

Queensland Literary Awards finalists announced

Crowd-pleasers, heartbreakers and truth-tellers have all secured places as finalists in the 2021 Queensland Literary Awards announced today.

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\$238,500 in prize money is available across 11 categories that include fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and published and unpublished work.

Finalists include Trent Dalton, Fiona Foley, Nardi Simpson, Lech Blaine, Amanda Lohrey, and Rebecca Lim.

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

Judges praised the creativity and originality of this year's shortlist noting "Queensland writing truly had a bumper year" with books full of warmth and big ideas.

First Nations storytelling has made a strong showing across many of the categories.

The winners' announcement will be livestreamed on State Library's website and Facebook Live from 6pm Thursday 9 September.

Public voting for *The Courier-Mail* People's Choice Queensland Book of the Year Award is open and closes at 5pm, Monday 16 August.

Quotes from the Arts Minister Leeanne Enoch:

"Supporting the next generation of writers to tell our stories is a key priority of the Palaszczuk Government."

"Through the Queensland Literary Awards, State Library of Queensland has helped to raise the profile of Queensland's emerging creative talent and create career pathways for more than 20 years."

"Last year the Palaszczuk Government released Creative Together 2020-2030: A 10-Year Roadmap for arts, culture and creativity, and the Queensland Literary Awards supports several of the roadmap's priorities, including to share our stories and celebrate our storytellers."

"Investment in State Library to support literacy and encourage creativity in partnership with communities across the state and this initiative helps support the careers of Queensland artists."

"The arts, cultural and creative sectors are key to delivering our plan for economic recovery from COVID-19, each year injecting \$8.5 billion into the state's economy and supporting more than 92,000 jobs for Queenslanders."

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Quotes from State Librarian and CEO Vicki McDonald AM:

“Congratulations to all the authors and illustrators on this year’s much anticipated shortlist.”

“State Library of Queensland is deeply invested in the art of storytelling in all its glorious forms and supports and champions writers at every stage of their careers.”

“It is a great year for Queensland writers with strong representation of local authors and publishers in this year’s shortlists.”

“We remain grateful for the support of our partners and sponsors – 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 through the Hocking Mackie Trust at the APS Foundation.”

2021 Queensland Literary Awards shortlists

Queensland Premier's Award for a work of State Significance

- *Car Crash: A Memoir* by Lech Blaine (Black Inc.)
- *Ordinary Matter* by Laura Elvery (University of Queensland Press)
- *Biting the Clouds: A Badjala perspective on the Aboriginals Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act, 1897* by Fiona Foley (University of Queensland Press)
- *A Question of Colour: My journey to belonging* by Pattie Lees with Adam C Lees (Magabala Books)
- *Change Machine* by Jaya Savige (University of Queensland Press)

Queensland Premier’s Young Publishers and Writers Award

- Rebecca Cheers
- Allannah Hunt
- Jonathan O’Brien
- Ellen Wengert

The University of Queensland Fiction Book Award

- *Friends & Dark Shapes* by Kavita Bedford (Text Publishing)
- *Revenge: Murder in Three Parts* by S.L. Lim (Transit Lounge)
- *The Labyrinth* by Amanda Lohrey (Text Publishing)
- *The Last Migration* (now published as *Migrations*) by Charlotte McConaghy (Penguin Random House)
- *Song of the Crocodile* by Nardi Simpson (Hachette Australia)

The University of Queensland Non-Fiction Book Award

- *Car Crash: A Memoir* by Lech Blaine (Black Inc.)
- *Into the Loneliness: The unholy alliance of Ernestine Hill and Daisy Bates* by Eleanor Hogan (NewSouth Publishing)
- *Truth-Telling: History, sovereignty and the Uluru Statement* by Henry Reynolds (NewSouth Publishing)
- *Amnesia Road: Landscape, violence and memory* by Luke Stegemann (NewSouth Publishing)
- *The Carbon Club: How a network of influential climate sceptics, politicians and business leaders fought to control Australia's climate policy* by Marian Wilkinson (Allen & Unwin)

Children's Book Award

- *The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Dangerous Animals* by Sami Bayly (Hachette Australia)
- *How to Make a Bird* written by Meg McKinlay and illustrated by Matt Ottley (Walker Books Australia)
- *The Stolen Prince of Cloudburst* written by Jaclyn Moriarty and illustrated by Kelly Canby (Allen & Unwin)
- *We Are Wolves* written by Katrina Nannestad and illustrated by Martina Heiduczek (ABC Books)
- *Bindi* written by Kirli Saunders and illustrated by Dub Leffler (Magabala Books)

Griffith University Young Adult Book Award

- *The End of the World is Bigger than Love* by Davina Bell (Text Publishing)
- *Tiger Daughter* by Rebecca Lim (Allen & Unwin)
- *The Boy from the Mish* by Gary Lonesborough (Allen & Unwin)
- *Metal Fish, Falling Snow* by Cath Moore (Text Publishing)
- *The Erasure Initiative* by Lili Wilkinson (Allen & Unwin)

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

- *Ordinary Matter* by Laura Elvery (University of Queensland Press)
- *Smokehouse* by Melissa Manning (University of Queensland Press)
- *Smart Ovens for Lonely People* by Elizabeth Tan (Brio Books)
- *Born Into This* by Adam Thompson (University of Queensland Press)
- *Broken Rules and Other Stories* by Barry Lee Thompson (Transit Lounge)

Judith Wright Calanthe Award for a Poetry Collection

- *Drop Bear* by Evelyn Araluen (University of Queensland Press)
- *Airplane Baby Banana Blanket* by Benjamin Dodd (Recent Work Press)
- *Change Machine* by Jaya Savige (University of Queensland Press)
- *Homecoming* by Elfie Shiosaki (Magabala Books)
- *Terminally Poetic* by Ouyang Yu (Ginninderra Press)

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

- 'Mekauwe = Tears Volume #1 (Notes For Song) 1970-2020' by Ngankiburka-mekauwe (Senior Woman-of Water) Georgina Williams
- 'Politiks' by Chella Goldwin

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Glendower Award for an Emerging Queensland Writer

- 'On the Exhale' by Jason Gent
- 'The Whitewash' by Siang Lu
- 'The Luminous Heart' by Natalie Sprite
- 'It's Chemical' by Lillian Telford

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

- *All Our Shimmering Skies* by Trent Dalton (HarperCollins Publishers)
- *With My Little Eye: The incredible true story of spies in the suburbs* by Sandra Hogan (Allen & Unwin)
- *Flyaway* by Kathleen Jennings (Picador Australia)
- *From Where I Fell* by Susan Johnson (Allen & Unwin)
- *Banks* by Grantlee Keiza (ABC Books)
- *A Question of Colour: My journey to belonging* by Pattie Lees with Adam C Lees (Magabala Books)
- *Mary's Last Dance: The untold story of the wife of Mao's Last Dancer* by Mary Li (Penguin Random House)
- *All the Murmuring Bones* by A.G. Slatter (Titan Books)

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