

Shortlists announced for 2019 NSW Premier's Literary Awards

28/2/2019

Contemporary works by leading and emerging Australian writers have been shortlisted for the 2019 NSW Premier's Literary Awards, the State Library of NSW announced **TODAY [Thursday 28 February 2019]**.

Thirty judges considered almost 600 entries across 10 prize categories, with the winners to be announced on the eve of the Sydney Writers' Festival on Monday 29 April 2019. Up to \$310,000 in prize money will be awarded including sponsored awards, making them the richest state-funded literary awards in the country.

State Librarian John Vallance FAHA, said: "This year we celebrate 40 years of the NSW Premier's Literary Awards. Over the past four decades these Awards have recognised and rewarded hundreds of outstanding Australian writers."

"This year's shortlist is yet another shining example of the breadth and depth of literature available in this country," Dr Vallance said.

2019 Senior Judge, Suzanne Leal, commented: "In works that challenge the boundaries of genre and form, the nominees find wonder in a crisis-filled world. With wit, compassion, intellectual rigor and careful observation, they consider the triumphs and shortcoming of the past, the challenges of the present and their hopes for the future. My congratulations to each of the nominees for these fine works."

The shortlists for the 2019 NSW Premier's Literary Awards:

(arranged in alphabetical order by author surname)

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

Man Out of Time by Stephanie Bishop (Hachette Australia)

Boy Swallows Universe by Trent Dalton (HarperCollins Publishers)

The Life to Come by Michelle De Kretser (Allen & Unwin)

The Everlasting Sunday by Robert Lukins (UQP)

Border Districts by Gerald Murnane (Giramondo Publishing)

The Shepherd's Hut by Tim Winton (Penguin Random House Australia)

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

Saga Land by Richard Fidler & Kári Gíslason (ABC Books)

Deep Time Dreaming: Uncovering Ancient Australia by Billy Griffiths (Black Inc. Books)

The Trauma Cleaner by Sarah Krasnostein (Text Publishing)

The Erratics by Vicki Laveau-Harvie (Finch Publishing)

Axiomatic by Maria Tumarkin (Brow Books)

Tracker by Alexis Wright (Giramondo)

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

Interval by Judith Bishop (UQP)

I Love Poetry by Michael Farrell (Giramondo Publishing)

Things I've Thought To Tell You Since I Saw You Last by Penelope Layland (Recent Work Press)

Wildlife of Berlin by Philip Neilsen (UWA Publishing)

Blindside by Mark Reid (Puncher and Wattmann)

Rondo by Chris Wallace-Crabbe (Carcenet Press)

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

Shine Mountain by Julie Hunt (Allen & Unwin)

Maya and Cat by Caroline Magerl (Walker Books Australia)

Leave Taking by Lorraine Marwood (UQP)

Dingo by Claire Saxby and Tannya Harricks (Walker Books Australia)

Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrigan Crow by Jessica Townsend (Hachette Australia)

The Dog with Seven Names by Dianne Wolfer (Penguin Random House Australia)

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

Between Us by Clare Atkins (Black Inc. Books)

Small Spaces by Sarah Epstein (Walker Books Australia)

I Am Out With Lanterns by Emily Gale (Penguin Random House Australia)

Amelia Westlake by Erin Gough (Hardie Grant Egmont)

Stone Girl by Eleni Hale (Penguin Random House Australia)

The Art of Taxidermy by Sharon Kernot (Text Publishing)



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

The Almighty Sometimes by Kendall Feaver (Currency Press)

Oil Babies by Petra Kalive (Lab Kelpie)

Going Down by Michelle Lee (Malthouse Theatre and Sydney Theatre Company)

Lost Boys by Lachlan Philpott (Merrigong Theatre Company)

The Long Forgotten Dream by H Lawrence Sumner (Sydney Theatre Company)

Barbara and the Camp Dogs by Ursula Yovich and Alana Valentine (Currency Press in association with Belvoir Theatre)

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

Picnic at Hanging Rock, Episode 4 by Alice Addison (Fremantle Australia)

Jirga by Benjamin Gilmour

Seoul City Sue by Noëlle Janaczewska (ABC Radio National)

Mystery Road, Episode 5 – 'The Waterhole' by Timothy Lee (Bunya Productions)

Mystery Road, Episode 1 - 'Gone' by Michael O'Brien (Bunya Productions)

Riot by Greg Waters (Werner Film Production)

Multicultural NSW Award (\$20,000)

The Lebs by Michael Mohammed Ahmad (Hachette Australia)

Rainforest by Eileen Chong (Pitt Street Poetry)

Home Is Nearby by Magdalena McGuire (Impress Books)

Always Another Country: A Memoir of Exile and Home by Sisonke Msimang (Text Publishing)

Too Much Lip by Melissa Lucashenko (The University of Queensland Press)

Miss Ex-Yugoslavia by Sofija Stefanovic (Penguin Random House)

NSW Premier's Prize for Translation (biennial award of \$30,000)

Harry Aveling

Stephen Corcoran

Alison Entrekin

Penny Hueston

Stephanie Smee

Omid Tofighain (Highly Commended)

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

Flames by Robbie Arnott (Text Publishing)

Boy Swallows Universe by Trent Dalton (HarperCollins Publishers)



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Scrublands by Chris Hammer (Allen & Unwin)

The Everlasting Sunday by Robert Lukins (UQP)

Pink Mountain on Locust Island by Jamie Marina Lau (Brow Books)

The Lucky Galah by Tracy Sorensen (Pan Macmillan Australia)

People's Choice Award

Voting opens today for the People's Choice Award. The winner will be chosen by the public from the shortlist for the 2019 Christina Stead Prize for Fiction. Vote today via the State Library of NSW website: www.sl.nsw.gov.au. The winner will be announced at the presentation of the NSW Premier's Literary Awards on 29 April 2019.

Tickets are now on sale for the award ceremony: www.sl.nsw.gov.au/specialevent

Background notes

- Works nominated for the NSW Premier's Literary Awards must have been first published, performed or screened between 1 October 2017 and 30 September 2018. This period does not apply to the Translation Prize.
- 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 Premier's Literary Awards were presented in 1979 by Premier Neville Wran and were the first Premier's literary awards to be offered in Australia.
- A *Highly Commended* may be given by the judging panel for entries that merit special consideration.
- A *Book of the Year* may be chosen by the judging panel from among the winners of the individual prizes, and the Government may, at its discretion, make an additional payment of \$10,000 prize money to the writer of the work so designated.
- Previous *Book of the Year* winners include: Kim Scott for *Taboo* in 2018, Leah Purcell for *The Drover's Wife* in 2017, Bruce Pascoe for *Dark Emu* in 2016, Don Watson for *The Bush* in 2015, Michelle de Kretser for *Questions of Travel* in 2014 and Ali Cobby-Eckermann for *Ruby Moonlight* in 2013.

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