

Media Release



Winners announced for 2024 NSW Premier's Literary Awards

20/5/2024

The winners of the 2024 NSW Premier's Literary Awards have just been announced with *She is the Earth* by Ali Cobby Eckermann taking out Book of the Year. The outstanding winning works were selected by 32 judges across 12 prize categories from 834 entries.

NSW Minister for Arts John Graham said: "For 45 years now the NSW Premier's Literary Awards — the longest-running state-funded Awards in the country — have celebrated the extraordinary achievements of both established and emerging writers in Australia. On behalf of the NSW Government, I congratulate this year's winners and nominees. Their exceptional work captivates and entertains readers far and wide."

State Librarian Dr Caroline Butler-Bowdon said: "The very best literary works can have the power to deeply touch and resonate with readers throughout their lives. These prestigious Awards, supported by our Government, showcase the finest offerings of the year and I encourage people to seek them out in their local library or book shop."

The NSW Premier's Literary Awards have been administered by the State Library of NSW in association with Create NSW since 2012, and are judged by an independent committee of writers, academics, critics and other sector professionals.

Senior Judge, Dr Bernadette Brennan said: "The judges for this year's awards were unanimous in their praise for and excitement about the breadth, depth and brilliance of contemporary Australian writing. They were thrilled by the ambition of these works, the preparedness, across all categories, of the writers to take risks and to challenge and reimagine established ideas of genre, voice, subject matter and style. These winners offer just a glimpse of the diversity and range of Australian voices telling the stories we all need to hear."

The winners of the NSW Premier's Literary Awards 2024 are:

Book of the Year (\$10,000)

She is the Earth by Ali Cobby Eckermann (Magabala Books)
(also the winner of Indigenous Writers' Prize)

Christina Stead Prize for Fiction (\$40,000)

The Sitter by Angela O'Keeffe (UQP)

Douglas Stewart Prize for Non-fiction (\$40,000)

Ghosts of the Orphanage by Christine Kenneally (Hachette Australia)

Kenneth Slessor Prize for Poetry (\$30,000)

Riverbed Sky Songs by Tais Rose Wae (Vagabond Press)

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Patricia Wrightson Prize for Children's Literature (\$30,000)

Paradise Sands: A Story of Enchantment by Levi Pinfold (Walker Books Australia)

Ethel Turner Prize for Young People's Literature (\$30,000)

The Quiet and the Loud by Helena Fox (Pan Macmillan Australia)

Nick Enright Prize for Playwriting (\$30,000)

Sex Magick by Nicholas Brown (Griffin Theatre Company/Currency Press)

Betty Roland Prize for Scriptwriting (\$30,000)

Safe Home, Episode 1 by Anna Barnes (Kindling Pictures)

Indigenous Writers' Prize (\$30,000)

She is the Earth by Ali Cobby Eckermann (Magabala Books)

Multicultural NSW Award (\$30,000)

Stay for Dinner by Sandhya Parappukaran, illustrated by Michelle Pereira (Hardie Grant Children's Publishing)

UTS Glenda Adams Award for New Writing (\$10,000 — sponsored by UTS)

Anam by André Dao (Penguin Random House Australia)

University of Sydney People's Choice Award (\$5,000 — sponsored by University of Sydney)

The God of No Good by Sita Walker (Ultimo Press)

Background notes

- Works nominated for the 2024 NSW Premier's Literary Awards must have been first published, performed or screened between 1 October 2022 and 30 September 2023.
- Writers and illustrators whose works are nominated must be living Australian citizens or persons holding permanent resident status.
- The Awards are judged by an independent committee of writers, academics, critics and other sector professionals. The 2024 judging panel of 32 judges was approved by the government on 21 August 2023.
- Each Award category is judged by a panel of three to five independent judges and assessed in line with the NSW Premier's Literary Awards 2024 Guidelines and the formal judging procedures in place to ensure impartiality.
- A Book of the Year may be chosen by the judging panel from among the winners of the individual prizes, and the Government may, at its discretion, make an additional payment of \$10,000 prize money to the writer of the work so designated.
- Recent Book of the Year winners include: Debra Dank for *We Come With This Place* (2023), Safdar Ahmed for *Still Alive* (2022) Ellen van Neerven for *Throat* (2021), Tara June Winch for *The Yield* (2020) and Billy Griffiths for *Deep Time Dreaming* (2019).

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- The inaugural NSW Premier's Literary Awards were presented in 1979 by Premier Neville Wran and were the first Premier's literary awards to be offered in Australia.
- The NSW Premier's Literary Awards are administered by the State Library of NSW in association with Create NSW. The State Library of NSW acknowledges the sponsorship of Multicultural NSW, the University of Technology Sydney and the University of Sydney.

For more information please contact: The Senior Project Officer, Awards, State Library of NSW (02) 9273 1767 or awards@sl.nsw.gov.au

Visit the State Library of NSW's website for the list of winners and judges' comments: www.sl.nsw.gov.au/pla

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