



CAL Waverley Library Award for Literature 2011



'The Nib': CAL Waverley Library Award for Literature

Council has long established an excellent reputation within local government and the general community for its support of library services and the wide range of allied programs available to local residents.

One of its more innovative projects has been the creation of a Literary Award which has developed into a major national event. The Award was established in 2002, with the support of Westfield Bondi Junction as its major sponsor, and the Friends of Waverley Library (FOWL). Recognising excellence in research in the creation of literary works, the Award has been won by some of our finest writers including Barry Hill, Gideon Haigh, Helen Garner, Geoffrey Blainey, Christopher Koch, Robert Gray and most recently, Andrew Tink.

Following Westfield's withdrawal of sponsorship in 2008, Copyright Agency Limited (CAL), agreed to provide \$80000 over three years to ensure the continuation of the Award whilst Council looked for an alternative community partner. Now known as 'The Nib': CAL Waverley Library Award for Literature, the Award offers a highly competitive main prize of \$20,000. In addition, each of the 6 finalists receive the Alex Buzo Shortlist Prize, named after one of Australia's most distinguished playwrights who lived in Waverley, and contributed significantly to the Award's success, prior to his untimely death in 2006.

CAL is an accredited copyright management company which collects copyright licence fees and is required to allocate some of that money for continuing cultural development. CAL supports a wide range of literary awards, festivals, and author events. It is very satisfying to be able to directly reward authors whose books on library shelves have brought such pleasure and learning to tens of thousands of our readers over the years.

CAL has extended its support for one more year, ensuring continuance of the award during 2011.

The Award has been enthusiastically received by the literary and publishing communities, with a significant number of entries by Australian authors each year – 158 in 2010.

'The Nib' is the name given to the statuette which has been presented with the winner's prize each year and has now been incorporated into the name of the award. 'The Nib' was designed by Council's Graphic Artist, Michael White.

There are many different literary awards available to authors, but Waverley's is unique. Besides excellence in research in the creation of literary works, the judges also take into account readability, literary merit and value to the community. All fiction and non fiction writing are eligible.

The award is launched annually at the Sydney Writers Festival. There is also a lot of local community involvement with library members encouraged to read and comment on the nominations, and to attend two award prize presentation functions towards the end of the year. The functions are also part of a much broader Waverley Words Literary Festival program.

Award nominations usually open during April, with guidelines and entry forms posted on the library's website. Further information about the award, including a list of all shortlisted and winning authors, may be found at: www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/library/award

The library is currently looking for community partners to continue and expand the award. There are a number of opportunities for various levels of support, each offering an attractive range of benefits.

If you would like to know more about this, please telephone Linda Bathur or Denis Moore on 9386 7709

