



The Horne Prize 2019 awarded to Rachael Lebeter

Aesop and *The Saturday Paper* take great pleasure in announcing that NSW writer and secondary teacher Rachael Lebeter has won the 2019 round of The Horne Prize, worth \$15,000, for her essay *Diary of a Wildlife Carer*—a year-long account of the plight of native fauna in the face of climate change and diminishing biodiversity.

The judges said of their selection: 'This essay is a work of quiet power. It is thoughtfully rendered, restrained, but ultimately devastating. Only an ambitious writer would seek to tackle the climate and mass extinction crises; only a talented writer could grapple with these issues in such a human way.'

In addition, the judges highly commended Northern Territory writer, union official and advocate for the Uluru Statement Thomas Mayor, for his essay *A Dream That Cannot Be Denied*, which examines the legacy of the Wave Hill Walk-Off and the need for constitutional enshrinement of a First Nations Voice. Mayor is also the author of the book *Finding the Heart of the Nation* (2019).

Diary of a Wildlife Carer will be published in *The Saturday Paper* on December 21 and available as a stand-alone chapbook in Aesop's Australian stores for a limited time from the same date.

Launched in August 2016 by Aesop and *The Saturday Paper*, the major annual prize is named for the late Donald Horne AO, in honour of his exceptional contribution to Australian letters. An eminent author, editor, journalist, academic and public intellectual, he is widely remembered for his book *The Lucky Country*, an incisive critique of Australian culture first published in 1964.

The 2019 judging panel comprised Maddison Connaughton, editor of *The Saturday Paper*; Suzanne Santos, Aesop's General Manager, Retail and Customer Service; Professor Marcia Langton AM; and the writers Anna Krien and Nam Le.

Opening and closing dates for the next round of The Horne Prize will be announced in mid-2020. The inaugural winner was Melbourne novelist and non-fiction writer Anna-Spargo-Ryan, for *The Suicide Gene*; in 2017, the prize was awarded to Adelaide writer, critic and ex-academic Dr Kerry Goldsworthy, for *The Limit of the World*; in 2018 to Melbourne writer, broadcaster Daniel James, for *Ten More Days*.

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