

STATE LIBRARY OF QUEENSLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

Queensland Literary Awards finalists announced

Three groundbreaking memoirs, a gothic horror story for teens and a novel spanning five generations make up a diverse list of finalists for the Queensland Premier's Award for a Work of State Significance, part of the [2024 Queensland Literary Awards shortlists](#), announced today.

Finalists Graham Akhurst, Kris Kneen, Melissa Lucashenko, J.M. Tolcher and Ellen van Neerven headline a prize pool totalling \$276,000, which will be awarded across 12 categories including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and published and unpublished work.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of State Library of Queensland's stewardship of the awards, in collaboration with sponsors, industry partners and the writing community.

The judging panels commented on the high quality of nominations in 2024, with strong representation from First Nations authors, previous QLA development award winners, and a range of genres and publishers.

The winners' announcement ceremony will be hosted by Sarah Kanowski and live streamed on State Library's website and Facebook Live from 7 pm Thursday 5 September.

Public voting for [The Courier-Mail People's Choice Queensland Book of the Year Award](#) is open and closes at 5 pm, Thursday 15 August.

Quotes from State Librarian and CEO Vicki McDonald AM:

"The announcement of this year's Queensland Literary Awards finalists will no doubt create a buzz among book lovers across the nation.

"It is terrific to see a diversity of genres and voices appearing in the Queensland Premier's Award for a Work of State Significance.

"State Library is proud to connect people through compelling storytelling, nourishing our need for culture while broadening our world view.

"A special thank you to our partners, sponsors and donors – Arts Queensland; the Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund; The University of Queensland; *The Courier-Mail*; Jenny Summerson through the Queensland Library Foundation; Susan Hocking and Ian Mackie, and their family; and the Talbot Foundation."

2024 Queensland Literary Awards shortlists

Queensland Premier's Award for a Work of State Significance

- *Borderland* by Graham Akhurst (UWA Publishing)
- *Fat Girl Dancing* by Kris Kneen (Text Publishing)
- *Edenglassie* by Melissa Lucashenko (University of Queensland Press)
- *Poof* by J. M. Tolcher (James Tolcher)
- *Personal Score: Sport, Culture, Identity* by Ellen van Neerven (University of Queensland Press)

Queensland Premier's Young Publishers and Writers Awards

- Wallea Eaglehawk
- Gavin Yuan Gao
- Myles McGuire
- Alex Philp
- Sean West

The University of Queensland Fiction Book Award

- *The Great Undoing* by Sharlene Allsopp (Ultimo Press)
- *Body Friend* by Katherine Brabon (Ultimo Press)
- *Politica* by Yumna Kassab (Ultimo Press)
- *Ghost Cities* by Siang Lu (University of Queensland Press)
- *Edenglassie* by Melissa Lucashenko (University of Queensland Press)

The University of Queensland Non-Fiction Book Award

- *Deep Water* by James Bradley (Hamish Hamilton Australia (Penguin Random House)
- *Monument* by Bonny Cassidy (Giramondo Publishing)
- *Bullet, Paper, Rock: A Memoir of Words and Wars* by Abbas El-Zein (Upswell Publishing)
- *The Palestine Laboratory: How Israel Exports the Technology of Occupation Around the World* by Antony Loewenstein (Scribe Publications)
- *Personal Score: Sport, Culture, Identity* by Ellen van Neerven (University of Queensland Press)

Children's Book Award

- *Leaf-light* by Trace Balla (Allen & Unwin)
- *Leo and Ralph* by Peter Carnavas (University of Queensland Press)
- *Sunshine on Vinegar Street* by Karen Comer (Allen & Unwin)
- *The Impossible Secret of Lillian Velvet* written by Jaclyn Moriarty and illustrated by Kelly Canby (Allen & Unwin)
- *When You're a Boy* by Blake Nuto (Affirm Press)

Young Adult Book Award

- *Borderland* by Graham Akhurst (UWA Publishing)
- *Smoke & Mirrors* by Barry Jonsberg (Allen & Unwin)
- *The Spider and Her Demons* by sydney khoo (Penguin Random House Australia)
- *We Could Be Something* by Will Kostakis (Allen & Unwin)
- *I Hope This Doesn't Find You* by Ann Liang (Penguin Random House Australia)

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Steele Rudd Award for a Short Story Collection

- *The Terrible Event* by David Cohen (Transit Lounge)
- *Born For You* by Magdalena McGuire (Ultimo Press)
- *Gunflower* by Laura Jean McKay (Scribe Publications)
- *Firelight* by John Morrissey (Text Publishing)
- *The Gorgon Flower* by John Richards (University of Queensland Press)

Judith Wright Calanthe Award for a Poetry Collection

- *Naag Mountain* by Manisha Anjali (Giramondo Publishing)
- *Reliefs* by Jarad Bruinstroop (University of Queensland Press)
- *Three Books* by LK Holt (Vagabond Press)
- *Vehicular Man* by Mitchell Welch (Rabbit Poetry)
- *That Galloping Horse* by Petra White (Shearsman Books)

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

- "Politics" by Chella Goldwin
- "Native Rage" by Dominic Guerrera
- "River Page" by Lulu Houdini

Glendower Award for an Emerging Queensland Writer

- "Life Drawing" by Emily Lighezzolo
- "Tender Age" by Myles McGuire
- "EndGain" by Nicky Peelgrane
- "Lovesick" by Lillian Telford

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

- *The Great Undoing* by Sharlene Allsopp (Ultimo Press)
- *The Naturalist of Amsterdam* by Melissa Ashley (Affirm Press)
- *The Bird Art of William T Cooper* by Wendy Cooper (NLA Publishing)
- *How to Knit a Human: A Memoir* by Anna Jacobson (NewSouth Publishing)
- *The Remarkable Mrs Reibey* by Grantlee Kieza (ABC Books)
- *Ghost Cities* by Siang Lu (University of Queensland Press)
- *Immaculate* by Anna McGahan (Allen & Unwin)
- *Breath* by Carly-Jay Metcalfe (University of Queensland Press)

Queensland Writers Fellowships

This category will have 3 winners but no shortlist

For more information: [Queensland Literary Awards](#)

[Media Kit](#)

Further images available on request.