

Winners of the 2019 Queensland Literary Awards announced

Outstanding works of fiction and non-fiction were celebrated tonight as winners of the 2019 Queensland Literary Awards were announced at a ceremony at State Library of Queensland.

Miles Franklin Award winner **Melissa Lucashenko** received the coveted \$25,000 prize for the Queensland Premier's Award for a work of State Significance. Judges described the winning title, *Too Much Lip*, as gritty and clever storytelling which tackles serious issues.

The Queensland Premier's Young Publishers and Writers Awards (two \$12,500 packages) were awarded to Brisbane poet **Ella Jeffery** and Mununjali Yugambah author **Ellen van Neerven**. Predicted to take her place as one of Australia's most vital poets, Ella was praised by the judges for her exceptional vocabulary of imagery while Ellen – a past recipient of the David Unaipon Award – was noted for their command of language and storytelling that reveals a long-standing dedication to craft.

Exploded View, by **Carrie Tiffany**, received The University of Queensland Fiction Book Award, while *An Unconventional Wife: The Life of Julia Sorell Arnold* by **Mary Hoban** was awarded The University of Queensland Non-Fiction Book Award. Hoban was also honoured with the University of Southern Queensland History Book Award for the same title – a project which originated from the inaugural Hazel Rowley Memorial Fellowship awarded to her in 2012.

High school English teacher Rhiannon Ratcliffe Wilde was awarded the Glendower Award for an Emerging Queensland Writer for her charming coming-of-age novel *Henry Hamlet's Heart*.

First Nations writers were well represented across the award categories, featuring as winners in three of the 12 award categories. Queensland writers took home eight of the 15 prizes.

The Queensland Literary Awards, managed by State Library of Queensland, honour outstanding books by Australian authors and champion new writing from emerging Queensland writers. \$253,500 in prizes are awarded for published and unpublished works.

Quotes from Minister for the Arts, the Honourable Leeanne Enoch MP:

"Writers have so many stories to tell and the Palaszczuk Government's ongoing commitment to the Queensland Literary Awards helps to create the next chapter of great writing talent."

"Our Government is committed to nurturing and growing opportunities for our incredibly talented writers and continuing to build Queensland's reputation as a leader in the national literary landscape."

"The Queensland Literary Awards attract the highest calibre of Australian talent and I congratulate each of the winners."

Quotes from State Librarian and CEO, Vicki McDonald:

"The calibre of entries for this year's Queensland Literary Awards was extremely high and I congratulate the winners for their accomplishments."

"We're extremely grateful for the support we receive from our key partners to make these awards possible. I'd like to thank the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, The University of Queensland, Griffith University, University of Southern Queensland, QUT, Copyright Agency Cultural Fund, *The Courier-Mail* and Jenny Summerson and the Hocking Mackie Family, through the Queensland Library Foundation."

The full list of 2019 winners follows. For more information on the recipients and the awards:

www.slq.qld.gov.au/qla.

Media enquiries

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Interviews and images are available upon request

2019 Queensland Literary Awards

Winners

Embargoed: 12 November, 7.30pm

Queensland Premier's Award for a work of State Significance

Prize: \$25,000

- *Too Much Lip* (UQP) by Melissa Lucashenko

Queensland Premier's Young Publishers and Writers Awards

Prize: two awards of \$10,000 plus career development support to the value of \$2,500 each

- Ella Jeffery
- Ellen van Neerven

Queensland Writers Fellowships

Prize: three Fellowships of \$15,000 each, plus professional development support to the value of \$4,500

- Claire Christian, *The Invisibles*
- Sarah Holland-Batt, *Spiral Separator*
- Emily O'Grady, *Feast*

Glendower Award for an Emerging Queensland Writer

Prize: \$15,000, plus publication with UQP

- *Henry Hamlet's Heart* by Rhiannon Ratcliffe Wilde

QUT Digital Literature Award

Prize: \$15,000

- *V[R]jquettes* (Mez Breeze Designs) by Mez Breeze

Griffith University Children's Book Award

Prize: \$15,000

- *The Slightly Alarming Tale of the Whispering Wars* (Allen & Unwin) by Jaclyn Moriarty

Griffith University Young Adult Book Award

Prize: \$15,000

- *Lenny's Book of Everything* (Allen & Unwin) by Karen Foxlee

The University of Queensland Fiction Book Award

Prize: \$15,000

- *Exploded View* (Text) by Carrie Tiffany

The University of Queensland Non-Fiction Book Award

Prize: \$15,000

- *An Unconventional Wife: The Life of Julia Sorell Arnold* (Scribe) by Mary Hoban

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

Prize: \$10,000

- *Zebra: And Other Stories* (Pan Macmillan) by Debra Adelaide

University of Southern Queensland History Book Award

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Prize: \$10,000

- *An Unconventional Wife: The Life of Julia Sorell Arnold* (Scribe) by Mary Hoban

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

Prize: \$10,000

- *Adani, Following Its Dirty Footsteps: A Personal Story* (Spinifex) by Lindsay Simpson

Judith Wright Calanthe Award for a Poetry Collection

Prize: \$10,000

- *Blakwork* (Magabala) by Alison Whittaker

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

- 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.

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