

Media Release

Shortlists announced for 2021 NSW Premier's History Awards

11/08/21

The Premier of NSW, The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP TODAY [11 August 2021] announced the shortlists for the 2021 NSW Premier's History Awards.

Eight judges considered 151 entries across the five prize categories.

Ms Berejiklian said: "It is vital we continue to tell our stories so future generations can learn about our rich past. There is much in our history that can inspire the future."

"I am incredibly proud of these awards as they highlight the value of historical literature."

2021 NSW Premier's History Awards shortlists (in alphabetical order by author):

Australian History Prize (\$15,000)

- *People of the River: Lost Worlds of Early Australia* by Grace Karskens (Allen & Unwin)
- *A Bridge Between: Spanish Benedictine Missionary Women in Australia* by Katharine Massam (ANU Press)
- *Amnesia Road: Landscape, Violence and Memory* by Luke Stegemann (NewSouth Publishing)

General History Prize (\$15,000)

- *War Against Smallpox: Edward Jenner and the Global Spread of Vaccination* by Michael Bennett (Cambridge University Press)
- *Earthquake Children: Building Resilience from the Ruins of Tokyo* by Janet Borland (Harvard University Asia Center)
- *The Wardian Case: How a Simple Box Moved Plants and Changed the World* by Luke Keogh (The University of Chicago Press)

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

- *Landscapes of Our Hearts: Reconciling People and Environment* by Matthew Colloff (Thames & Hudson Australia)
- *On a Winner: 125 Years of City Tattersalls Club* by Marea Donnelly (Wilkinson Publishing)
- *The Altar Boys* by Suzanne Smith (ABC Books: An imprint of HarperCollins Publishers)

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

- *The Friendly Games* by Kaye Baillie and Fiona Burrows (MidnightSun Publishing)
- *Footprints on the Moon* by Lorraine Marwood (University of Queensland Press)
- *Tell Me Why for Young Adults* by Archie Roach (Simon & Schuster Australia)

Digital History Prize (\$15,000)

- *FREEMAN* by Laurence Billiet (General Strike and Matchbox Pictures)
- *Women of Steel* by Robynne Murphy and Martha Ansara (Jobs for Women Film Producers Group)
- *Small Town Queer Online Exhibition and Collection Project* by Tweed Regional Museum

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Senior Judge, Dr Matthew Allen said: “The shortlisted works for the 2021 NSW Premier’s History Awards reflect the strength of historical research in Australia, the breadth of literary and digital practices, and demonstrate a critical engagement with the past of our communities and regions, our State, our nation, and the world.”

State Librarian John Vallance said: “History in practice is a dynamic thing, coloured by the values and opinions of historians in the context of their own times. That’s only one reason why history is so important, and why the work of good historians will always be worth reading. Take a thoughtful look at this year’s shortlists and you may get more than you bargained for.”

Background notes

- Works nominated for the 2021 NSW Premier’s History Awards must have been first published, produced or made publicly available between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021.
- 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 will be announced in an online presentation of the NSW Premier’s History Awards on 3 September 2021. Visit the State Library of NSW website for details.

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 about the awards, please contact: Mandy Kretzschmar, Senior Project Officer, Awards, State Library of NSW (02) 9273 1605 or awards@sl.nsw.gov.au

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