

STATE LIBRARY OF QUEENSLAND

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## State Library announces 2022 Young Writers Award winner

A heartbreaking tale of love, divorce and memory loss has won State Library of Queensland's 2022 Young Writers Award.

Callum Brocket, from Camp Hill in Brisbane, was awarded the \$2,000 prize for 'Once/Now' which will be published in *Griffith Review*.

This is the 25th Young Writers Award which has been the launchpad for well-known Australian authors such as Miles Franklin Award winner Tara June Winch, Benjamin Law, Shastra Deo, Rebecca Jessen and Christopher Currie.

The annual Young Writers Award is presented in partnership with *Griffith Review* and is open to Queenslanders aged 18 to 25.

The judges said Callum's story about an enduring love amid illness was ambitious and "it did not shy away from difficult subjects, and its themes are ones that are often hard for even seasoned writers to convey."

"But it met this complexity with a simple, beautiful handling of tone and an elegant structure."

First runner-up Ellie Kaddatz, 23, Newmarket, Brisbane, was awarded \$500 for her short story, 'Back Burning', which judges said invoked "that yearning that comes with growing up, young love, the possibilities of new lives and the questions left behind in the old."

The judges said the shortlist "proved once again the strength of young writers and what a privilege it is to read them."

"The writers selected this year showed a remarkable handling of language — emotive throughout but spare when it needed to be — and a great understanding of the craft of short fiction," the panel said.

### 2022 Young Writers Award winners and finalists:

- Winner: 'Once/Now' by Callum Brocket, 25, Camp Hill
- First runner-up: 'Back Burning' by Ellie Kaddatz, 23, Newmarket
- Second runner-up: 'Six' by Sasha Vucicevic, 25, Bundamba
- Third runner-up: 'The Sea Behind My Eyelids' by Maxwell Freedman, 20, Shorncliffe

### Quotes from Arts Minister Leeanne Enoch:

"Congratulations to the 2022 winner and runners-up of these prestigious awards.

"The long-running Young Writers Award helps recognise new Queensland literary talent, with many former winners pursuing successful writing careers.



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Interviews are available upon request.

“The Queensland Government invests in State Library of Queensland to provide opportunities for outstanding young writers to develop their creativity and literary skills.

“This award delivers on the priorities of *Creative Together 2020-2030: A 10-Year Roadmap for arts, culture and creativity*, by sharing our stories and celebrating our storytellers.”

**Quotes from State Librarian and CEO Vicki McDonald AM:**

“The Young Writers Award reaffirms the future is bright for Queensland writing.

“Previous award recipients have become well-loved authors with a worldwide audience and we look forward to seeing Callum Brockett’s name on our bookshelves.

“Our important partnership with *Griffith Review* helps us to inspire knowledge, stories and creativity, and the work of these young Queensland authors embodies the spirit of that vision.”

**Quotes from Dr Carody Culver, Editor, Griffith Review:**

“*Griffith Review* is excited to be publishing the winner of the 2022 Young Writers Award.

“The award is an invaluable launchpad for new writing talent, and we’re thrilled to be showcasing a promising new Queensland voice to our readers.”

More information: [slq.qld.gov.au/get-involved/fellowships-awards-residencies/young-writers-award](https://slq.qld.gov.au/get-involved/fellowships-awards-residencies/young-writers-award)



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