

EMBARGOED until 12noon, Monday 30 September 2019

Queensland Literary Awards shortlist announced

The 2019 Queensland Literary Awards has attracted a record number of entries, with the shortlist of literary hopefuls vying for \$253,500 in prize money.

The shortlist for the prestigious awards has today been announced for award categories covering fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and published and unpublished work.

Judges praised the depth and strength of home-grown writing which helped bring new understanding to an increasingly complex world.

The Queensland Literary Awards will be held at State Library on Tuesday 12 November, with a livestream of the ceremony broadcast from 6pm.

Public voting for *The Courier-Mail* People's Choice Queensland Book of the Year award closes at 5pm, Monday 14 October.

Quotes from the Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk:

"Congratulations to this year's finalists of the 2019 Queensland Literary Awards.

"Queensland has incredible home-grown writers and literary talent and I'm proud to continue championing their achievements through these awards which my government has proudly supported since 2015.

"I look forward to announcing the winners at the awards night in November."

Quotes from State Librarian and CEO Vicki McDonald:

"It is terrific to see a record number of writers vying for these prestigious awards."

"The 11 per cent increase in entries underscores the work of State Library in amplifying the importance of reading and writing throughout Queensland."

"We are grateful for the support of our partners – the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, The University of Queensland, Griffith University, Copyright Agency Cultural Fund, University of Southern Queensland, QUT, *The Courier-Mail*, and Jenny Summerson and the Hocking Mackie family, through the Queensland Library Foundation."

"State Library of Queensland is committed to inspiring possibilities through knowledge, stories and creativity."

List follows.

Media enquiries

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2019 Queensland Literary Awards shortlists

Queensland Premier's Award for a work of State Significance – \$25,000

- *The Night Dragon* (UQP) by Matthew Condon
- *Boy Swallows Universe* (HarperCollins) by Trent Dalton
- *Meditations with Passing Water* (Rabbit) by Jake Goetz
- *Wintering* (Text) by Krissy Kneen
- *Too Much Lip* (UQP) by Melissa Lucashenko

Queensland Premier's Young Publishers and Writers Award – two awards of \$12,500 each

- Ella Jeffery
- Emily O'Grady
- Ellen van Neerven
- Yen-Rong Wong

The University of Queensland Fiction Book Award – \$15,000

- *Bodies of Men* (Hachette) by Nigel Featherstone
- *Too Much Lip* (UQP) by Melissa Lucashenko
- *Shell* (Scribner) by Kristina Olsson
- *Exploded View* (Text) by Carrie Tiffany
- *Daughter of Bad Times* (Allen & Unwin) by Rohan Wilson

The University of Queensland Non-Fiction Book Award – \$15,000

- *Dr Space Junk vs The Universe: Archaeology and the Future* (NewSouth) by Alice Gorman
- *An Unconventional Wife: The Life of Julia Sorrell Arnold* (Scribe) by Mary Hoban
- *Shakespeare's Library: Unlocking the Greatest Mystery in Literature* (Text) by Stuart Kells
- *The Eastern Curlew* (Affirm) by Harry Saddler
- *Sea People: The Puzzle of Polynesia* (HarperCollins) by Christina Thompson

Griffith University Children's Book Award – \$15,000

- *Leave Taking* (UQP) by Lorraine Marwood
- *Black Cockatoo* (Magabala) by Carl Merrison and Hakea Hustler
- *The Slightly Alarming Tale of the Whispering Wars* (Allen & Unwin) by Jaclyn Moriarty
- *His Name was Walter* (HarperCollins) by Emily Rodda
- *Chalk Boy* (Allen & Unwin) by Margaret Wild and Mandy Ord

Griffith University Young Adult Book Award – \$15,000

- *Small Spaces* (Walker) by Sarah Epstein
- *How It Feels to Float* (Pan Macmillan) by Helena Fox
- *Lenny's Book of Everything* (Allen & Unwin) by Karen Foxlee
- *The Bogan Mondrian* (UQP) by Steven Herrick
- *Catching Teller Crow* (Allen & Unwin) by Ambelin Kwaymullina and Ezekiel Kwaymullina

University of Southern Queensland History Book Award – \$10,000

- *From Secret Ballot to Democracy Sausage: How Australia got Compulsory Voting* (Text) by Judith Brett
- *An Unconventional Wife: The Life of Julia Sorrell Arnold* (Scribe) by Mary Hoban
- *Kindred: A Cradle Mountain Love Story* (MUP) by Kate Legge
- *A New History of the Irish in Australia* (NewSouth) by Elizabeth Malcolm and Dianne Hall
- *You Daughters of Freedom: The Australians Who Won the Vote and Inspired the World* (Text) by Clare Wright

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Interviews and images are available upon request.

University of Southern Queensland Steele Rudd Award for a Short Story Collection – \$10,000

- *Zebra: And Other Stories* (Pan Macmillan) by Debra Adelaide
- *The True Colour of the Sea* (Penguin Random House) by Robert Drewe
- *The Drover's Wives* (Brio) by Ryan O'Neill

Judith Wright Calanthe Award for a Poetry Collection – \$10,000

- *Hot Take* (Hunter) by Liam Ferney
- *Newcastle Sonnets* (Giramondo) by Keri Glastonbury
- *That Sight* (Cordite) by Marjon Mossammaparast
- *The Lost Arabs* (UQP) by Omar Sakr
- *Blakwork* (Magabala) by Alison Whittaker

QUT Digital Literature Award – \$15,000

- *V[R]jignettes* by Mez Breeze
- *Gothic Body, in Two Parts* by Eda Gunaydin
- *Psychometric Researches* by Benjamin Laird
- *ITERATION - Part 3/Chapter 3* by CB Mako and MJ Flamiano
- *The Wonders of Lost Trajectories* by Jason Nelson

David Unaipon Award for an Emerging Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Writer – \$15,000

Eligible entrants will receive author development activities through State Library including mentorship, editorial advice, and guidance on opportunities, pathways and artistic development, in consultation with the Award partners, Copyright Agency Cultural Fund and University of Queensland Press.

Glendower Award for an Emerging Queensland Writer – \$15,000

- *Little Birds* by Sue Goldstiver
- *The Still Point of Being* by Karen Hollands
- *Apparitions* by Jack Lio
- *Henry Hamlet's Heart* by Rhiannon Ratcliffe Wilde

The Courier-Mail People's Choice Queensland Book of the Year Award – \$10,000

- *Boy Swallows Universe* (HarperCollins) by Trent Dalton
- *Requiem with Yellow Butterflies: A Memoir* (UWA Publishing) by James Halford
- *Wintering* (Text) by Krissy Kneen
- *Too Much Lip* (UQP) by Melissa Lucashenko
- *Brisbane's Greek Cafes: A Million Malted Milks* (Teacup) by Toni Risson
- *Charles Ulm* (Allen & Unwin) by Rick Searle
- *Adani, Following its Dirty Footsteps* (Spinifex) by Lindsay Simpson
- *Daughter of Bad Times* (Allen & Unwin) by Rohan Wilson

For more information: [queensland-literary-awards](https://www.sla.qld.gov.au/queensland-literary-awards)