

STATE LIBRARY OF QUEENSLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

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Queensland Literary Awards winners announced

Melissa Lucashenko's *Edenglassie*, a novel that "elevates our understanding of Queensland's soul", has taken out the top prize at the 2024 Queensland Literary Awards announced tonight.

Lucashenko's epic novel of Aboriginal lives five generations apart has won the \$30,000 Queensland Premier's Award for a Work of State Significance.

This is the second time Lucashenko has won the award, with her novel *Too Much Lip* taking out the prize in 2019.

Edenglassie was described by the judges as an "historical tapestry that tears down barriers between past and present."

"Her deft storytelling bridges centuries with compelling characters and immersive detail, forging a narrative that not only evokes the complexities of history but also profoundly reimagines Australia's collective memory."

An increased total of \$276,000 in prize money was awarded across 12 categories including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and published and unpublished work, up from \$238,500 in 2023.

Re-mapping history through First Nations perspectives also plays a central part in Sharlene Allsopp's debut novel *The Great Undoing*, winner of The University of Queensland Fiction Book Award, with a prize of \$15,000.

The judges called Allsopp's book "an anti-colonial collage" that "disrupts readers' understandings of time, telling and place to ask how much of our histories are taken – and who gets to tell our stories."

2024 is the 10th anniversary of State Library of Queensland managing the awards, in collaboration with sponsors, industry partners and the writing community.

Quotes from Minister for the Arts, Leeanne Enoch MP:

"Congratulations to all winners and finalists of the Queensland Literary Awards for 2024.

"These awards shine a light on some of the country's finest writers and are testament to the depth and breadth of Australia's rich literary talent.

"The Queensland Literary Awards recognise and celebrate the power of stories and storytellers to generate inspiration, empathy and entertainment within and across communities.

"By amplifying diverse literary voices and unique stories, the Queensland Literary Awards help to deliver on the Queensland Government's 10-year *Creative Together* strategy to transform Queensland through arts, culture and creativity."

Quotes from State Librarian and CEO Vicki McDonald AM:

"This year's Queensland Literary Award winners remind us how the very best writing actively examines the complexities of the human condition.

"Through reflection, imagination and documentation, these authors show us this rare skill, across genres, styles and subjects.

"I congratulate all winners and finalists, in particular those who are just beginning their journey through our many development awards."

2024 Queensland Literary Awards winners

Queensland Premier's Award for a Work of State Significance

Awarded to an outstanding work by a Queensland author or an outstanding work by an Australian writer that tells a Queensland story. This award is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.

Prize: \$30,000

- *Edenglassie* by Melissa Lucashenko (University of Queensland Press)

Queensland Writers Fellowships

Awarded to three Queensland authors to advance a writing project over a 12-month period. The Fellowships are supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland and State Library of Queensland.

Prize: three Fellowships of \$20,000 each, plus professional development support to the value of \$4,500

- Jarad Bruinstroop for his novel project 'For the Duration'
- Sarah Kanake for her novel project 'Lazarus; or, The Whale'
- Cheryl Leavy for her poetry and essay project 'Mudhunda – Song Country'

Queensland Premier's Young Publishers and Writers Awards

Awarded to two outstanding Queensland writers and/or publishers up to 30 years of age. These awards are supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.

Prize: two awards of \$12,000 plus career development support to the value of \$3,000 each

- Gavin Yuan Gao
- Myles McGuire

The University of Queensland Fiction Book Award

Awarded to an outstanding work of fiction for adults by an Australian writer. This award is

Media enquiries

State Library of Queensland Communications team
media@slq.qld.gov.au
(07) 3840 7269

Interviews and images are available upon request.

sponsored by The University of Queensland.

Prize: \$15,000

- *The Great Undoing* by Sharlene Allsopp (Ultimo Press)

The University of Queensland Non-Fiction Book Award

Awarded to an outstanding work of non-fiction for adults by an Australian writer. This award is sponsored by The University of Queensland.

Prize: \$15,000

- *Bullet, Paper, Rock: A Memoir of Words and Wars* by Abbas El-Zein (Upswell Publishing)

Children's Book Award

Awarded to an outstanding work by an Australian writer suitable for children up to 12 years of age. This award is supported by the Talbot Foundation.

Prize: \$15,000

- *Sunshine on Vinegar Street* by Karen Comer (Allen & Unwin)

Young Adult Book Award

Awarded to an outstanding work by an Australian writer suitable for young adults 13 to 19 years of age. This award is supported by Susan Hocking and Ian Mackie, and their family.

Prize: \$15,000

- *The Spider and Her Demons* by sydney khoo (Penguin Random House Australia)

Steele Rudd Award for a Short Story Collection

Awarded to an outstanding collection of short stories by an Australian writer. This award is supported by the Queensland Library Foundation.

Prize: \$15,000

- *Firelight* by John Morrissey (Text Publishing)

Judith Wright Calanthe Award for a Poetry Collection

Awarded to an outstanding published collection of poetry by an Australian writer. This award is supported by the Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund.

Prize: \$17,500

- *Three Books* by LK Holt (Vagabond Press)

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

Awarded for an outstanding unpublished manuscript by an emerging Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander writer. This award is supported by the Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund

Prize: \$20,000, plus publication with University of Queensland Press

- Dominic Guerrera for his poetry manuscript 'Native Rage'

Glendower Award for an Emerging Queensland Writer

Awarded for an outstanding unpublished manuscript by an emerging Queensland writer. This award is supported by Jenny Summerson through the Queensland Library Foundation.

Prize: \$15,000, plus publication with University of Queensland Press

- Emily Lighezzolo for her novel manuscript 'Life Drawing'

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

Awarded to an outstanding book by a Queensland author, taken from eligible books entered in the Queensland Literary Award Fiction and Non-Fiction categories. The winner of *The Courier-Mail* People's Choice Queensland Book of the Year Award was determined by public vote. This award is sponsored by *The Courier-Mail*.

Prize: \$15,000

- *Breath* by Carly-Jay Metcalfe (University of Queensland Press)

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