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Short list for Kibble and Dobbie Awards for women writers announced

Perpetual today announced this year's short list for some of Australia's most prestigious writing awards, the Nita B. Kibble Literary Award for Women Writers and the Dobbie Encouragement Award.

Short-listed for the Awards are:

Kibble Literary Award:

- **Gail Jones** for 'Sorry';
- **Carol Lefevre** for 'Nights in the Asylum'; and
- **Mireille Juchau** for 'Burning In'.

Dobbie Encouragement Award:

- **Jessica White** for 'A Curious Intimacy';
- **Emma Hardman** for 'Nine Parts Water'; and
- **Karen Foxlee** for 'The Anatomy of Wings'.

The Kibble Literary Award recognises the work of an established Australian female writer, the winner of which receives a \$20,000 prize, whilst the Dobbie Award is worth \$2500 and recognises the work of a first published Australian female writer. Since the inception of the Kibble and Dobbie Awards in 1994, Perpetual has distributed nearly \$300,000 on their behalf to some of Australia's leading female authors.

Scott Riedel, Head of Perpetual Private Clients, says this year's short-listed works are a great reflection on the Awards. 'Each is an outstanding piece of Australian literature, and each of the authors should be proud of her achievement', he said. 'These Awards are now amongst the premier writing prizes in Australia, and Perpetual feels privileged and honoured to be associated with them.'

The Awards were established in the will of Ms Nita May Dobbie, a librarian and writer who was concerned with the difficulties faced by female writers and recognised the need to foster women's writing in the community.

The object of the Awards is to benefit women writers of a published book of fiction or non-fiction classified as 'life writing', to advance Australian literature, and to help provide incentive to female writers. The work must be written and published during the period of the Award, and describe day to day Australian life.

Ms Dobbie named the Kibble award after her aunt, Ms Nita Bernice Kibble, who raised her and was the first woman to be appointed a librarian with the State Library of New South Wales. Ms Kibble was also a founding member of the Australian Institute of Librarians.

The winners of the Awards will be announced on Tuesday, 6 May.

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