

MEDIA RELEASE

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From: Progressive PR and Publicity on behalf of *Australian Book Review*
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Grace Karskens wins the Calibre Essay Prize

Grace Karskens is the winner of the thirteenth [Calibre Essay Prize](#), Australia's most prestigious essay prize, for her essay 'Nah Doongh's Song'. The distinguished Australian historian receives \$5,000.

The judges – **J.M. Coetzee**, **Anna Funder**, and *ABR* Editor **Peter Rose** – chose 'Nah Doongh's Song' from a field of over 450 essays submitted from 22 countries. Karskens's essay – about a remarkable nineteenth-century Aboriginal woman – will appear in *ABR*'s Indigenous issue in August.

Sarah Walker was runner-up for her essay 'Floundering', for which she receives \$2,500. Her essay appears in the upcoming June–July issue of *ABR*. 'Floundering' describes the body out of control and at sea. It traces the estrangement from the physical self that occurs in pregnancy and anxiety, setting the deeply taboo and private experience of abortion against the public space of the Australian suburban swimming pool.

On learning that she had been placed second, Sarah Walker commented:

'I am thrilled to be recognised in the 2019 Calibre Essay Prize. Open-call awards are a vital part of the Australian arts ecology, and the Calibre Prize in particular allows an essential avenue for new writing to be seen and read with extraordinary care and respect. I am proud to be joining a lineage of extraordinary writing.'



Grace Karskens



Sarah Walker

About Sarah Walker

Sarah Walker is a Melbourne-based writer and fine artist. In 2017 she won the Sydney Road Writer's Cup and the Sydney Road Storytelling Prize. She has been published in *Signed, Sealed, Delivered: Women of letters*. She is also an award-winning photographer, theatre designer, and director, and is co-host of the podcast *Contact Mic*.

About the Calibre Essay Prize

The [Calibre Essay Prize](#) (first awarded in 2007) is Australia's leading essay prize. It is intended to encourage brilliant new essays and to foster new insights into Australian culture and society.

INTERVIEWS: Sarah Walker is available for interviews now. Grace Karskens will be available in late July in the lead-up to publication of 'Nah Doongh's Song' in the Indigenous issue in August.

More information about *ABR* and the Calibre Essay Prize can be found on our website.

ABR gratefully acknowledges the generous support of Mr Colin Golvan AM QC and the *ABR* Patrons.