Queensland Literary Awards 2020
CEREMONY PROGRAM
ANNOUNCEMENT

FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2020
7PM
HOSTED BY STATE LIBRARY OF QUEENSLAND
Tonight, all around Australia, we join to celebrate writers and the literary community for the 2020 Queensland Literary Awards. Congratulations to everybody on the shortlists for your extraordinary achievements. I hope these awards provide motivation and inspiration for your next book.

A sincere thank you to State Library of Queensland for supporting the awards, and to this year’s judges for their dedication to the difficult task of choosing winners. The books on this year’s shortlists are a snapshot of the depth and quality of work on offer for readers around the country today.

The Queensland Government is dedicated to supporting a thriving arts and literary scene in this state. Now, more than ever, reading brings us comfort, joy, hope, and the opportunity to glimpse other lives.
Winners and finalists of the 2020 Queensland Literary Awards have proven their excellence as we once again recognise and reward outstanding Queensland and Australian writing. This literary initiative supports emerging and established talent across a range of genres and contributes to the rich cultural landscape of our state.

The Palaszczuk Government is proud to support local writers through Queensland Writers Fellowships, which form part of these awards and provide opportunities for new projects and career development. I congratulate all of the authors recognised this year for their unique and diverse stories which inspire, challenge and delight us. It is the sharing of stories that help us make sense of our complex world and it’s in their work we are uplifted.
State Library of Queensland is proud to manage the Queensland Literary Awards in collaboration with sponsors, the literary community, and industry partners. The strong number of nominations this year is testament to the dedication writers show to their craft, and the commitment throughout Australia to publish outstanding books for readers. State Library is also pleased to amplify emerging writers’ voices, showcase their work, and encourage them with new opportunities at all stages of their careers. My very best wishes to all the writers celebrated in this year’s Queensland Literary Awards.
The Queensland Literary Awards receive funding from the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, The University of Queensland, Griffith University, Copyright Agency Cultural Fund, University of Southern Queensland, The Courier-Mail, Jenny Summerson, and Susan Hocking and Ian Mackie, and their family, of the Hocking Mackie Fund at APS Foundation.

**MAJOR PARTNERS**

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![The University of Queensland Logo]

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![Griffith University Logo]

![University of Southern Queensland Logo]

**PRINCIPAL BENEFACTORS**

The Glendower Award for an Emerging Queensland Writer is supported by Jenny Summerson through the Queensland Library Foundation.

A Queensland Writers Fellowship is supported by Susan Hocking and Ian Mackie, and their family, of the Hocking Mackie Fund at APS Foundation.

**SUPPORTERS**

![UQP Logo]

![Queensland Writers Centre Logo]
Queensland Premier’s Award for a work of State Significance

Queensland Premier’s Young Publishers and Writers Awards

Queensland Writers Fellowships

Glendower Award for an Emerging Queensland Writer

Griffith University Children’s Book Award

Griffith University Young Adult Book Award

Judith Wright Calanthe Award for a Poetry Collection

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

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

The University of Queensland Fiction Book Award

The University of Queensland Non-Fiction Book Award

*The Courier-Mail* People’s Choice Queensland Book of the Year Award
ARTISTS AND PERFORMERS

Sarah Kanowski
MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Sarah Kanowski is a presenter of Conversations on ABC Radio. Conversations is Australia’s most downloaded podcast, introducing listeners to all kinds of people with all kinds of stories. She has worked with many programs on ABC RN, including as presenter of Books and Arts. Sarah has a Masters in English Studies from the University of Oxford, which she attended on a Commonwealth Scholarship. She spent a year in Hobart editing the literary journal Island and a year in South America herding goats.

Nunukul Yuggera Aboriginal Dance Company
PERFORMANCE

The Nunukul Yuggera Aboriginal Dance Company has been in existence for over 25 years and have travelled the world showcasing traditional South East Queensland Aboriginal cultures through song and dance. Their main focus is to bring awareness to Indigenous Culture and current Indigenous issues. The directors of the dance troupe are descendants of the Nunukul, Yuggera/Turbal, Yugumbir and Nugi tribes.

Joanna Bone and Aaron Micallef
TROPHY DESIGN

Glass artists Joanna Bone and Aaron Micallef have collaborated from their Brisbane studio for the past seven years. Inspired by the natural environment, form, surface and movement of light, their shared and complementary aesthetic approaches feed a synergistic cycle of inspiration, creating work that lures the viewer into its depths.

Kathleen Jennings
ILLUSTRATOR

Kathleen Jennings is an illustrator and writer based in Brisbane. She is a Hugo Award finalist and has been shortlisted three times for the World Fantasy Award and has received the E. G. Harvey Award for Australian SF Art and several Ditmar Awards for professional and fan art. Her debut novel, Flyaway, is out now from Picador Australia.
Queensland Literary Awards judges play a vital and valued role in recognising and nurturing outstanding books and writers.

