

**The Australian Centre and the Faculty of Arts,
University of Melbourne
Literary Awards 2014
Judges' Report**

PETER BLAZEY FELLOWSHIP

\$15,000 (approx.) award to further a work in progress in biography, autobiography or life-writing

WINNER

Rebe Taylor for *The Politics and Poetry of Rhys Jones' Tasmanian Archaeology*

COMMENDED

Jane Messer for *Grave Relations: A Biography*

Jessica White for *Blue Shadows and Morning Light: Tracing the Art Collection of F.G. White*

Rebe Taylor's submission stood out this year, especially in terms of its treatment of its subject. She has written an evocative account of the controversial Tasmanian archaeologist Rhys Jones, opening up some fascinating areas for scholarly discussion and putting Jones's reputation and fieldwork in contexts that are always illuminating. This is a compelling and revealing piece of writing, important to our understanding of the ways in which Indigenous histories and pre-histories have been shaped and struggled over.

Commendations are given for **Jane Messer's** chronicle of her Jewish German grandmother Bella Reiss Messer; her story of Bella's experiences in Berlin, Palestine and Melbourne considers questions of ethics, self and identity through the lens of Bella's life as a Jewish woman and is a fine piece of sympathetic, analytical writing. **Jessica White's** memoir of her great-grandfather F.G. White was also highly commended, a detailed and engaging account of White's extensive art collection - as well as his role as a pastoralist involved in the colonial project of property expansion and its historical connections to Aboriginal dispossession.

JUDGES

Ms Penny Blazey, Professor Ken Gelder, Ms Brigid Mullane, and A/Prof Denise Varney