

STATE LIBRARY OF QUEENSLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

25 July 2023

INFORMATION EMBARGOED UNTIL 9AM TUESDAY 25 JULY

State Library announces 2023 Young Writers Award winner

- Grace Hammond, 24 of East Brisbane has won the 2023 State Library of Queensland Young Writers Award for her story 'Dog House'.
- 'Dog House' features a tension-filled interaction with Ashgrove's heritage listed Glenlyon House.
- The Young Writers Award celebrates 25 years of launching the careers of well-known writers such as Benjamin Law, Tara June Winch, Shastra Deo, Rebecca Jessen and Lech Blaine.

A story with a unique link to one of Brisbane's most historic properties has won State Library of Queensland's 2023 Young Writers Award.

Grace Hammond, 24, from East Brisbane has been awarded the \$2,000 prize for her story 'Dog House', which will be published in *Griffith Review*. Grace also receives membership to the Queensland Writers Centre.

Award judges were unanimous in their praise for 'Dog House', commending its sense of momentum and tension, built through a compelling interaction at Ashgrove's heritage-listed Glenlyon House.

'Dog House' was praised by the judging panel as engrossing, atmospheric and believable with an eeriness that was beautifully conveyed.

Three other stories were chosen as runners-up, taking home \$500 and a Queensland Writers Centre membership:

- 'Feed it to the dog' by Ash Shirvington, 19, Victoria Point
- 'Candles' by Svetlana Sterlin, 24, Daisy Hill
- 'Propagation' by Constance Allan, 23, Obi Obi

This year, the Young Writers Award celebrates 25 years of showcasing the brightest Queensland writing talent, having launched the careers of Australian writers such as Benjamin Law, Tara June Winch, Shastra Deo, Rebecca Jessen and Lech Blaine.

Quotes attributable to the Minister for the Arts, Hon Leeanne Enoch MP:

"The Young Writers Award is one of Queensland's longest-running short story prizes, recognising Queensland's outstanding local talent and kickstarting many creative careers and inspiring a new generation of emerging writers.

"Congratulations to the 2023 winner Grace Hammond, and finalists Ash Shirvington, Svetlana Sterlin, and Constance Allan whose talent reaffirms the strong future of Australian writing and the sharing of rich and unique stories from these incredible storytellers.



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(07) 3840 7897

Interviews are available upon request.

“The Queensland Government supports State Library in taking a leading role in celebrating Queensland’s literary success and sharing stories to deliver key priorities of our 10-year strategy, *Creative Together*.”

Quotes attributable to State Librarian and CEO Vicki McDonald AM:

“The future of Queensland writing is in good hands, and State Library is proud of the body of work created by these young writers.

“The talent and skill of young writers across Queensland is demonstrated by the quantity and quality of entries received this year.

“The Young Writers Award is a terrific opportunity for emerging writers to showcase works of fiction, make long-lasting industry connections, and achieve publication.”

Quotes attributable to Dr Carody Culver, editor, Griffith Review:

“The Young Writers Award showcases the best of the abundant emerging writing talent Queensland has to offer. *Griffith Review* looks forward to publishing the 2023 winner and sharing their work with our readers.”

Quotes attributable to Jack Vening, Young Writers Award Judging Panel Chair:

“The stories fielded in this year’s Young Writers Award proved yet again to be full of striking talent and ambitious imagination.

“The judges were consistently surprised by both the degree of literary skill on display and wide-ranging subject matter that the writers chose to explore.

“Deciding finalists from this year’s enormous cohort was no easy task, with no two authors alike, other than in the strength of their voices and the uncompromising vision of their stories.”

Further information:



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- More on Grace Hammond and the fascinating history of Glenlyon House: [MEDIA KIT](#)
- Read the full judges' comments about the winning entries: slq.qld.gov.au/get-involved/awards-and-fellowships/young-writers-award
- The Young Writers Award is presented in partnership with *Griffith Review* and is open to Queenslanders aged 18 to 25.
- More: slq.qld.gov.au/get-involved/fellowships-awards-residencies/young-writers-award

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