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2017 NSW PREMIER'S HISTORY AWARDS

Shortlist announced for 2017 NSW Premier's History Awards

24/08/2017

The works of today's leading Australian historians have been shortlisted for the 2017 NSW Premier's History Awards the State Library of NSW announced today [Thursday 24 August 2017].

The Premier of NSW, the Honourable Gladys Berejiklian MP, said "these Awards celebrate the significant achievements of our historians. Their contribution to our cultural landscape influences and motivates us all."

"I congratulate the shortlisted writers, creators and producers across various media whose excellence in their chosen field is recognised by their inclusion on the shortlist."

This year the eight judges considered over 160 entries across the five prize categories.

2017 NSW Premier's History Awards shortlist

Australian History Prize ($15,000)

- *Australia's War Crimes Trials 1945-51*, **Georgina Fitzpatrick, Tim McCormack and Narrelle Morris** (Brill Nijhoff)
- *Stroke of Genius: Victor Trumper and the shot that changed cricket*, **Gideon Haigh** (Penguin Random House Australia)
- *From the Edge: Australia's Lost Histories*, **Mark McKenna** (Melbourne University Publishing)

General History Prize ($15,000)

- *Victoria: The Woman Who Made the Modern World*, **Julia Baird** (HarperCollins)
- *The Land is Our History: Indigeneity, Law and the Settler State,* **Miranda Johnson** (Oxford University Press)
- *Japanese War Criminals: The Politics of Justice After the Second World War*, **Sandra Wilson, Robert Cribb, Beatrice Trefalt and Dean Aszkielowicz** (Columbia University Press)

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NSW Community and Regional History Prize ($15,000)

- *The House That Jack Built: Jack Mundey, Green Bans Hero*, **James Coleman** (NewSouth Publishing)
- *Sex Crimes in the Fifties*, **Lisa Featherstone and Amanda Kaladelfos** (Melbourne University Press)
- *Stories from the Sandstone: Quarantine Inscriptions from Australia's Immigrant Past*, **Peter Hobbins, Ursula K. Frederick and Anne Clarke** (Arbon Publishing)

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

- *Desert Lake: The Story of Kati Thanda – Lake Eyre*, **Pamela Freeman and Liz Anelli** (Walker Books Australia)
- *Australia's Great War: 1917*, **Kelly Gardiner** (Scholastic Australia)
- *Maralinga's Long Shadow: Yvonne's Story*, **Christobel Mattingley** (Allen and Unwin)

Multimedia History Prize ($15,000)

- *The Amboyna Conspiracy Trial,* **Adam Clulow** (Center for History and New Media, George Mason University)
- *Monsieur Mayonnaise*, **Trevor Graham** (Yarra Bank Films Pty Ltd)
- *Ghosts of Biloela*, **Que Minh Luu and Jesse Cox** (Creative Nonfiction)

Senior Judge David Carment AM said "Entries for the 2017 NSW Premier's History Awards reveal the continuing variety and high quality of history in Australia. Entries cover a diversity of interesting and important local, national and international topics.

Many tell stories of compelling human interest. The best of them also make innovative and original contributions to historical knowledge and understanding. In doing so they contribute to the development of a well-informed Australian historical consciousness."

Acting NSW State Librarian & Chief Executive Lucy Milne said "On behalf of the Library I congratulate this year's shortlisted authors on their achievements. The State Library of NSW is the home of Australian history and we are proud to administer these awards that promote excellence in historical research, writing and presentation."

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Background notes

- Works nominated for the 2017 NSW Premier's History Awards must have been first published, produced or made publicly available between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2017.
- Writers, creators and illustrators whose works are nominated must be living Australian citizens or hold permanent resident status.
- The awards are judged by an independent committee of academics, historians and other sector professionals who have been appointed by the Premier or the Minister for the Arts or their delegates.
- The NSW Premier's History Awards were first presented in 1997 to honour distinguished achievement in history.

Winners' announcement

The winners of the 2017 Awards will be announced at the State Library of NSW as part of the launch of NSW History Week on Friday 1 September 2017. Members of the public are welcome to attend the event. Tickets: $50/45 each.

Bookings are essential: http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/events/2017-premiers-history-awards

More information

The NSW Premier's History Awards are presented by the NSW Government and administered by the State Library of NSW in association with Create NSW, with support from the History Council of NSW.

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