

2016

NSW PREMIER'S
LITERARY AWARDS

Media Release



Shortlists announced for 2016 NSW Premier's Literary Awards

14/04/2016

The works of today's leading Australian writers have been shortlisted for the 2016 NSW Premier's Literary Awards, which includes for the first time a new prize for Indigenous writers, the State Library of NSW announced today.

Thirty judges considered a record of more than 500 of entries across 10 prize categories, with the winners to be announced on the eve of the Sydney Writers' Festival on Monday 16 May 2016. \$305,000 in prize money will be awarded.

NSW Premier Mike Baird said: "The NSW Premier's Literary Awards have been recognising and rewarding our nation's community of writers across all genres of literature since 1979. I am especially proud to introduce for the first time in 2016 a stand-alone award for Indigenous writers to value their unique contribution to the literary landscape of Australia."

2016 Senior Judge Ross Grayson Bell commented that: "Across all categories, this year's nominees reflect a growing diversity of voices that enriches and broadens the Australian literary canon. By bringing new and fresh perspectives to light, our collective horizons are expanded and our understanding of ourselves, and each other, deepened."

2016 NSW Premier's Literary Awards: Shortlists (in alphabetical order by author surname)

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

Ghost River, Tony Birch (University of Queensland Press)

Locust Girl. A Lovesong, Merlinda Bobis (Spinifex Press)

Clade, James Bradley (Penguin Random House)

The Life of Houses, Lisa Gorton (Giramondo)

A Guide to Berlin, Gail Jones (Penguin Random House)

The World Without Us, Mireille Juchau (Bloomsbury)

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

Fever of Animals, Miles Allinson (Scribe Publications)

An Astronaut's Life, Sonja Dechian (Text Publishing)

Relativity, Antonia Hayes (Penguin Random House)

In the Quiet, Eliza Henry-Jones (HarperCollins Publisher)

When There's Nowhere Else to Run, Murray Middleton (Allen & Unwin)

Hot Little Hands, Abigail Ulman (Penguin Random House)

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

The Nashos' War: Australia's National Servicemen and Vietnam, Mark Dapin (Penguin Random House)

One Life: My Mother's Story, Kate Grenville (Text Publishing)

Across the Seas: Australia's Response to Refugees: A History, Klaus Neumann (Black Inc.)

Reckoning: A Memoir, Magda Szubanski (Text Publishing)

Island Home, Tim Winton (Penguin Random House)

Small Acts of Disappearance, Fiona Wright (Giramondo)

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

Brush, Joanne Burns (Giramondo)

Eelahroo (Long Ago) Nyah (Looking) Möbö-Möbö (Future), Lionel G. Fogarty (Vagabond Press)

The Hazards, Sarah Holland-Batt (University of Queensland Press)

Fainting with Freedom, Ouyang Yu (Five Islands Press)

Terra Bravura, Meredith Wattison (Puncher & Wattmann)

Not Fox Nor Axe, Chloe Wilson (Hunter Publishers)

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

Tea and Sugar Christmas, Jane Jolly & Robert Ingpen (National Library of Australia)

A Single Stone, Meg McKinlay (Walker Books Australia)

Molly and Pim and the Millions of Stars, Martine Murray (Text Publishing)

The Greatest Gatsby: A Visual Book of Grammar, Tohby Riddle (Penguin Random House)

Teacup, Rebecca Young & Matt Ottley (Scholastic Australia)

Flight, Nadia Wheatley & Armin Greder (Windy Hollow Books)

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

Battlesaurus: Rampage at Waterloo, Brian Falkner (Pan Macmillan)

Freedom Ride, Sue Lawson (Black Dog Books)

Laurinda, Alice Pung (Black Inc.)

Welcome to Orphancorp, Marlee Jane Ward (Seizure)

The Peony Lantern, Frances Watts (HarperCollins Publisher)

The Guy, the Girl, the Artist and his Ex, Gabrielle Williams (Allen & Unwin)

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

Boys Will Be Boys, Melissa Bubnic (Sydney Theatre Company)
Broken, Mary Anne Butler (Currency Press)
The Bleeding Tree, Angus Cerini (Currency Press in association with Griffin Theatre Company)
Battle of Waterloo, Kylie Coolwell (Sydney Theatre Company)
Hello, Goodbye & Happy Birthday, Roslyn Oades (Malthouse Theatre)

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

Last Cab to Darwin, Reg Cribb & Jeremy Sims (Last Cab Productions)
Deadline Gallipoli, Episode 1, Jacquelin Perske (Matchbox Pictures)
The Secret River, Part 2, Jan Sardi & Mac Gudgeon (Ruby Entertainment)
Deadline Gallipoli, Episode 4: "The Letter", Cate Shortland (Matchbox Pictures)
House of Hancock, Katherine Thomson (Cordell Jigsaw Zapruder)

Multicultural NSW Award (\$20,000)

Shining: The Story of a Lucky Man, Abdi Aden & Robert Hillman (HarperCollins Publisher)
The Other Side of the World, Stephanie Bishop (Hachette Australia)
The Principal, Episode 1, Kristen Dunphy (Essential Media and Entertainment)
Good Muslim Boy, Osamah Sami (Hardie Grant Books)
We Are Here, Cat Thao Nguyen (Allen & Unwin)
Vera: My Story, Vera Wasowski & Robert Hillman (Black Inc.)

Indigenous Writer's Prize (New Award) (\$30,000)

Ghost River, Tony Birch (University of Queensland Press)
Inside My Mother, Alice Cobby Eckermann (Giramondo)
Dirty Words, Natalie Harkin (Cordite Publishing Inc.)
Dark Emu, Bruce Pascoe (Magabala Books)
Heat and Light, Ellen van Neerven (University of Queensland Press)
Not Just Black and White, Lesley Williams and Tammy Williams (University of Queensland Press)

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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 2016 Christina Stead Prize for Fiction.

Vote today via the [State Library of NSW website](#).

Background notes

- Works nominated for the NSW Premier's Literary Awards must have been first published, performed or screened between 1 October 2014 and 30 September 2015. This period does not apply to the Indigenous Writer's 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 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 'NSW 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 'NSW Book of the Year' winners included: 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.

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

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