



Government of South Australia
Arts South Australia



MEDIA RELEASE

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INAUGURAL SA LITERARY FELLOWSHIPS AWARDED

Writers SA and the State Library of South Australia are pleased to announce the recipients of the inaugural SA Literary Fellowships program which supports professional writers living in South Australia.

The new fellowship program supports emerging, established and First Nations writers to develop new literary works.

The five recipients selected from a shortlist of South Australian writers, include:

- First Nations Fellowship – Karen Wyld
- Mid-Career Fellowship – Katerina Bryant and Walter Marsh
- Emerging Fellowship – Gemma Parker and Sarah Pearce

The five annual creative writing fellowships include a cash prize (\$10,000 for First Nations and Mid-Career Fellowships and \$3,000 for emerging writers), up to three months' residency with a desk at the State Library of South Australia and access to the Library's collections.

Presented by Writers SA and the State Library of South Australia, the fellowship program is jointly funded by Creative Australia (Australia Council for the Arts), Arts South Australia and the Libraries Board of South Australia.

Writers SA CEO Jessica Alice said, "We offer our warmest congratulations to the inaugural SA Literary Fellowship recipients.

"We are delighted to offer this fantastic new opportunity, encouraging the original and imaginative use of the Library's spaces and collections to develop their literary works.

"We have no doubt this talented group of writers will produce the next great books from South Australia and build on the tremendous legacy of the state."

State Library of South Australia Director Geoff Stempel said, "As the largest public research library in the state, we look forward to welcoming the five outstanding writers to the State Library of South Australia to develop new literary works and access our diverse collections.

"We wish to thank all those who submitted their work to the program this year. The quality of writing, and breadth of ideas submitted was of an extremely high standard."

Arts Minister Andrea Michaels said, "Congratulations to the five talented South Australian writers selected for the SA Literary Fellowships. Literature plays a significant role in culture and the creative industries, and we look forward to reading your brilliant books in the years to come."

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Fellowship recipients intended literary works:

First Nations Fellowship – Karen Wyld

Award-winning author Karen Wyld will draw on inspiration from South Australian coastal locations and personal memories to develop a collection of short story, narrative non-fiction and poetry that explores the relationship with local beaches and seas. Karen will access the State Library's Maritime collection – using diaries, maps, photographs and paintings as part of her research.

Mid-Career Fellowship – Walter Marsh

Journalist Walter Marsh will be working on the untitled follow-up to his 2023 debut *Young Rupert: the making of the Murdoch empire*. A work of narrative non-fiction combining history and contemporary reportage, it will draw heavily on the State Library's reference, newspaper, and archival collections.

Mid-Career Fellowship – Katerina Byrant

Writer Katerina Byrant's narrative non-fiction manuscript *Queen Pawn* follows her personal journey of being a chess champion and explores women in chess with a particular focus on the first South Australian Woman Chess Champion Evelyn Koshnitsky. Katerina will utilise the Koshnitsky Chess Collection at the State Library to influence her literary works.

Emerging Fellowship – Gemma Parker

Poet and essayist Gemma Parker will create a fragmentary narrative around the topic of 'Spider Mother' – drawing on the State Library's archival collections that best resonates with and enhances her primary themes, from biographical details to family history and newspaper articles.

Emerging Fellowship – Sarah Pearce

Poet and researcher Sarah Pearce will draw on the State Library's rich resources and use established techniques of found poetry to produce a new collection of ecopoetry.

The successful fellowship recipients will commence their fellowship at the State Library of South Australia in 2024.

About Writers SA

Writers SA is the peak organisation for literature – and the only dedicated organisation for literature – in South Australia. Through our annual artistic program of festivals, writing commissions, literary development courses, and community projects, we represent the breadth and diversity of writers in our state, and act as a pathway between local writers and the national literary ecosystem.

We are a not-for-profit organisation with over 800 members that aims to foster, develop and promote writers and a national culture of writing. Established in 1985, Writers SA was the first writers centre in



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Australia, and we remain one of the most visible writers centres in the country thanks to our national advocacy for literature, our partnerships and creative development initiatives.

About the State Library of South Australia

The State Library of South Australia is the largest public research library in the state and among the most iconic cultural institutions in South Australia. It is home to the historic Mortlock Wing which is consistently voted among the most beautiful libraries in the world.

As custodians of stories, the State Library of South Australia welcomes over half a million visitors a year and plays a significant role in collecting, preserving and making accessible the State's history for current and future generations to enjoy, experience and learn from.

Open 7 days a week, the State Library of South Australia provides 24/7 access that connects people to resources including research and information services. It also hosts events, exhibitions, and curated programs to enrich access to its collections.

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