

Hon. Leeanne Enoch black&write! announcement

The Queensland Minister for the Arts announces the black&write! Fellowships winners for 2020

Yura, my name is Leeanne Enoch. I'm a Quandamooka woman and the Queensland Minister for the Arts. Well usually I announce the winners of the black&write! Fellowships at a special ceremony at the State Library of Queensland.

But of course, very little is usual in 2020. Even so, there's no need to let a global pandemic stand in the way of celebrating emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander writers. Now, more than ever, our stories need to be told.

Queensland's black&write! program has helped changed the landscape of First Nations writing in Australia. Over the years, winners have subsequently published books, and been recognised with literary awards, prizes and other accolades. Most importantly, the support provided to participants allows them to shine, and for their stories to be heard far and wide.

It is my great pleasure to congratulate the two winners of the black&write! Fellowships for 2020.

The first black&write! Fellow for 2020 is Eunice Day, for her children's illustrated book, Rabbits by the Fenceline. Eunice is a proud Aboriginal woman who values connecting with people of different generations. Originally from Claremont, Eunice is an elder in Blackwater where she now lives. Her mother is a descendent of Yimen Eaglehawk people from the Dawson Valley region of Central Queensland, and her father is a descendent of the Lama Lama people from North Queensland. Her stories are inspired by those passed down to her from her family. Congratulations Eunice.

The second black&write Fellow for 2020 is Carl Merrison for his Early Reader series, Backyard Sports. Carl is a respected Kija man from the Halls Creek area of Western Australia. In 2016, he was Western Australia's runner up for Australian of the Year, Local Hero. He has worked for over a decade alongside Aboriginal youth as a mentor and coach. Carl's first co-authored book, Black Cockatoo was published by Magabala Books in 2018 and was a finalist in last year's Queensland Literary Awards – among other numerous accolades. Congratulations Carl.

To both our 2020 winners, I look forward to the next chapter of your writing careers. Congratulations once again.