

5 September 2017

2017 Queensland Literary Awards finalists announced

The diversity and excellence of literature from Queensland and across Australia has been recognised with the announcement today of the finalists for the 2017 Queensland Literary Awards (QLAs).

Presented by the State Library of Queensland (SLQ), the QLAs offer prizes for writers in thirteen categories across fiction, non-fiction and poetry, for published and unpublished work.

State Librarian and CEO Vicki McDonald said that celebrating some of the best examples of locally-developed literature through events such as the QLAs is central to the State Library of Queensland's commitment to nurturing a culture of reading, writing and ideas.

"This year's shortlist includes important accounts of real life events that have shaped Queensland communities and individuals, as well as extraordinary works of creativity and imagination."

"The QLA have fostered the careers of writers such as Cathy McLennan, who has progressed from winning the Emerging Queensland Writer award in 2014 through to a nomination for the Queensland Premier's Award for a Work of State Significance for her remarkable non-fiction book *Saltwater* in 2017," Ms McDonald said.

"Nominees also include last year's winner of *The Courier-Mail* People's Choice category, Mary-Rose Maccoll, a writer who has previously been celebrated for fictional works, but in 2017 has received three nominations for her deeply personal non-fiction title, *For a Girl*."

Ms McDonald noted the introduction of the QUT Digital Literature Award by SLQ in 2017 to acknowledge contemporary publishing and digital innovation in storytelling.

"Queensland has always been home to a vibrant and passionate literary community and we are proud to continue supporting writing, publishing and reading, both in print and online," Ms McDonald said.

"We are grateful to have the continued support of key QLA partners including the Queensland Government, The University of Queensland, Griffith University, University of Southern Queensland, Queensland University of Technology, Copyright Agency Limited Cultural Fund and *The Courier-Mail*."

The Queensland Government continues to match sponsor and partnership funding across all award categories, and in partnership with SLQ supports three Queensland Writers Fellowships of \$15,000 to provide authors with an opportunity to develop their manuscripts and writing projects.

The award winners and fellowship recipients will be announced at a special ceremony to be held at State Library of Queensland on Wednesday 4 October.

The shortlists can be found at qldliteraryawards.org.au/about/shortlists

Media enquiries:

Amanda Lawson, SLQ Communications
communications@slq.qld.gov.au | 07 3842 9847

The 2017 Queensland Literary Awards categories are:

- Queensland Premier's Award for a Work of State Significance
- Queensland Premier's Young Publishers and Writers Awards
- The University of Queensland Fiction Book Award
- The University of Queensland Non-Fiction Book Award
- Griffith University Young Adult Book Award
- Griffith University Children's Book Award
- University of Southern Queensland History Book Award
- University of Southern Queensland Australian Short Story Collection — Steele Rudd Award
- State Library of Queensland Poetry Collection — Judith Wright Calanthe Award
- QUT Digital Literature Award (*new category in 2017*)
- Unpublished Indigenous Writer — David Unaipon Award (supported by the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund and the University of Queensland Press)
- Emerging Queensland Writer — Manuscript Award (supported by the University of Queensland Press)
- *The Courier-Mail* People's Choice Queensland Book of the Year Award

The winner of *The Courier-Mail* People's Choice Queensland Book of the Year Award is determined by public votes, with online voting continuing until Monday 25 September via qldliteraryawards.org.au.