



T E X T P U B L I S H I N G

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For immediate release

Dr Clare Wright is the winner of the biennial Alice Award, presented by the Australian Society of Women Writers



The award was presented by the Governor of Tasmania at a gala dinner in Launceston on Saturday night.

Society of Women Writers Tasmania Inc secretary Rosalie Sydes said: ‘The winner of the Alice Award is an Australian woman who by her written work has made a distinguished and long-term contribution to Australian literature.’

Previous winners of the prestigious award include Kate Grenville, Elizabeth Jolley, Eleanor Dark, Brenda Niall, Mary Durack and Mem Fox.

In her acceptance speech, Wright said, ‘It is a great honour to be the recipient of the Alice Award. I can’t tell you what a thrill it is for my name to be included in the list of past winners; authors of extraordinary calibre and grace, dedication and resolve, intelligence and imagination. Many of these women are personal heroes of mine.’

The first branch of the Society of Women Writers was established in NSW in the 1920s. Each state branch nominates an entrant for the Alice. Wright was selected as the Victorian nominee, and won the award above entrants including Joan London (WA) and Anita Heiss (NSW).

Wright is an Associate Professor in History at La Trobe University and an award-winning author and screenwriter.

Her book, *The Forgotten Rebels of Eureka*, was the winner of the 2014 Stella Prize and Nib Waverley Award for Literature and was shortlisted for a swag of other prizes, including the Prime Minister’s Literary Awards. A Young Adult version of the book, *We Are the Rebels*, is shortlisted for the Children’s Book Council Awards. The screen rights to *The Forgotten Rebels of Eureka* have been sold to Ruby Entertainment, producers of the Logie-winning *The Secret River*, who will adapt the book into an 8-part drama series.

Wright’s screenwriting credits include 4-part ABC docudrama, *The War That Changed Us*, and the ABC history documentary, *Utopia Girls: How Women Won the Vote*, which she also presented.

Wright’s essays have appeared in *Meanjin*, *Overland*, *Griffith Review*, *the Guardian* and *the Conversation*. She was recently appointed as a Director to the Board of the Wheeler Centre for Books, Writing and Ideas.

Wright’s publisher, Michael Heyward of Text Publishing said, ‘We are thrilled that Clare Wright has won the Alice Award. She is one of those writers who changes the way we think about things. Her study of the events at Eureka is a game-changing book and we published it with tremendous pride and excitement. On behalf of everyone at Text, I congratulate Clare both on her outstanding and multi-faceted success, and on winning the Alice Award.’

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