

## **MEDIA RELEASE—Faber Writing Academy at Allen & Unwin**

29 January 2016

PRESS RELEASE

2016 WRITING A NOVEL SCHOLARSHIPS:

### **WINNERS ANNOUNCED!**

We are very pleased to announce the recipients of the 2016 **Writing a Novel: First Draft Scholarships** being offered by Faber Writing Academy at Allen & Unwin. **Kelli Hawkins** from Merewether (Newcastle) and **Ella Lamb** from Endeavour Hills (Melbourne) have each been awarded complimentary places on the Writing a Novel: First Draft courses commencing on 16 February in Sydney and Melbourne.

Director for the Sydney course, novelist Kathryn Heyman, said of Kelli Hawkins: 'Kelli's idea for a contemporary thriller is immediately engaging and intriguing. Her writing is restrained, pacy and fresh. This is the first time we've had a scholarship winner outside of Sydney and it's great to be able to support writers outside the metropolitan areas.'

Co-director for the Melbourne course, novelist Paddy O' Reilly, said of Ella Lamb: 'Ella has a vivid, confident writing voice and her sample demonstrated a strong narrative pull. The story shows potential to reach an exciting first draft.' Ella will be writing a YA story based around cyber bullying.

Publishing houses are reaching out to Writing a Novel course graduates with four signing contracts so far: Debra Jopson for *Oliver of the Levant* (Random House); Caroline Beecham for *Maggie's Kitchen* (Allen & Unwin), Michelle Wright with a short story collection *Fine* and a novel (Allen & Unwin) and Sally Abbott who won the Richell Prize for Emerging Writers who has now signed a contract for Hachette to publish her winning manuscript *Closing Down*.

Faber Writing Academy at Allen & Unwin is the only Australian creative writing school inside a publishing house. The Academy offers quality writing courses, from one-day to three months, devised by award-winning authors and publishing professionals.

The Writing a Novel: First Draft courses start in Sydney and Melbourne on 16 February, followed by Writing a Novel: Second Draft courses in June. [www.faberwritingacademy.com.au](http://www.faberwritingacademy.com.au)

**Media contact:** Sarah Menary, Communications Manager, Faber Writing Academy, call her mobile: **0458 300462**

---

Applications for the scholarship closed on 15 January 2016.