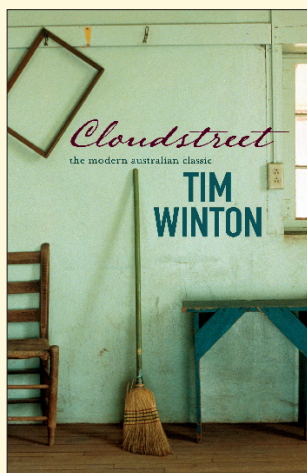


## Announcing the top ten

# ABR Favourite Australian Novels

Of the 290 individual novels that were nominated in the *ABR* FAN Poll, below we list the top ten. At the foot of page 25 we simply name the ten titles that followed. We don't have room to list all of your favourites. A complete alphabetical listing now appears on our website: [www.australian-bookreview.com](http://www.australian-bookreview.com) – a fillip to further reading and to a deeper appreciation of the range of Australian fiction, which was our shy hope when we polled our readers.

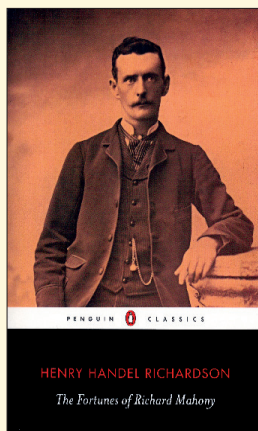
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## Cloudstreet

Tim Winton's books attract international kudos, prestigious awards and massive sales. Winton won the *Australian/Vogel* National Award with his first novel and last year became only the second person to win the Miles Franklin Award four times. *Cloudstreet*, published in 1991, holds a unique place in Australian readers' affections. Winton's tale of the Lambs and the Pickles from the end of World War II to the 1960s won the 1992 Miles Franklin Award and was dramatised by Nick Enright and Justin Monjo. Presciently, in 1994, *The Oxford Companion to Australian Literature* predicted that 'it seems certain to establish itself as one of Australia's best novels'. Countless voters agreed. One of them, Carla Ziino, described it as 'the quintessential Australian novel'.

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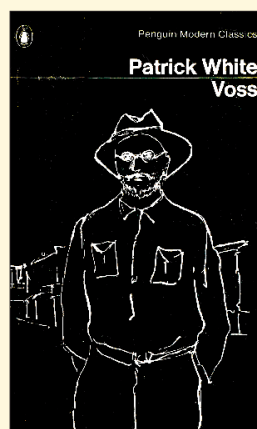


## The Fortunes of Richard Mahony

Henry Handel's grand trilogy – *Australia Felix* (1917), *The Way Home* (1925) and *Ultima Thule* (1929), first collected in 1930 – is one of the true epics of our literature. Combining

history, naturalism and allegory, it follows the Irish-born protagonist from Britain to Victoria over four decades in the nineteenth century. Few Australian novelists have rivalled Richardson's vision or intensity. John Scully, who voted for *Fortunes*, remarked that as a schoolboy he perceived Richard Mahony's energy and restlessness as 'a metaphor for Australia's colonial and post-colonial development'.

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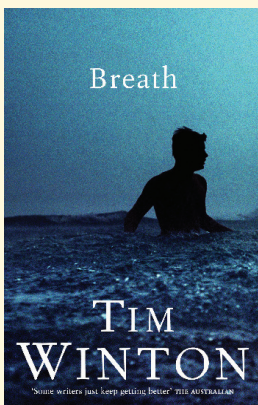


## Voss

Patrick White, Australia's first Nobel Laureate for Literature, dominated Australian literature from the 1950s to his death in 1990. *Voss*, his fifth novel, published in 1957, won the first Miles Franklin Award. It opens in colonial Sydney, in 1845, when the German explorer

Voss, partly based on Ludwig Leichardt, prepared to cross the continent. The story of his vicissitudes and of his telepathic 'marriage' to Laura Trevelyan remains one of the surpassing works of modern fiction. Richard Meale and David Malouf's opera followed in 1986. Zofia Moczulski, who selected this novel, commented: 'No other novel captures so movingly the essence of Australian life'.

