

Media Release

Winners announced for 2021 NSW Premier's Literary Awards

26/04/21

The State Library of NSW today announced the winners of the NSW Premier's Literary Awards, with a total of \$305,000 awarded across 13 prizes.

NSW Premier, The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP said: "For more than four decades, the NSW Premier's Literary Awards have provided a benchmark for Australian writing, recognising the year's greatest achievements by established and emerging authors, playwrights and scriptwriters. I congratulate all the award winners and nominees whose work enriches our lives."

State Librarian John Vallance added: "Writing and reading keep us alive. I thank the NSW Government for recognising this and congratulate all this year's Premier's Literary Award writers and publishers."

According to Senior Judge, Jane McCredie: "The judges considered more than 600 written works in a dazzling array of genres and styles, many of them raising fundamental questions about authorship and who gets to tell the stories of our country. The winning writers stand out for their literary skill and the urgency of their themes, whether applied to the most intimate subject matter or larger global narratives."

The 2021 prize winners are:

Categories and winners:

Book of the Year (\$10,000)

Throat by Ellen van Neerven (University of Queensland Press)

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

A Room Made of Leaves by Kate Grenville (Text Publishing)

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

Cherry Beach by Laura McPhee-Browne (Text Publishing)

Douglas Stewart Prize for Non-Fiction (\$40,000)

The Warrior, the Voyager, and the Artist: Three Lives in an Age of Empire by Kate Fullagar (Yale University Press)

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

Throat by Ellen van Neerven (University of Queensland Press)

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

The Grandest Bookshop in the World by Amelia Mellor (Affirm Press)

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

The End of the World is Bigger than Love by Davina Bell (Text Publishing)

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

Milk by Dylan Van Den Berg (The Street Theatre)

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

FREEMAN by Laurence Billiet (General Strike & Matchbox Pictures)

Multicultural NSW Award (\$20,000)

Throat by Ellen van Neerven (University of Queensland Press)

NSW Translation Prize (\$30,000) – biennial award – joint winners

Autumn Manuscripts by Tasos Leivaditis, translated by N.N. Trakakis (Smokestack Books)

Imminence by Mariana Dimópulos, translated by Alice Whitmore (Giramondo Publishing)

Special Award (\$10,000)

Melina Marchetta

People's Choice Award

The Dictionary of Lost Words by Pip Williams (Affirm Press)

BACKGROUND NOTES

- Works nominated for the NSW Premier's Literary Awards must have been first published, performed or screened between 1 October 2019 and 30 September 2020. This period does not apply to the NSW Translation Prize which is 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 Premiers Literary Awards were presented in 1979 by Premier Neville Wran and were the first Premier's literary awards to be offered in Australia.
- The NSW Premier's Literary Awards are the richest state-based literary awards in the country.

The NSW Premier's Literary Awards are administered by the State Library of NSW in association with Create NSW. The State Library acknowledges the sponsorship of Multicultural NSW and the University of Technology Sydney.

For more information please contact: Mandy Kretschmar, Senior Project Officer, Awards, State Library of NSW (02) 9273 1605 or awards@sl.nsw.gov.au

Visit the State Library of NSW's website for the list of winners and judges' comments: www.sl.nsw.gov.au/awards

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