

State Library of South Australia Media Release



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South Australian Literary Awards



Shortlist announced for 2024 South Australian Literary Awards

The State Library of South Australia is pleased to announce the shortlist for the renamed 2024 South Australian Literary Awards. From a total of 827 entries, 46 writers have been shortlisted, including debut and established writers.

Funded by the state Government, the biennial awards offer a total prize pool of \$167,500 across six national and five South Australian categories, including the \$25,000 Premier's Award for the overall winner. Also, three \$15,000 fellowships are available for South Australian writers.

Introduced in 1986 and presented by the State Library of South Australia, the South Australian Literary Awards (formerly called the Adelaide Festival Awards for Literature) celebrate Australia's writing culture with national and state-based literary prizes across various genres. The Awards support local writers, the literary community, and public engagement with literature.

Among the shortlisted national finalists for 2024 are South Australian writer Shannon Burns for the Non-fiction Award and poet Jill Jones for the John Bray Poetry Award. Showcasing the exceptional talent thriving within our local literary community, a record number of South Australian writers have been shortlisted for the South Australian Awards and Fellowships.

Thank you to all authors who submitted their work for the Awards. Judges were impressed with the high standard of entries this year, commenting the material they read was superbly written, exemplary,

beautifully crafted, a cracking read and compellingly created. They were also impressed to see the strong diverse voices visible across the shortlist.

Director State Library of South Australia, Geoff Stempel, says “We are thrilled to share the shortlist for this year’s South Australian Literary Awards and congratulate the shortlisted writers. These outstanding works highlight the richness of contemporary literature and the talent of writers who push the boundaries of storytelling.

“It’s exciting to see both emerging writers, as well as established authors acknowledged in these Awards. From a diverse array of voices and narratives, their words inspire and captivate us.”

Minister for Arts, Andrea Michaels, comments “Congratulations to all the incredible writers who have been shortlisted for this year’s South Australian Literary Awards. Australia is home to many talented writers and authors and the Malinauskas Government is delighted to be supporting their extraordinary storytelling with these refreshed awards including the \$25,000 Premier’s Award.”

Winners, including the Premier’s Award, will be announced in a special ceremony at the State Library of South Australia’s iconic Mortlock Chamber in October 2024. People can tune in to watch the live stream of the award night and be among the first to know the winners.

For more information about the South Australian Literary Awards visit saliteraryawards.com.au

The 2024 South Australian Literary Awards shortlist is:

National Awards for published works:

Fiction Award (\$15,000)

- *All that's left unsaid* by Tracey Lien (HQ Fiction: An imprint of HarperCollins Publishers)
- *Hydra* by Adriane Howell (Transit Lounge)
- *Permafrost* by SJ Norman (University of Queensland Press)
- *The in-between* by Christos Tsiolkas (Allen & Unwin)
- *West girls* by Laura Woollett (Scribe)

Non-fiction Award (\$15,000)

- *Childhood* by Shannon Burns (Text Publishing)
- *Fat girl dancing* by Kris Kneen (Text Publishing)
- *I'd rather not* by Robert Skinner (Black Inc.)
- *Personal score* by Ellen van Neerven (University of Queensland Press)
- *The ballad of Abdul Wade* by Ryan Butta (Affirm Press)

Young Adult Fiction Award (\$15,000)

- *Completely normal (and other lies)* by Biffy James (Hardie Grant Publishing)
- *If you could see the sun* by Ann Liang (HQ Young Adult: An imprint of HarperCollins Publishers)
- *Sugar* by Carly Nugent (Text Publishing)
- *Sugar town queens* by Malla Nunn (Allen & Unwin)
- *The brink* by Holden Sheppard (Text Publishing)

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

- *Being Jimmy Baxter* by Fiona Lloyd (Penguin Random House Australia)
- *Exit through the gift shop* by Maryam Master (Pan Macmillan Australia)
- *Runt* by Craig Silvey (Allen & Unwin)
- *Scar town* by Tristan Bancks (Penguin Random House Australia)
- *Stay for dinner* by Sandhya Parappukkaran (Hardie Grant Children's Publishing)
- *The way of the dog* by Zana Fraillon (University of Queensland Press)

John Bray Poetry Award (\$15,000)

- *Acrobat music: new and selected poems* by Jill Jones (Puncher & Wattmann)
- *At the altar of touch* by Gavin Yuan Gao (University of Queensland Press)
- *Human looking* by Andy Jackson (Giramondo Publishing)
- *Hunger and predation* by Pooja Mittal Biswas (Corodite Books)
- *The singer and other poems* by Kim Cheng Boey (Corodite Books)

South Australian Awards and Fellowships:

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

- *Hits of the 70s, 80s and 90s* by Rebecca Meston
- *Log boy* by Anthony Nocera
- *Mallee ward* by Michael Hill
- *Paradise lost* by Melissa-Kelly Franklin
- *Safe* by Nina Pearce
- *Spare a thought for Jana Wendt* by Nicola Watson
- *The spoil* by Piri Eddy

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

- *Boy swimmer* by Gina Inverarity
- *Catastrophic* by Alastair Sarre
- *Dear Vincent* by Heather Taylor Johnson
- *Out of place* by Robin Boord
- *Salt upon the water* by Lyn Dickens
- *The tongue is a witch* by Alicia Carter

Tangkanungku Pintyanthi Fellowship (\$15,000)

- *A life half lived* by Karen Wyld
- *Kali (boomerang)* by Ali Cobby Eckermann
- *Monologues, poems and ramblings for you, them, us... and me...* by Alexis West

Barbara Hanrahan Fellowship (\$15,000)

- *A life half lived* by Karen Wyld
- *Queen pawn* by Katerina Bryant
- *Radiance: a state of being* by Molly Murn

Max Fatchen Fellowship (\$15,000)

- *Maisy (working title)* by Allayne Webster
- *The children of Elphinstone* by James A Cooper

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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 South Australian 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.