

## **Walter McRae Russell 2015**

The joint winners for 2015 are:

Robert Dixon, Alex Miller: *The Ruin of Time* (Sydney University Press)

Michele Grossman, *Entangled Subjects: Indigenous/Australian Cross-Cultures of Talk, Text and Modernity* (Rodopi)

Robert Dixon's *Alex Miller: The Ruin of Time* (SUP) is an erudite and accomplished work on one of Australia's major contemporary writers, showcasing deep engagement with the texts and their genesis, and powered by a highly contextualised biographical approach that places these works within their cultural moments in richly revealing ways. Dixon approaches Miller's work through a framework of generosity and gifting, enacting this model in detailed discussion of the life and works. *Alex Miller: The Ruin of Time* draws on an impressive range of historical contexts, and theoretical frameworks and debates, to read across Miller's extensive and awarded body of work.

Michele Grossman's *Entangled Subjects: Indigenous/Australian Cross-Cultures of Talk, Text and Modernity* (Rodopi) is a bold, ambitious and rigorous intervention into much-debated, high-stake questions about orality, literacy and the discursive construction of Indigeneity. It exhibits an impressive depth and range in its theoretical and critical engagement, venturing into complex international and interdisciplinary fields to address issues that remain at the heart of literary production and cultural history in the Australian context. At the same time, it models a way of doing scholarship that is highly aware of its own speaking position, and carefully positioned in relation to narrative constructions of traumatic subjective historical experience that indict settler imaginaries in fraught and unresolved ways.