In 2020, the judges were:

Alan Rix
Alison Whittaker
Aviva Tuffield
Bronwyn Lea
Cass Moriarty
Christina Wheeler
Ed Ayres
Ellen van Neerven
Evelyn Araluen
Inga Simpson
Jane Edwards
Jeanine Leane

Jerath Head
Jill Eddington
John Tague
Joy Lawn
Khalid Warsame
Lech Blaine
Liam Ferney
Luke Stegemann
Madonna Duffy
Manfred Jurgensen
Mary Philip
Mia Macrossan

Mindy Gill
Mirandi Riwoe
M.T.C Cronin
Nathan Shepherdson
Nike Sulway
Patricia Buckley
Peter Carnavas
Rhianna Patrick
Richard Newsome
Rohan Wilson
Samuel Wagan Watson
Simon Cleary
Sue Wright

IN MEMORIAM

In memory of Steph Bowe
(1994–2020)

Queensland Literary Awards judge, writer, advocate and friend
Proudly championing the best and brightest of our state’s fiction, non-fiction and children’s books.

LIBRARY SHOP
Shop online anytime
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THE AWARDS
QUEENSLAND PREMIER’S AWARD
FOR A WORK OF STATE SIGNIFICANCE

Presented by the Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk MP
Premier and Minister for Trade

Heartland: How Rugby League Explains Queensland
JOE GORMAN
UQP

Meet Me at Lennon’s
MELANIE MYERS
UQP

Stone Sky Gold Mountain
MIRANDI RIWOE
UQP

Hearing Maud
JESSICA WHITE
UWA Publishing
QUEENSLAND PREMIER’S
YOUNG PUBLISHERS AND WRITERS AWARDS

Presented by the Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk MP
Premier and Minister for Trade

Sara El Sayed

Zenobia Frost

Ellen Wengert

Yen-Rong Wong
Supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland and State Library of Queensland.

A Queensland Writers Fellowship is supported by Susan Hocking and Ian Mackie, and their family, of the Hocking Mackie Fund at APS Foundation. Queensland Writers Fellowships are administered by the Queensland Writers Centre.
Sara El Sayed
‘The Blind Pussy Cat’

Sara El Sayed is a writer based in Meanjin (Brisbane). Her first book, ‘Muddy People’, will be published by Black Inc. in 2021. Sara’s Fellowship project is ‘The Blind Pussy Cat’, a novel that explores the lives and secrets of a family over several generations, shifting between Alexandria, Egypt, in 1956, and present-day Brisbane.

Anna Jacobson
‘Anxious in a Sweet Store’

Anna Jacobson is a writer, artist, photographer, and PhD candidate living in Brisbane. She is the author of Amnesia Findings (UQP, 2019) and The Last Postman (Vagabond Press, 2018). Anna’s Fellowship project is ‘Anxious in a Sweet Store’, a new poetry collection that juxtaposes the different forces of anxiety.

Amanda Niehaus
‘Relativity’

Amanda Niehaus is an essayist, scientist, and author of the novel The Breeding Season (Allen & Unwin, 2019). She has been published in Griffith Review, Overland, The Guardian, Creative Nonfiction, and Best Australian Essays. Amanda’s Fellowship project is ‘Relativity’, a novel about reality, ageing, and the long sway of trauma.
GLENDOWER AWARD FOR AN EMERGING QUEENSLAND WRITER
PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY JENNY SUMMERSON

“Coming from a family of printers and being a keen reader and member of book clubs, I know the important role books play in the lives of so many people. Queensland has so much talent and I am proud to support emerging writers through this award. I wish there could be more than one winner!”

Jenny Summerson
GLENDOVER AWARD
FOR AN EMERGING QUEENSLAND WRITER

Presented by Jenny Summerson

‘The Solitary Light’
BIANCA MILLROY

‘Daddy & Other Father Figures’
JONATHAN O’BRIEN

‘If You’re Happy’
FIONA ROBERTSON

‘Without a Word’
JENNY RUGE

‘As We Knew It’
SIALL WATERBRIGHT
Ranking in the top two per cent of universities worldwide, Griffith has 50,000 students across five campuses in South East Queensland and a growing digital campus. We engage in remarkable scholarship and research that contributes significantly to society. Award-winning authors lead our Creative Writing program, and Griffith Review, Australia’s leading literary journal, has been published by the University since 2003.
Detention
TRISTAN BANCKS
Penguin Random House

Winston and the Wondrous Wooba Gymnastics Club
TAMSIN JANU
Omnibus Books

Fly
JESS MCGEACHIN
Penguin Random House

Nop
CAROLINE MAGERL
Walker Books

As Fast as I Can
PENNY TANGEY
UQP
Deep Water
SARAH EPSTEIN
Allen & Unwin

Ghost Bird
LISA FULLER
UQP

How to Grow a Family Tree
ELIZA HENRY-JONES
HarperCollins

It Sounded Better in My Head
NINA KENWOOD
Text Publishing

This is How We Change the Ending
VIKKI WAKEFIELD
Text Publishing
Poetry has the power to change lives and minds and it helps us to make sense of our world. Judith Wright was one of our most respected and significant poets whose work is still read widely and studied in schools around the country. Her poetry continues to challenge and inspire us and to gain new readers. The Copyright Agency’s Cultural Fund is very proud to support the Judith Wright Calanthe Award for poetry in 2020.

