



MEDIA RELEASE

Contact: Dr Elaine Lindsay
Phone: 2 9739 2898

EMBARGOED UNTIL 4PM 1 DECEMBER 2017

ANNOUNCING THE WINNER OF THE 2017 VOSS LITERARY PRIZE

Congratulations to **Mark O’Flynn** for his novel, *The Last Days of Ava Langdon*.

The Australian University Heads of English are thrilled to award this year’s Voss prize to Mark Flynn’s *The Last Days of Ava Langdon*, published by the University of Queensland Press.

Bouncing off the story of that singular Australian writer Eve Langley, Flynn’s central character is “so wonderfully drawn”, according to the judges “that we experience vicariously her emotional chaos as she bounces from optimism to anguish to creative fervour”. As with the characters of Kate Grenville and Elizabeth Jolley, “We laugh along with them, but we also feel their pain, recognising in it the loneliness of being human.”

O’Flynn is also a poet and, for the judges, “this shows in his vivid descriptions of the bush surrounding Ava’s shack, her perambulations around the streets of Katoomba, the startling images he and Ava employ, and their love of obscure and original words, verbal jokes and allusions.”

The prize was presented today at the annual meeting of the AUHE at the University of Adelaide.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE VOSS LITERARY PRIZE

The Voss Literary Prize acknowledges the best Australian novel published in the preceding year. It is 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

President:	Prof. Nicole Moore (UNSW)	n.moore@adfa.edu.au
Secretary:	Dr Matt McGuire (WSU)	m.mcguire@westernsydney.edu.au
Outreach:	Prof. Leigh Dale (UOW)	ldale@uow.edu.au
Treasurer:	Assoc. Prof. Brigitta Olubas (UNSW)	b.olubas@unsw.edu.au

www.auhe.org.au



AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY HEADS OF ENGLISH

at the University of Sydney and modern languages at the University of Rome. The executors of his estate appointed the [Australian University Heads of English, the peak body for the study of English at Australian Universities](#), to oversee and judge the award.

THE JUDGES' REPORT IS AVAILABLE ON THE AUHE WEBSITE

<https://vossiliteraryprize.com/>

<http://auhe.org/voss-literary-prize/>

President: Prof. Nicole Moore (UNSW)
Secretary: Dr Matt McGuire (WSU)
Outreach: Prof. Leigh Dale (UOW)
Treasurer: Assoc. Prof. Brigitta Olubas (UNSW)

n.moore@adfa.edu.au
m.mcguire@westernsydney.edu.au
ldale@uow.edu.au
b.olubas@unsw.edu.au

www.auhe.org.au