

20 February 2015

PRESS RELEASE

2015 WRITING A NOVEL SCHOLARSHIP: WINNERS ANNOUNCED!

We are very pleased to announce the recipients of the 2015 **Writing a Novel Scholarships** being offered by Faber Writing Academy at Allen & Unwin in Sydney and Melbourne. **Pip Smith** from Greenwich in Sydney and **Michelle Wright** from Eltham in Melbourne will each have a free place on the flagship six-month Writing a Novel course.

The number of applications has almost doubled since last year (by 97.87%) leading to many more high quality applications. Co-director for the Melbourne course, novelist Toni Jordan, expressed the feelings of all the judges saying: ‘There were so many seriously fantastic applications. I’m completely blown away by the standard. It’s been a blessing reading these gorgeous samples of writing but it’s been agony deciding which one would get the scholarship.’

Kathryn Heyman, novelist and director for Writing a Novel in Sydney said: ‘In a very strong field of applicants, Pip Smith’s ambitious take on a known historical story stood out for its delicacy of touch, keen sense of character and sheer elegance of language.’

Melbourne winner Michelle Wright has written short stories before but never a novel. Toni Jordan liked Michelle’s ‘ear for the music of a sentence, which is a rare gift and an eye for beautiful detail.’ Fellow co-director and novelist Paddy O’Reilly thought her writing impressive. ‘I’ve read a number of her stories, and if she can carry her strengths over to the novel form she will write a very good novel.’

Faber Writing Academy at Allen & Unwin is a quality writing program offering a range of courses from one-day workshops to six-month courses, devised by the foremost practitioners in their fields. The first course was launched at Shakespeare and Company bookshop in Paris in 2008, with Faber Academy at Allen & Unwin following in Australia in 2010.

The [Writing a Novel](http://www.faberwritingacademy.com.au) course starts in Sydney and Melbourne on 10 March.
www.faberwritingacademy.com.au

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The Writing a Novel Scholarships were announced last December and applications closed on 9 February.