

8 May 2019

Country, culture and nature inspire 2019 black&write! Fellows

Connection to Country and the natural world is the inspiration for two stories aimed at young people and children, which will be developed as part of the 2019 black&write! Fellowships.

Tania Crampton-Larking from Adelaide and Canberra-based Lisa Fuller were awarded the \$10,000 fellowships at State Library of Queensland today.

Lisa Fuller is a Wuilli Wuilli woman, also descended from Wakka Wakka and Gooreng Gooreng peoples from South East Queensland. Born in Eidsvold, she lived in various Queensland towns before moving to Canberra in 2006. Her story *Washpool* grew out of correspondence with her eldest nieces, and a desire to help them maintain their connection to country and culture.

South Australian Tania Crampton-Larking returned to her birthplace of Port Lincoln at the age of 8, after living in Adelaide. Her manuscript for a children's novel, *Brightest Wild*, was inspired by her sense of wonder in rediscovering the natural world after spending years in the city.

Based on the strength of the applicants, the judging panel has also awarded four highly commended entries: Susie Anderson from New South Wales for her poetry collection *Revolve*, Boyd Quakawoot from Queensland for the adult fiction work *Valley of Cane and Crows*, Queenslander Loki Little for his poetry collection *Snake of Light*, and Western Australian Kodie Bedford for the adult fiction work *Sunny Daughter Girl*.

The black&write! Fellowship program is supported by the Australian Government, through the Australia Council for the Arts, and publishing partner Hachette Australia.

Quotes from Minister for the Arts Leanne Enoch:

"The black&write Fellowships open the door to new voices in literature and allow the telling and sharing of First Nations stories."

"They also support contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander writers as they embark on a career in literature."

"Congratulations to Tania and Lisa, it will be wonderful to see your work."

Quotes from State Librarian and CEO Vicki McDonald:

"black&write! is a national program — the first of its kind in Australia. State Library is proud of the part this program plays in bringing the talents of Aboriginal and Torres Strait writers into the spotlight."

"The black&write! program exemplifies State Library's vision of 'Inspiring possibilities through knowledge, stories and creativity'."

"The stories published through this program have the potential to inspire generations of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to share their own stories."

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Interviews and images are available upon request.

Quotes from Publisher, Robert Watkins, Hachette Australia:

“Hachette Australia is so delighted to be involved again in the black&write! writing fellowships.”

“This year’s crop of entries was definitely some of the strongest pool of talent we’ve seen for the prize so far and we can’t wait to see what the winners do with their manuscripts under the guidance of the black&write! editors.”

Quotes from 2019 black&write! Fellow, Lisa Fuller:

“I’ve always written, even before I knew my ABCs, according to Mum.”

“I wanted to write something that the kids back home could relate to and feel proud of. As a kid, I hated that no one in books looked like me or my mob, and I wanted to give them that.”

Quotes from 2019 black&write! Fellow, Tania Crampton-Larkin:

“Discovering the awe-inspiring natural world, after spending years growing up in a city, and trying to convey that sense of wonder I’d felt in a story, was inspiration I think for this manuscript.”

“I write for everyone, including me, as I have so much fun with creating stories. I think a kids’ novel can often be enjoyed by people of all ages.”

For more information about black&write! visit www.slq.qld.gov.au/get-involved/fellowships-awards-residencies/blackwrite.