

## PRESS RELEASE

### Voss Literary Prize Winner 2015

**Embargoed until 6pm Wednesday 25 November 2015**

The winner of the 2015 Voss Literary Prize is Elizabeth Harrower for *In Certain Circles* (Text Publishing).

#### **The 2015 shortlist:**

Michael Mohammed Ahmad, *The Tribe* (Giramondo Publishing)

Elizabeth Harrower, *In Certain Circles* (Text Publishing)

Sophie Laguna, *The Eye of the Sheep* (Allen & Unwin)

Gerard Murnane, *A Million Windows* (Giramondo Publishing)

Christos Tsiolkas, *Merciless Gods* (Allen & Unwin)

Rohan Wilson, *To Name Those Lost* (Allen & Unwin)

The Voss Literary Prize is an award dedicated to the memory of Vivian Robert de Vaux Voss (1930-1963), an historian and lover of literature from Emu Park in Central Queensland who studied History and Latin at the University of Sydney and modern languages at the University of Rome. His will stipulated that a literary award be established to reward the best work of fiction published in Australia from the previous year. The executors of the estate have appointed the AUHE (Australian University Heads of English) the peak body for the study of English at Australian Universities, to oversee and judge the award.

The 2015 Voss shortlist reflects the contemporary strength of Australian fiction. It brings together exciting new voices, such as that of Michael Mohammed Ahmad's *The Tribe*, with new work from established authors such as Christos Tsiolkas and Gerald Murnane. The winner, *In Certain Circles* by Elizabeth Harrower, has generated enormous interest from readers, not least for its long-delayed publication. Fascinatingly in and out of its own time, the novel presents the fragility and tenuousness of human interconnection as a figure for the postwar world. The judges were compelled by Harrower's incisive and stately prose and by the novel's subtle

interweaving of perspectives in the drawing of its circles of sociability and seduction.

**The judges for the 2015 award:**

David Ellison, Griffith University

Helen Groth, University of New South Wales

Amanda Nettelbeck, University of Adelaide

Brigitta Olubas, University of New South Wales (Chair)

Brenda Walker, University of Western Australia

The winner of the 2015 award will be announced on November 25, 2015 at the annual meeting of the AUHE in Sydney.

**Contact:** Brigitta Olubas: [b.olubas@unsw.edu.au](mailto:b.olubas@unsw.edu.au)