

# MILES FRANKLIN LITERARY AWARD

## Miles Franklin 1879-1954

### **The Miles Franklin Literary Award – a tribute to storytelling in Australia**

Working towards a career as a novelist can be tough. Stella Maria Sarah Miles Franklin knew this well from her own experiences as an early 20th century novelist and feminist. In 1954, a bequest from Stella established a charitable trust to recognise excellence in Australian literature.

Trust is the trustee of the Miles Franklin Literary fund and has been involved in Australia's original literary award since the first winner, Patrick White, received \$500 for his novel *Voss* in 1957. Under our prudent trusteeship, the award has grown in prestige and value, providing writers with both financial support and artistic recognition for more than 50 years. In 2009, Tim Winton was awarded \$42,000 for his novel *Breath*.

### **"Someone to tell it to is one of the fundamental needs of human beings" Miles Franklin**

Stella Maria Sarah Miles Franklin was born near Tumut in New South Wales in 1879 and grew up on the family homestead (Brindabella) in the Monaro region of NSW.

Stella's first famous work, *My Brilliant Career*, was locally rejected but published in Edinburgh and London in 1901. She tried her hand as a nurse, and then as a housemaid seeking material for a book. Stella also worked as a freelance journalist for the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Sydney Morning Herald* under the pseudonyms 'An Old Bachelor' and 'Vernacular'. She was also involved in the early Australian feminist movement through her friendships with Rose Scott and Vida Goldstein.

In 1906 Stella travelled to the US to work for Alice Henry and the National Women's Trade Union League. She then moved to England and served as a nurse in Europe during the First World War, returning to Australia in 1933 with an established literary reputation.

Stella's novels, plays and essays include *My Brilliant Career*, *My Career Goes Bung*, *Old Blastus of Bandicoot*, *All That Swagger* and *Back to Bool Bool*.

### **Creating a legacy – how does an award or scholarship work?**

An initial amount or bequest is invested and the income it generates is used to finance the awards. Trustee companies like Trust ensure that donations and bequests are invested to create enough income to fund the awards and meet the benefactor's charitable aims.

For 125 years Trust has proudly served as trustee and custodian for Australians wanting to support a specific cause or create a better future for their community. Trust administers more than \$500 million for around 350 charitable trusts and distributed more than \$20 million in 2009.

**For more information about how you can set up your own award or charitable fund, please contact Lenore Plummer on (02) 8295 8100 or email [philanthropy@trust.com.au](mailto:philanthropy@trust.com.au).**