

State Librarian's message

Vicki McDonald, State Librarian and CEO talks about the black&write! project

Gamba daru [Good Day]

Hello, I am Vicki McDonald, State Librarian and CEO of State Library of Queensland. 2020 will be remembered for many things.

Here at State Library we like to dwell on the positives, and this year promises to be a milestone in the creative careers of two budding First Nations writers.

With so many creative programs cancelled around the globe, I am particularly thrilled to welcome two new Fellows into our black&write! program.

Since 2011, this program has helped bring unique voices into the spotlight; provided a vital springboard for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander talent.

Many Fellows have gone on to receive literary prizes and critical acclaim for their work.

I am pleased to announce there was a record number of entries this year.

The judges were thoroughly impressed by the strength of the applications which demonstrated outstanding **depth of talent** in First Nations writing today.

Thank you to the Australian Government, through the **Australian Council for the Arts**, for their contribution to this game-changing program. We are grateful for the support received from the **Copyright Agency Cultural Fund** and **The Lionel & Yvonne Spencer Trust** for black&write! editor training.

Thank you to our publishing partner **Hachette Australia** for their commitment to black&write! — we look forward to working with you again to develop the winners' manuscripts.

Congratulations to our winners – we look forward to having you on board!