

2017

NSW PREMIER'S  
LITERARY AWARDS

# Media Release



## Winners announced for 2017 NSW Premier's Literary Awards

22/5/2017

The NSW Premier's Literary Awards were announced **TONIGHT [Monday 22 May]** at the State Library of NSW, with a total of \$300,000 offered across 13 prizes.

NSW Premier, The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP said: "The diversity of tonight's winners is impressive, both in terms of the writers' backgrounds and the subject matter of the works. It reflects the outstanding and continuous achievements of the Australian literary community. On behalf of the NSW Government, I congratulate all the shortlisted authors and winners of the 2017 Awards."

Lucy Milne, acting NSW State Librarian & Chief Executive, said: "The NSW Premier's Literary Awards are one of Australia's largest and most comprehensive literary prizes, celebrating and fostering our vibrant literary community. The State Library of NSW is proud to manage the Premier's Literary Awards in association with Create NSW."

According to Senior Judge, Suzanne Leal: "Australian literature is in fine form. This is confirmed by strong shortlists in each category of this year's Awards and winning entries that explore the world with lyricism, whimsy, sorrow, fury, passion and humour. The judges appreciate the staunch commitment of the NSW Government in valuing and supporting Australian writers."

### **Categories and 2017 winners:**

#### **Book of the Year (\$10,000)**

*The Drover's Wife*, Leah Purcell (Currency Press and Belvoir in association with Oombarra Productions)

#### **Christina Stead Prize for Fiction (\$40,000)**

*The Museum of Modern Love*, Heather Rose (Allen & Unwin)

#### **UTS Glenda Adams Award for New Writing (\$5,000 – sponsored by UTS)**

*Letter to Pessoa*, Michelle Cahill (Giramondo Publishing)

#### **Douglas Stewart Prize for Non-fiction (\$40,000)**

*Our Man Elsewhere: In Search of Alan Moorehead*, Thornton McCamish (Black Inc.)

#### **Kenneth Slessor Prize for Poetry (\$30,000)**

*Ghostspeaking*, Peter Boyle (Vagabond Press)

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**Patricia Wrightson Prize for Children's Literature (\$30,000)**

*Iris and the Tiger*, Leanne Hall (Text Publishing)

**Ethel Turner Prize for Young People's Literature (\$30,000)**

*One Thousand Hills*, James Roy and Noël Zihabamwe (Omnibus Books, Scholastic Australia)

**Nick Enright Prize for Playwriting (\$30,000)**

*The Drover's Wife*, Leah Purcell (Currency Press and Belvoir in association with Oombarra Productions)

**Betty Roland Prize for Scriptwriting (\$30,000)**

JOINT WINNERS:

*The Code, Series 2 Episode 4*, Shelley Birse (Playmaker Media)

*Down Under*, Abe Forsythe (Riot Film Pty Ltd)

**Multicultural NSW Award (\$20,000)**

*The Hate Race*, Maxine Beneba Clarke (Hachette Australia)

**The NSW Premier's Translation Prize (\$30,000)**

Royall Tyler

**Multicultural NSW Early Career Translator Prize (\$5,000)**

Jan Owen

**People's Choice Award**

*Vancouver*, #3 in the series *Wisdom Tree*, Nick Earls (Inkerman & Blunt)

**BACKGROUND NOTES**

- Works nominated for the NSW Premier's Literary Awards must have been first published, performed or screened between 1 October 2015 and 30 September 2016. This period does not apply to the NSW Premier's Translation Prize and the Multicultural NSW Early Career Translator Prize which are biennial.
- Writers and illustrators whose works are nominated must be living Australian citizens or persons holding permanent resident status.
- The Awards are judged by an independent committee of writers, academics, critics and other sector professionals who have been appointed by the Premier or the Minister for the Arts or their delegates.
- The inaugural NSW Premier's Literary Awards were presented in 1979 by Premier Neville Wran and were the first Premier's literary awards to be offered in Australia.

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- A 'NSW Book of the Year' may be chosen by the judging panel from among the winners of the individual prizes, and the Government may, at its discretion, make an additional payment of \$10,000 prize money to the writer of the work so designated.

The NSW Premier's Literary and History Awards are administered by the State Library of NSW. For more information please contact: Mandy Kretzschmar, Senior Project Officer, Awards, State Library of NSW (02) 9273 1605 or [mandy.kretzschmar@sl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mandy.kretzschmar@sl.nsw.gov.au)

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