

STATE LIBRARY OF QUEENSLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

State Library announces 2024 Young Writers Award winner

A moving tale about bodily autonomy has won the 2024 State Library of Queensland Young Writers Award.

Ash Shirvington, 20, drew on his experiences and identity as a trans man to craft 'Birdbone', a short story praised by judges as "an impressive exploration of adolescent life and longing ... with a striking conclusion".

Ash receives a \$2,000 prize, publication in prestigious literary magazine *Kill Your Darlings*, and a Queensland Writers Centre membership.

A creative writing student at Griffith University, Ash says he was excited to enter the Award – which has helped launch Queensland's brightest writing talent for over 25 years – but never expected to win.

Ash was a runner-up in the 2023 Young Writers Award for his story 'Feed it to the dog'.

Three finalists were also awarded \$500 and Queensland Writers Centre membership:

- 'Salt' by Sara Allan-Park, 20
- 'Goodie' by AJ Pope, 18
- 'Worth It' by Quinn Stennett, 23

The Young Writers Award has been celebrating young Queensland writers since 1997, launching some of our state's best writers, including Benjamin Law, Tara June Winch, Shastra Deo, Rebecca Jessen and Lech Blaine.

Quotes from State Librarian and CEO Vicki McDonald AM:

"The impressive diversity of talent once again defines this year's Young Writers Award entries.

"State Library is proud to support the next generation of writers to help ensure a thriving literary community in Queensland.

"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 from Ash Shirvington, 2024 State Library Young Writers Award winner

"'Birdbone' is a story about biology and bodily autonomy, focusing on the tensions between 2 children learning about how they view the world – and how the world views them.

“I found out about the competition last year and I wanted to try to be a part of it – although I never expected to place.”

Quotes from author Siang Lu, Young Writers Award Judging Panel Chair:

“This year's entries demonstrate the promise and flair of our newest crop of emerging writers.

“The judges were impressed by the range of literary styles and techniques at play in these stories, which nonetheless had key elements of craft in common: namely narrative concision, strength of voice, compelling characters and, importantly, their capacity to surprise and delight.”

Further information:

- More on Ash Shirvington and other finalists: [MEDIA KIT](#)
- Read the winning stories and view the full judges' comments about the winning entries: www.slq.qld.gov.au/ywa
- State Library of Queensland Young Writers Award is presented in partnership with *Kill Your Darlings* and is open to Queenslanders aged 18 to 25.