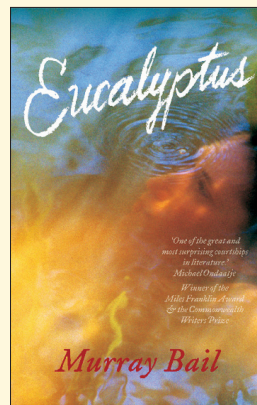
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## Breath

Tim Winton's ninth and most recent novel, which was published in 2008 and won him his fourth Miles Franklin Award, explores themes of friendship, risk-taking and the sea.

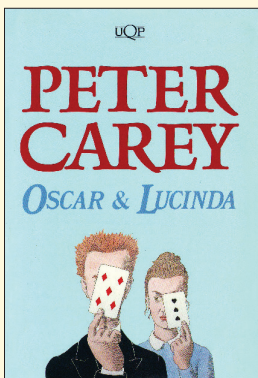
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## Eucalyptus

Murray Bail's third novel, published in 1998, won the Miles Franklin Award. Among the favoured novelists, Bail's oeuvre is perhaps the smallest and most original.

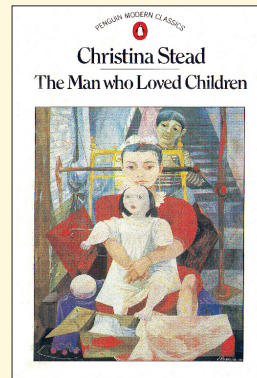
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## Oscar and Lucinda

Peter Carey's third novel, published in 1988, won the Miles Franklin Award and the Booker Prize, and was subsequently filmed.

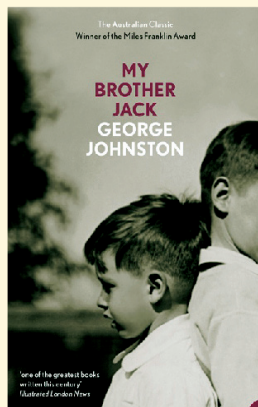
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## The Man Who Loved Children

Christina Stead's masterpiece, published in 1940 and long neglected, invites comparisons with the greatest novels of the twentieth century, Faulkner's among them.

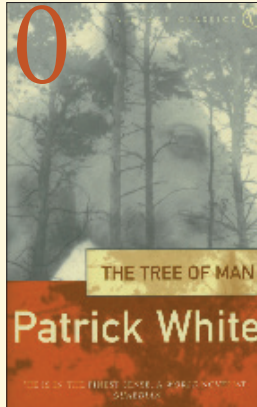
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## My Brother Jack

George Johnston's fifteenth novel, published in 1964, opened his semi-autobiographical trilogy, and won the Miles Franklin Award. His second wife, Charmian Clift, adapted it for television.

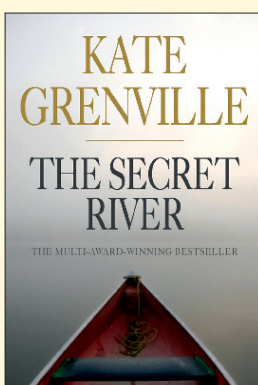
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## The Tree of Man

Patrick White's fourth novel, published in 1955, two years before *Voss*, concerns the lives of Stan and Amy Parker from the 1880s to the 1930s.

7



## The Secret River

Kate Grenville's sixth novel was published in 2005 and won the Commonwealth Prize for Literature Award. It was also shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Award and Man Booker Prizes.

- 11 *My Brilliant Career* Miles Franklin
- 12 *Monkey Grip* Helen Garner
- 13 *Dirt Music* Tim Winton
- 14 *The Vivisector* Patrick White
- 15 *Picnic at Hanging Rock* Joan Lindsay
- 16 *Remembering Babylon* David Malouf
- 17 *For the Term of His Natural Life* Marcus Clarke
- 18 *The Merry-Go-Round in the Sea* Randolph Stow
- 19 *Carpentaria* Alexis Wright
- 20 *The Slap* Christos Tsiolkas