

MEDIA RELEASE

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ADELAIDE FESTIVAL AWARDS FOR LITERATURE 2020

2020 Adelaide Festival Awards for Literature Shortlist Announced

Today we are delighted to announce the 37 writers from around Australia who have been shortlisted for the 2020 [Adelaide Festival Awards for Literature](#), one of Australia's richest and most prestigious literary awards.

The biennial awards offer a total prize pool of \$167,500 across six national and five South Australian categories, including the coveted Premier's Award worth \$25,000 for the overall winner. The awards also include three fellowships for South Australian writers worth \$15,000 each.

The awards, being managed by the State Library of South Australia for the first time, began in 1986. They highlight the importance of our unique South Australian writers, and contribute to and support community engagement with literature. Previous winners include Tim Winton, Helen Garner, Richard Flanagan, Gail Jones and John Marsden.

Judges considered this year's entries across many of the categories to be of very high standard. Among the shortlisted national finalists for 2020 are South Australian writers Allayne Webster in the Young Adult Fiction category, Jennifer Mills in the Fiction category, Natalie Harkin and Jill Jones in the John Bray Poetry Award and Alice Gorman in the Non-Fiction category.

Local playwrights Piri Eddy and Duncan Graham are shortlisted for the Jill Blewett Playwright's Award, worth \$12,500.

South Australian writers Alison Flett, Jelena Dinic, Diana Navarro and Carol Lefevre are shortlisted for the Arts South Australia Wakefield Press Unpublished Manuscript Award, which offers a prize of \$10,000 and publication of the winning manuscript by Wakefield Press.

“I congratulate all the shortlisted authors and their publishers. It’s a great achievement to be shortlisted as we received almost 800 entries across all award categories making it highly competitive,” said **Geoff Strempel**, Director State Library of South Australia. “These awards are all about the power of the written word – its ability to evoke emotions, stimulate thoughts and discussion. In this way the awards strengthen the importance of a publishing and literary culture in our community.”

Winners, including for the Premier’s Award, will be announced in a special ceremony at Adelaide Writers’ Week on Saturday, 29 February 2020 as part of the 2020 Adelaide Festival.

The 2020 Adelaide Festival Awards for Literature shortlist is:

National Awards for published works:

Children’s Literature Award (\$15,000)

- *The elephant* by Peter Carnavas (QLD) (University of Queensland Press)
- *The house on the mountain* by Ella Holcombe (VIC) (Allen & Unwin)
- *Mallee sky* by Jodi Toering (VIC) (Walker Books Australia)
- *Nevermoor: The trials of Morrigan Crow* by Jessica Townsend (QLD) (Hachette Australia)
- *Winston and the wondrous Wooba Gymnastics Club* by Tamsin Janu (NSW) (Scholastic Australia)
- *Young dark emu: A truer history* by Bruce Pascoe (VIC) (Magabala Books)

Young Adult Fiction Award (\$15,000)

- *After the lights go out* by Lili Wilkinson (VIC) (Allen & Unwin)
- *Between us* by Clare Atkins (NSW) (Black Inc)
- *The centre of my everything* by Allayne Webster (SA) (Penguin Random House Australia)
- *Neverland* by Margot McGovern (SA) (Penguin Random House Australia)
- *Small spaces* by Sarah Epstein (VIC) (Walker Books Australia)
- *A song only I can hear* by Barry Jonsberg (NT) (Allen & Unwin)

Fiction Award (\$15,000)

- *The death of Noah Glass* by Gail Jones (NSW) (Text Publishing)
- *Dyschronia* by Jennifer Mills (SA) (Pan Macmillan Australia)
- *The enlightenment of the greengage tree* by Shokoofeh Azar (VIC) (Wild Dingo Press)
- *Saudade* by Suneeta Peres da Costa (NSW) (Giramondo Publishing)
- *A stolen season* by Rodney Hall (VIC) (Pan Macmillan Australia)
- *Taboo* by Kim Scott (WA) (Pan Macmillan Australia)

John Bray Poetry Award (\$15,000)

- *Archival-Poetics* by Natalie Harkin (SA) (Vagabond Press)
- *Blakwork* by Alison Whittaker (NSW) (Magabala Books)

- *False claims of colonial thieves* by Charmaine Papertalk Green and John Kinsella (WA) (Magabala Books)
- *The lost Arabs* by Omar Sakr (NSW) (University of Queensland Press)
- *Music our bodies can't hold* by Andy Jackson (VIC) (Hunter Publishers)
- *Viva the real* by Jill Jones (SA) (University of Queensland Press)

Non-Fiction Award (\$15,000)

- *The Bible in Australia: A cultural history* by Meredith Lake (NSW) (NewSouth Publishing)
- *Call of the reed warbler* by Charles Massy (NSW) (University of Queensland Press)
- *Deep time dreaming: Uncovering ancient Australia* by Billy Griffiths (VIC) (Black Inc)
- *Dr Space Junk vs The Universe: Archaeology and the future* by Alice Gorman (SA) (NewSouth Publishing)
- *Eggshell skull: A memoir about standing up, speaking out and fighting back* by Bri Lee (NSW) (Allen & Unwin)
- *The year everything changed: 2001* by Phillipa McGuinness (NSW) (Penguin Random House Australia)

South Australian Awards and Fellowships:

Jill Blewett Playwright's Award (\$12,500)

- *Forgiveness* by Piri Eddy
- *Karamazovs* by Duncan Graham

Arts South Australia Wakefield Press Unpublished Manuscript Award (\$10,000)

- *House* by Alison Flett
- *In the room with the she wolf* by Jelena Dinic
- *The others* by Diana Navarro
- *Temperance* by Carol Lefevre

Not shortlisted Fellowships:

- Barbara Hanrahan Fellowship (\$15,000)
- Max Fatchen Fellowship (\$15,000)
- Tangkanungku Pintyanthi Fellowship (\$15,000) - please note no applications were received for this Fellowship.

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