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Michael Winkler wins Australia's premier essay prize



(photograph by Chris Riordan)

Michael Winkler is the winner of the 2016 Calibre Prize for an Outstanding Essay. The judges – Sophie Cunningham (winner of the 2015 Calibre Prize) and Peter Rose – chose Mr Winkler's essay 'The Great Red Whale' from a field of almost 200 entries submitted from thirteen different countries. Michael Winkler receives \$5,000; his essay will appear in the June–July issue.

'The Great Red Whale' is an essay about fractures, overlaying the ruptures within the author's psyche with the fissure between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, something he believes keeps us 'heartsore as a nation'. On learning that he had won the Calibre Prize, Michael Winkler told *Advances*: 'The Calibre Prize essays are not only an annual *ABR* highlight but notable events in our national life.'

The judges have commended two other essays: Joshua Barnes's 'Terra Australis Incognita' and Sarah Viren's 'Dear Julie'. We will publish both in coming months. We look forward to offering Calibre again in 2017.

About the winner

Michael Winkler lives in Melbourne and works in the Northern Territory. His most recent book is the self-published *Fahfangoolah! The despised and indispensable Welcome to Woop Woop*. He has worked in all branches of the media – radio, television, print, the internet – as well as corporate communications.

About the Calibre Prize

The Calibre Prize (first awarded in 2007) is Australia's leading award for an original essay. The Prize is intended to encourage brilliant new essays and to foster new insights into Australian culture and society.

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