

STATE LIBRARY OF QUEENSLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

2 August 2023

Queensland Literary Awards finalists announced

A children's story, a work of poetry, and a memoir are among the finalists for the Queensland Premier's Award for a Work of State Significance in the 2023 Queensland Literary Awards shortlists announced today.

A prize pool totalling \$238,500 will be awarded across 12 categories that include fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and published and unpublished work.

State Library of Queensland has proudly managed the prestigious awards in collaboration with sponsors, industry partners and the writing community since 2014.

The judging panels commented on the high quality of nominations in 2023 with several high-profile authors appearing on the shortlist including Pulitzer Prize winner Geraldine Brooks and Stella Prize winners Alexis Wright and Sarah Holland-Batt.

The winners' announcement ceremony will be hosted by Benjamin Law and livestreamed on State Library's website and Facebook Live from 7 pm Wednesday 6 September.

Public voting for [The Courier-Mail People's Choice Queensland Book of the Year Award](#) is open and closes at 5 pm, Monday 14 August.

Quotes from State Librarian and CEO Vicki McDonald AM:

"The announcement of this year's Queensland Literary Awards finalists always creates 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 – the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, Copyright Agency Cultural Fund, The University of Queensland, Griffith University, University of Southern Queensland, *The Courier-Mail*, Jenny Summerson through the Queensland Library Foundation, and Susan Hocking and Ian Mackie, and their family, through the Hocking Mackie Trust at the APS Foundation."

2023 Queensland Literary Awards shortlists

Queensland Premier's Award for a Work of State Significance

- *We Come with This Place* by Debra Dank (Echo Publishing)
- *The Bravest Word* by Kate Foster (Walker Books Australia)
- *The Jaguar* by Sarah Holland-Batt (University of Queensland Press)
- *Bone Memories* by Sally Piper (University of Queensland Press)



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Interviews are available upon request.

- *Praiseworthy* by Alexis Wright (Giramondo Publishing)

Queensland Premier's Young Publishers and Writers Awards

- Jasmin McGaughey
- Myles McGuire
- Jonathan O'Brien
- Alex Philp
- Sean West

The University of Queensland Fiction Book Award

- *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks (Hachette Australia)
- *The Sun Walks Down* by Fiona McFarlane (Allen & Unwin)
- *An Ungrateful Instrument* by Michael Meehan (Transit Lounge)
- *Bon and Lesley* by Shaun Prescott (Giramondo Publishing)
- *Praiseworthy* by Alexis Wright (Giramondo Publishing)

The University of Queensland Non-Fiction Book Award

- *We Come with This Place* by Debra Dank (Echo Publishing)
- *Humanity's Moment* by Joëlle Gergis (Black Inc.)
- *Indelible City* by Louisa Lim (Text Publishing)
- *A Kind of Magic* by Anna Spargo-Ryan (Ultimo Press)
- *Our Members Be Unlimited* by Sam Wallman (Scribe)

Children's Book Award

- *The Way of Dog* by Zana Fraillon (University of Queensland Press)
- *Jigsaw: A Puzzle in the Post* by Bob Graham (Walker Books)
- *My Deadly Boots* written by Hakea Hustler and Carl Merrison and illustrated by Samantha Campbell (Lothian Children's Books, Hachette Australia)
- *Waiting for the Storks* by Katrina Nannestad (ABC Books: An imprint of HarperCollins Publishers)
- *Zadie Ma and the Dog Who Chased the Moon* by Gabrielle Wang (Penguin Random House Australia)

Griffith University Young Adult Book Award

- *The Quiet and the Loud* by Helena Fox (Pan Macmillan Australia)
- *Completely Normal (and Other Lies)* by Biffy James (Hardie Grant Children's Publishing)
- *Unnecessary Drama* by Nina Kenwood (Text Publishing)
- *If You Could See the Sun* by Ann Liang (HQ Young Adult: An imprint of HarperCollins Publishers)
- *My Spare Heart* by Jared Thomas (Allen & Unwin)

University of Southern Queensland Steele Rudd Award for a Short Story Collection

- *An Exciting and Vivid Inner Life* by Paul Dalla Rosa (Allen & Unwin)
- *Everything Feels Like the End of the World* by Else Fitzgerald (Allen & Unwin)
- *Here Be Leviathans* by Chris Flynn (University of Queensland Press)
- *Women I Know* by Katerina Gibson (Scribner Australia)

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Judith Wright Calanthe Award for a Poetry Collection

- *Googlecholia* by Michael Farrell (Giramondo Publishing)
- *Harvest Lingo* by Lionel Fogarty (Giramondo Publishing)
- *The Drama Student* by Autumn Royal (Giramondo Publishing)
- *Fugitive* by Simon Tedeschi (Upswell Publishing)
- *Exactly As I Am* by Rae White (University of Queensland Press)

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

- "guniimara" by Lulu Houdini
- "Always and Again" by Brooke Scobie
- "To Give Them a Voice" by Maria van Neerven

Glendower Award for an Emerging Queensland Writer

- "The See-Saw" by Fernanda Dahlstrom
- "Treasure" by Sandra Minke
- "First Name Second Name" by Steve MinOn
- "Exchange Me" by Margot Shave

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

- *We Come with This Place* by Debra Dank (Echo Publishing)
- *The Whispering* by Veronica Lando (HarperCollins Publishers Australia)
- *Homecoming* by Kate Morton (Allen & Unwin)
- *Bone Memories* by Sally Piper (University of Queensland Press)
- *The Seven Skins of Esther Wilding* by Holly Ringland (HarperCollins Publishers)
- *The Bodyline Fix* by Marion Stell (University of Queensland Press)
- *Cloud Land* by Penny van Oosterzee (Allen & Unwin)
- *The God of No Good* by Sita Walker (Ultimo Press)

Queensland Writers Fellowships

This category will have 3 winners but no shortlist

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

Images available on request.