

14 October 2019

State Library announces 2019 Young Writers Award winner

A poignant story about a son's trip back to China to scatter his father's ashes has won the State Library of Queensland's 2019 Young Writers Award.

Tristan Hurree, 20, from Kedron, won the \$2,500 prize for *Paper Lands* which will also be published in *Griffith Review*.

This is the first year State Library has partnered with *Griffith Review* for the annual award which is open to Queenslanders aged between 18 to 25. This year the award attracted 200 entries.

The judges said Tristan's story about grief and loss was "utterly compelling".

"The writer has crafted a work that feels fresh, authentic, and emotionally impactful."

Runner-up Zarin Nuzhat, 24, Kuraby, was awarded \$500 for the short story, *Teacups*, which judges noted was a "tender exploration of mother-daughter relationships".

The judges said the stories of all the finalists' "carried an emotional weight which was expressed in subtle, restrained, and surprising ways".

"These accomplished stories all reveal young and talented writers of great potential," the panel said.

The Young Writers Award has been held by State Library for more than 20 years and encourages, inspires and champions the writing of young Queenslanders.

2019 Young Writers Award winners and finalists:

- Winner: *Paper Lands* by Tristan Hurree, 21, Kedron
- Runner Up: *Teacups* by Zarin Nuzhat, 24, Kuraby
- Highly Commended: *An Argument in a Car* by Samuel Hoare, 25, South Brisbane
- Highly Commended: *The Grandstand* by Holly Mazzola, 23, Mount Gravatt East

Quotes from State Librarian and CEO Vicki McDonald:

"State Library is proud to support emerging young Queensland writers."

"Our exciting new partnership with *Griffith Review* provides our winner with high-profile exposure of their work."

"The Young Writers Award has recognised the literary talents of some of the country's most exciting young writers including Benjamin Law, Shastra Deo, Rebecca Jessen and Christopher Currie."

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Quotes from Ashley Hay, Editor, *Griffith Review*:

“*Griffith Review* is thrilled to partner with the State Library of Queensland to deliver writing and editing initiatives for the next generation of Queensland writers.”

“We are looking forward to working with Tristan in the editing process and to publishing *Paper Lands* in *Griffith Review*.”

For more information: <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/get-involved/fellowships-awards-residencies/young-writers-award>