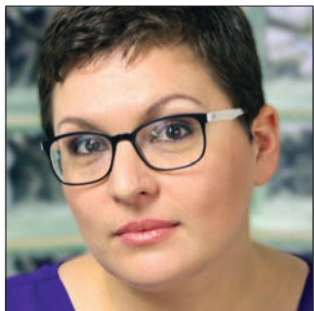
Four-year funding from the Australia Council; four *ABR* Fellowships; prominent role in the marriage equality campaign; Michael Heyward is our first Publisher of the Month

2018

ABR celebrates its fortieth birthday; Beejay Silcox becomes the *ABR* Fortieth Birthday Fellow; *ABR* again increases payments to writers



ABR Fortieth Birthday Fellowship



Beejay Silcox

Beejay Silcox is the recipient of the *ABR* Fortieth Birthday Fellowship worth \$10,000. Beejay, who first wrote for us in 2016, has quickly become a regular in our pages, and elsewhere.

She has contributed three Fellowship essays this year: 'Defying the Moment' (April 2018), 'We are all MFAs now!' (August 2018), and 'The Art of Pain: Writing in the age of trauma' (November 2018).

'My year as an *ABR* fellow has been the most rewarding of my writing life. I'm indebted to the *ABR* team, and its warm and generous community of readers and donors, for giving me the chance to grow into my profession.'

Beejay Silcox

ABR Editorial Internship

ABR offers one of the few fully paid editorial internships in the country. Since 2009, eight young editors have spent between six months and two years at *ABR*, an intensive introduction to all facets of magazine culture.

When Dilan Gunawardana left *ABR* in mid-2018 after one year as the Intern and one year as Deputy Editor (Digital), he remarked: 'I feel a tremendous sense of pride to have worked for a magazine that upholds exemplary editorial standards whilst fostering emerging talent. I am excited by *ABR*'s potential to grow and to continue to be the gold standard of Australian arts and literary journalism.'

As always the field for the 2018–19 Internship was highly competitive. Jack Callil joined us in June 2018.



Jack Callil



Left to right: Madelaine Lucas's father accepts the Jolley Prize on her behalf; Jolley Prize judge Michelle Cahill, author Claire Aman, and judge Patrick Allington; Claire Aman reads from her shortlisted story.

ABR Elizabeth Jolley Short Story Prize

'In the car we wound around the bay, which, on the map, made the shape of an ear with a tear-shaped island off the coast like a jewel earring. My mother and I were going to see the lighthouse out on the cape – or what was left of it anyway, which was not much, she told me, but stones and rubble. Sandstone stump crowning the headland.'

(from 'Ruins' by Madelaine Lucas)



Madelaine Lucas

Madelaine Lucas was named the winner of the 2018 ABR Elizabeth Jolley Short Story Prize for her story 'Ruins'. Madelaine Lucas received \$7,000. This year the prestigious prize attracted almost 1,200 entries from around the world. The 2018 Jolley Prize is worth a total of \$12,500, with a first prize of \$7,000 and supplementary prizes of \$2,000 and \$1,000.

Sharmini Aphrodite was placed second for her story 'Between the Mountain and the Sea' and Claire Aman placed third for her story 'Vasco'. The judges were Patrick Allington, Michelle Cahill, and Beejay Silcox. The three shortlisted stories appear in the August 2018 issue.

The Jolley Prize is funded by Ian Dickson.



ABR Arts

'Australian Book Review's content is a bright star in Australia's arts firmament – thoughtful, well-written, long-form articles and reviews that display a wide-ranging, cosmopolitan curiosity. Long may it continue to shine!'

Brett Dean

Our reviewers include:

Ben Brooker
Maryrose Casey
Lee Christofis
Peter Craven
Anwen Crawford
Ian Dickson
Morag Fraser
Fiona Gruber
Paul Kildea
Tali Lavi
Susan Lever
Peter Rose
Francesca Sasnaitis
Michael Shmith
Beejay Silcox
Alison Stieven-Taylor
Peter Tregear
Gillian Wills
Sheila Fitzpatrick

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ABR Arts was supported in 2018 by The Ian Potter Foundation and the Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund.



ABR Calibre Essay Prize

'I signed away ten years of my life at high school. Three hundred or so teenagers did likewise around the country; from Sydney and Melbourne to the wind-rustle quiet of burnt umber townships. We had similar reasons – wanting to be heroes and leaders, chasing self-respect, escaping loose ends, following Simpson and his donkey.

After graduation we cut our hair to regulation length, checked off items on a list in a thick wad of mailed instructions. We packed our luggage, teenage surfeit shrunk to military limits. Stiff in two-piece suits and shiny new leathers, family members farewelled, we converged on Canberra.'

(from 'We Three Hundred' by Lucas Grainger-Brown)

Lucas Grainger-Brown was the winner of the twelfth Calibre Essay Prize, worth \$5,000. The judges – Andrea Goldsmith, NewSouth Executive Publisher Phillipa McGuinness, and ABR Editor Peter Rose – chose Lucas Grainger-Brown's essay 'We Three Hundred' from a field of over two hundred essays submitted from fourteen countries.

'We Three Hundred' is a candid and unsentimental account of life as a cadet at the Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra for a bookish, idealistic adolescent straight out of high school.



Lucas Grainger-Brown

'It is an incredible honour to win the Calibre Essay Prize. When I was ready to write out this formative story, I knew I had to submit it to the Calibre Prize. *Australian Book Review* provides a fantastic national platform for the appreciation of Australian arts, ideas and culture. I hope my essay is read as a constructive addition to the ongoing dialogue about who we are and where we are going.'

Lucas Grainger-Brown

The winner of the second prize, worth \$2,500, was Kirsten Tranter. Her essay, entitled 'Once Again', appears in the May 2018 issue. 'We Three Hundred' appears in the April 2018 issue.

The Calibre Essay Prize is supported by Colin Golvan AM QC and the ABR Patrons.

Peter Porter Poetry Prize

Nicholas Wong was the winner of the 2018 Peter Porter Poetry Prize, now worth a total of \$8,500, for his poem titled '101, Taipei'. Wong, who flew from Hong Kong to attend the Porter ceremony, receives \$5,000.

This year's judges – John Hawke, Bill Manhire, Jen Webb – shortlisted poems by five poets – Eileen Chong, Katherine Healy, LK Holt, Tracey Slaughter, and Nicholas Wong. They were chosen from a record field of almost 1,000 poems. Tracey Slaughter's poem 'breather' was placed second. She receives \$2,000 – the other three shortlisted poets receive \$500 each. All the shortlisted poems are published in the March 2018 issue.



Nicholas Wong

'I'm honoured and humbled to be the winner, especially with a poem whose subject matter may seem foreign. Winning the Porter Prize also allows me to reach out to Australian readers.'

Nicholas Wong

John Hawke – chair of the judging panel and Poetry Editor of *ABR* – commented: 'Nicholas Wong's "101, Taipei" is a powerful representation of urban dislocation, which cuts across cultures and languages in its swerving indirections and switches in style and syntax.'

The Porter Prize is supported by Morag Fraser AM and the ABR Patrons.

