

# Media Release

## Shortlists announced for 2023 NSW Premier's History Awards

4/8/2023

The Premier of NSW, The Hon. Chris Minns MP **TODAY [Friday 4 August]** announced the shortlists for the 2023 NSW Premier's History Awards.

Eleven judges considered 186 entries across the six prize categories.

Mr Minns said: "These important awards help to continue our long, rich and diverse history of storytelling. And our historians play a critical part in understanding, questioning and generating fresh perspectives on Australia's past and providing a guide for the future."

"I wish to congratulate all the shortlisted authors."

2023 NSW Premier's History Awards shortlists (in alphabetical order by author):

### Australian History Prize (\$15,000)

- *Elizabeth and John: The Macarthurs of Elizabeth Farm* by Alan Atkinson (NewSouth)
- *Dreamers and Schemers: A Political History of Australia* by Frank Bongiorno (La Trobe University Press/Black Inc.)
- *Political Lives: Australian prime ministers and their biographers* by Chris Wallace (NewSouth)

### General History Prize (\$15,000)

- *Visions of Nature: How Landscape Photography Shaped Settler Colonialism* by Jarrod Hore (University of California Press)
- *Under Empire: Muslim Lives and Loyalties Across the Indian Ocean World, 1775–1945* by Michael Laffan (Columbia University Press)
- *Singing the News of Death: Execution Ballads in Europe 1500–1900* by Una McIlvenna (Oxford University Press)

### NSW Community & Regional History Prize (\$15,000)

- *The Naturalist: The remarkable life of Allan Riverstone McCulloch* by Brendan Atkins (NewSouth, in association with the Lord Howe Island Historical Society and Museum)
- *He Belonged to Wagga: The Great War, the AIF and returned soldiers in an Australian country town* by Ian Hodges (Australian Scholarly Publishing)
- *Whitefella Way* by Jon Rhodes (Self-published)

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### Young People's History Prize (\$15,000)

- *The Goodbye Year* by Emily Gale (Text Publishing)
- *Running with Ivan* by Suzanne Leal (HarperCollins Publishers)
- *The Wearing of the Green* by Claire Saxby (Walker Books Australia)

### Digital History Prize (\$15,000)

- *Still We Rise* by Anna Grieve and John Harvey (Tamarind Tree Pictures)
- *The Australian Wars, Episode 1* by Rachel Perkins, Darren Dale, Jacob Hickey and Don Watson (Blackfella Films)
- *Ayahs and Amahs: Transcolonial Journeys* by Lauren Samuelsson (University of Newcastle, Australia)

### The Anzac Memorial Trustees' Military History Prize (\$10,000)

- *The Scrap Iron Flotilla: Five Valiant Destroyers and the Australian War in the Mediterranean* by Mike Carlton (William Heinemann, an imprint of Penguin Random House Australia)
- *Soldiers and Aliens: Men in the Australian Army's Employment Companies during World War II* by June Factor (Melbourne University Publishing)
- *He belonged to Wagga: The Great War, the AIF and returned soldiers in an Australian country town* by Ian Hodges (Australian Scholarly Publishing)

Senior Judge Professor Kate Fullagar said: "The shortlists reveal compelling creativity and rich diversity among history-makers in Australia today. Our expertise in world history, digital history, military and children's history, as well as in our own local and national histories, is reassuring and inspiring."

State Librarian John Vallance said: "Libraries and archives provide the raw material for historian's work. The Premier's History Awards each year show us how rich are the returns on our investment. This year we are delighted to add the Anzac Memorial Trustees History Prize to what is already a very distinguished group of honours. I encourage you to read the works on the shortlists, and then join us on the 7th of September at the State Library."

### Background notes

- Works nominated for the 2023 NSW Premier's History Awards must have been first published, produced or made publicly available between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023.
- Writers, creators and illustrators whose works are nominated must be living Australian citizens or hold permanent resident status. New Zealand citizens or persons holding permanent resident status are permitted to enter the Anzac Memorial Trustees Military History Prize category.

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- The Awards are assessed by an independent panel of scholars and historians appointed by the Premier or the Minister for the Arts or their delegates, on the recommendation of the State Librarian.
- The judges for the Anzac Memorial Trustees Military History Prize are recommended the Anzac Memorial Board of Trustees and are appointed by the Office for Veterans Affairs.
- The NSW Premier's History Awards were first presented in 1997 to honour distinguished achievement in history.

### Winners announcement

The winners will be announced at an award ceremony at the State Library of NSW on Thursday 7 September 2023. Visit the State Library of NSW website for details and to book tickets: [www.sl.nsw.gov.au/pha](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/pha)

### More information

The NSW Premier's History Awards are administered by the State Library of NSW in association with Create NSW. We are pleased to acknowledge the support of the History Council of NSW and in 2023 the Anzac Memorial Trustees for their establishment and sponsorship of the Anzac Memorial Trustees Military History Prize.

For more information about the awards, please contact the awards team at State Library of NSW on (02) 9273 1582 / (02) 9273 1767 or [awards@sl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:awards@sl.nsw.gov.au)

### MEDIA CONTACT:

Vanessa Bond, Media & Communications Manager, State Library of NSW  
0411 259 898, [vanessa.bond@sl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:vanessa.bond@sl.nsw.gov.au)