The Copyright Agency’s Cultural Fund is very proud and honoured to support the David Unaipon Award. It recognises the immense contribution new Indigenous writers make to our literary culture and provides an unprecedented, life-changing opportunity for each writer. Now, more than ever, we need to hear and publish the works of emerging Indigenous writers.

Congratulations.
JUDITH WRIGHT CALANTHE AWARD FOR A POETRY COLLECTION

Presented by Adam Suckling, Chief Executive Officer, Copyright Agency

Enfolded in the Wings of a Great Darkness
PETER BOYLE
Vagabond Press

Lyre
STUART COOKE
UWA Publishing

Nganajungu Yagu
CHARMAINE PAPERTALK GREEN
Cordite Books

Heide
PI.O
Giramondo Publishing

Throat
ELLEN VAN NEERVEN
UQP
DAVID UNAIPON AWARD
FOR AN EMERGING ABORIGINAL AND/OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER WRITER

Presented by Adam Suckling, Chief Executive Officer, Copyright Agency

‘The Space Between the Paperbark’
JAZZ MONEY

‘Valley of Cane and Crows’
BOYD QUAKAWOOT

‘Last Rites of Spring’
MYKAELA SAUNDERS

‘Burn’
MELANIE SAWARD
The University of Southern Queensland is a proud supporter of the Queensland Literary Awards. With an enrolment of 30,000 students USQ is a leading higher education provider offering undergraduate and postgraduate studies in English Literature with analysis of the novel, poetry, prose, drama, film, new media and critical essays.
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND
STEELE RUDD AWARD
FOR A SHORT STORY COLLECTION

Presented by Professor Jill Lawrence, Head of School Humanities and Communication, Faculty of Business, Education, Law and Arts, University of Southern Queensland

A Constant Hum
ALICE BISHOP
Text Publishing

Lucky Ticket
JOEY BUI
Text Publishing

The House of Youssef
YUMNA KASSAB
Giramondo Publishing

A Couple of Things
Before the End
SEAN O’BEIRNE
Black Inc.

Here Until August
JOSEPHINE ROWE
Black Inc.
The University of Queensland is honoured to sponsor the Fiction and Non-Fiction Book Awards. These awards recognise writers both new and established across a range of genres, and celebrate vibrant literary communities. UQ congratulates all shortlisted and prize-winning authors for their commitment and creativity.
THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
FICTION BOOK AWARD

Presented by Professor Deborah Terry AO
Vice-Chancellor and President, The University of Queensland

Act of Grace
ANNA KRIEN
Black Inc.

Stone Sky
Gold Mountain
MIRANDI RIWOE
UQP

The Adversary
RONNIE SCOTT
Penguin Random House

The Returns
PHILIP SALOM
Transit Lounge

The Adversary
TARA JUNE WINCH
Penguin Random House

The Yield
TARA JUNE WINCH
Penguin Random House
THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
NON-FICTION BOOK AWARD

Presented by Professor Deborah Terry AO
Vice-Chancellor and President, The University of Queensland

Bedlam at Botany Bay
James Dunk
NewSouth Publishing

Olive Cotton: A Life in Photography
Helen Ennis
HarperCollins

Friends and Rivals
Brenda Niall
Text Publishing

Truganini
Cassandra Pybus
Allen & Unwin

The Watermill
Arnold Zable
Text Publishing
Since it was founded 174 years ago
The Courier-Mail has built a proud history
of supporting the literary community
of Queensland. This newspaper has nurtured
the careers of many fine writers and through
The Courier-Mail People’s Choice Queensland
Book of the Year Award we are thrilled to be able
to promote Queensland authors and to continue
to engage the wider public in the joys of reading.
THE COURIER-MAIL PEOPLE’S CHOICE
QUEENSLAND BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARD

Presented by Chris Jones, Editor, The Courier-Mail

A Lifetime of Impossible Days
TABITHA BIRD
Penguin Random House

The Kowloon Kid
PHIL BROWN
Transit Lounge

A River with a City Problem
MARGARET COOK
UQP

Feeding the Birds at Your Table
DARRYL JONES
NewSouth Publishing

Meet Me at Lennon’s
MELANIE MYERS
UQP

The Breeding Season
AMANDA NIEHAUS
Allen & Unwin

Stone Sky
Gold Mountain
MIRANDI RIWOE
UQP

Hearing Maud
JESSICA WHITE
UQP
The Queensland Literary Awards are supported through the Queensland Library Foundation. You can be part of this celebration of literature and help nurture Australian writers at all stages of their careers.

Details are on the Foundation’s web page slq.qld.gov.au/foundation or contact the Foundation team at foundation@slq.qld.gov.au.

All donations to the Queensland Library Foundation of $2 or more are tax deductible and every dollar goes towards our projects.