

# 2018

## NSW PREMIER'S HISTORY AWARDS

# Media release

## Shortlists announced for 2018 NSW Premier's History Awards

9/8/2018

The Premier of NSW, The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP today [Thursday 9 August 2018] announced the shortlists for the 2018 NSW Premier's History Awards.

Eight judges considered 194 entries across the five prize categories.

Ms Berejiklian said, "These awards celebrate the significant achievements of our historians and recognise the invaluable role they play in connecting us to the people, places and events that have helped to shape our national story today.

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

2018 NSW Premier's History Awards shortlists (in alphabetical order by author):

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

- *The Enigmatic Mr Deakin* by Judith Brett (Text Publishing)
- *Slow Catastrophes: Living with Drought in Australia* by Rebecca Jones (Monash University Publishing)
- *The Battle Within: POWs in Postwar Australia* by Christina Twomey (NewSouth Publishing)

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

- *The Library: A Catalogue of Wonders* by Stuart Kells (Text Publishing)
- *Korea: Where the American Century Began* by Michael Pembroke (Hardie Grant Books)
- *On the Stump: Campaign Oratory and Democracy in the United States, Britain, and Australia* by Sean Scalmer (Temple University Press)

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

- *Terminus: The Pub That Sydney Forgot* by Shirley Fitzgerald (Ventura Press)
- *Hidden in Plain View: The Aboriginal People of Coastal Sydney* by Paul Irish (NewSouth Publishing)
- *River Dreams: The People and Landscape of the Cooks River* by Ian Tyrrell (NewSouth Publishing)

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

- *Dr Huxley's Bequest: A History of Medicine in Thirteen Objects* by Michelle Cooper (FitzOsborne Press)
- *The Fighting Stingrays* by Simon Mitchell (Penguin Random House Australia)
- *Marvellous Miss May: Queen of the Circus* by Stephanie Owen Reeder (NLA Publishing)

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

- *Right Wrongs* by Yale MacGillivray, Bronwyn Purvis, Lorena Allam, Solua Middleton, Scott Gamble and Daniel Battley (ABC)
- *Douglas Grant: The Skin of Others* by Tom Murray (Tarpaulin Productions)
- *We Don't Need a Map* by Warwick Thornton and Brendan Fletcher (Barefoot Communications)

Senior Judge, Scientia Professor Louise Edwards said, “The 2018 NSW Premier’s History Awards showcase the remarkable breadth and depth of history research produced in Australia. The vibrancy of the field is on impressive display in the shortlisted titles.”

“The authors and creators have enriched our lives with original narratives of ordinary people and eminent figures,” Professor Edwards said. “They have shown us the importance of locality to the making of history through intriguing investigations of landscapes and buildings. Both amateurs and professionals submitted works in a rich array of media that challenge us to think afresh about where we have come from and where we are headed.”

State Librarian Dr John Vallance said: “The State Library of NSW is proud to administer these awards which promote high standards in historical research, writing and presentation.”

### Background notes

- Works nominated for the 2018 NSW Premier’s History Awards must have been first published, produced or made publicly available between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018.
- 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 2018 Awards will be announced at the State Library of NSW as part of the launch of NSW History Week on Friday 31 August 2018. Members of the public are welcome to attend the event. Tickets: \$50/45 each. Bookings are essential:

<http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/pha2018>

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## 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. For more information please contact: Edwina Duffy, Senior Project Officer, Awards, State Library of NSW (02) 9273 1605 or [awards@sl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:awards@sl.nsw.gov.au)

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