

EMBARGOED until 12noon, Wednesday 5 August 2020

Queensland Literary Awards finalists announced

Ghosts, war, tenacity and a touch of footy can all be found on the 2020 Queensland Literary Awards shortlist announced today.

A total of \$238,500 in prize money is available to shortlisted writers across 11 categories that include fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and published and unpublished work.

State Library of Queensland proudly manages the awards in collaboration with sponsors, industry partners and the writing community.

Judges praised the depth of new and emerging talent on the Australian writing scene and lauded the “accessible and readable” books on this year’s shortlist.

The winners’ announcement will be livestreamed on Facebook Live and State Library’s website from 7pm, Friday 4 September.

Public voting for *The Courier-Mail* People’s Choice Queensland Book of the Year award closes at 5pm, Monday 17 August.

Quotes from the Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk:

“Throughout COVID-19, Queenslanders have sought solace in books – peering back in time, exploring new worlds and discovering exciting new voices while in isolation.

“Appropriately, the 2020 Queensland Literary Awards shortlist is filled with compelling stories of determination and resilience, community and courage.

“On behalf of the Queensland Government, I’d like to congratulate all of this year’s finalists, and I look forward to announcing the winners next month.”

Quotes from the Arts Minister Leeanne Enoch:

“The Queensland Literary Awards shine a light on a wide range of talent, from emerging to well-established writers.

“The Palaszczuk Government is committed to supporting the Queensland Literary Awards.

“Support includes prize money for the Queensland Premier’s Award for a work of State Significance and two Young Publishers and Writers Awards, along with joint funding for the Queensland Writers Fellowships, and matched funding across other award categories.”

Quotes from State Librarian and CEO Vicki McDonald AM:

“State Library congratulates each and every writer who have made it on to the shortlist of these prestigious awards.

Media enquiries

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"Books and storytelling have never been more important; they provide comfort and context to our lives and bind us together in challenging times.

"Reading and writing are the cornerstones of what we do at State Library.

"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, *The Courier-Mail*, and Jenny Summerson and Ian and Susan Mackie of the Hocking Mackie Fund at the APS Foundation."

2020 Queensland Literary Awards shortlists

Queensland Premier's Award for a work of State Significance

- *Heartland: How Rugby League Explains Queensland* by Joe Gorman (UQP)
- *Meet Me at Lennon's* by Melanie Myers (UQP)
- *Stone Sky Gold Mountain* by Mirandi Riwoe (UQP)
- *Hearing Maud* by Jessica White (UWA Publishing)

Queensland Premier's Young Publishers and Writers Award

- Sara El Sayed
- Zenobia Frost
- Ellen Wengert
- Yen-Rong Wong

The University of Queensland Fiction Book Award

- *Act of Grace* by Anna Krien (Black Inc.)
- *Stone Sky Gold Mountain* by Mirandi Riwoe (UQP)
- *The Returns* by Philip Salom (Transit Lounge)
- *The Adversary* by Ronnie Scott (Penguin Random House)
- *The Yield* by Tara June Winch (Penguin Random House)

The University of Queensland Non-Fiction Book Award

- *Bedlam at Botany Bay* by James Dunk (NewSouth Publishing)
- *Olive Cotton: A Life in Photography* by Helen Ennis (HarperCollins)
- *Friends and Rivals* by Brenda Niall (Text Publishing)
- *Truganini* by Cassandra Pybus (Allen & Unwin)
- *The Watermill* by Arnold Zable (Text Publishing)

Griffith University Children's Book Award

- *Detention* by Tristan Banks (Penguin Random House)
- *Winston and the Wondrous Wooba Gymnastics Club* by Tamsin Janu (Omnibus Books)
- *Fly* by Jess McGeachin (Penguin Random House)
- *Nop* by Caroline Magerl (Walker Books)
- *As Fast As I Can* by Penny Tangey (UQP)

Griffith University Young Adult Book Award

- *Deep Water* by Sarah Epstein (Allen & Unwin)
- *Ghost Bird* by Lisa Fuller (UQP)

Media enquiries

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Interviews and images are available upon request.

- *How to Grow a Family Tree* by Eliza Henry-Jones (HarperCollins)
- *It Sounded Better in My Head* by Nina Kenwood (Text Publishing)
- *This Is How We Change the Ending* by Vikki Wakefield (Text Publishing)

University of Southern Queensland Steele Rudd Award for a Short Story Collection

- *A Constant Hum* by Alice Bishop (Text Publishing)
- *Lucky Ticket* by Joey Bui (Text Publishing)
- *The House of Youssef* by Yumna Kassab (Giramondo Publishing)
- *A Couple of Things Before the End* by Sean O'Beirne (Black Inc.)
- *Here Until August* by Josephine Rowe (Black Inc.)

Judith Wright Calanthe Award for a Poetry Collection

- *Enfolded in the Wings of a Great Darkness* by Peter Boyle (Vagabond Press)
- *Lyre* by Stuart Cooke (UWA Publishing)
- *Heide* by Pi.O (Giramondo Publishing)
- *Throat* by Ellen van Neerven (UQP)
- *Nganajungu Yagu* by Charmaine Papertalk Green (Cordite Books)

David Unaipon Award for an Emerging Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Writer

- 'The Space Between the Paperbark' by Jazz Money (poetry, NSW)
- 'Valley of Cane and Crows' by Boyd Quakawoot (novel, Queensland)
- 'Last Rites of Spring' by Mykaela Saunders (novel, Victoria)
- 'Burn' by Melanie Seward (novel, Queensland)

Glendower Award for an Emerging Queensland Writer

- 'The Solitary Light' by Bianca Millroy
- 'Daddy & Other Father Figures' by Jonathan O'Brien
- 'If You're Happy' by Fiona Robertson
- 'Without a Word' by Jenny Ruge
- 'As We Knew It' by Siall Waterbright

The Courier-Mail People's Choice Queensland Book of the Year Award

- *A Lifetime of Impossible Days* by Tabitha Bird (Penguin Random House)
- *The Kowloon Kid* by Phil Brown (Transit Lounge)
- *A River with a City Problem* by Margaret Cook (UQP)
- *Feeding the Birds at Your Table* by Darryl Jones (NewSouth Publishing)
- *Meet Me at Lennon's* by Melanie Myers (UQP)
- *The Breeding Season* by Amanda Niehaus (Allen & Unwin)
- *Stone Sky Gold Mountain* by Mirandi Riwoe (UQP)

For more information: [Queensland Literary Awards](#)