



Communities
arts nsw

NSW Premier's Literary Awards 2010

Guidelines



UNIVERSITY OF
TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY

Issued – 12 September 2009
Closing date – 5pm, Friday 16 October 2009

The 2010 New South Wales Premier's Literary Awards

Established by Premier Neville Wran in 1978, the New South Wales Premier's Literary Awards have a proud history, both in celebrating achievement by Australian writers and in helping to establish values and standards in Australian literature.

The New South Wales Government is committed to increasing public engagement with the arts. The Premier's Literary Awards provide an opportunity to highlight the importance of literacy and to encourage everyone to enjoy and learn from the work of our writers. These annual awards honour distinguished achievement by Australian writers, contribute to Australia's artistic reputation, and draw international attention to some of our best writers and to the cultural environment that nurtures them.

Past winners have included such notable writers as Peter Carey, David Malouf AO, Elizabeth Jolley, Thomas Keneally AO and Helen Garner.

Total prize money in 2010, including sponsored awards, is \$310,000.

The NSW Premier's Literary Awards are sponsored by Arts NSW, as part of Communities NSW. We are pleased to acknowledge the support of the Community Relations Commission For a multicultural New South Wales, and the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, UTS.

New South Wales Premier's Literary Awards 2010

In 2010 nominations are sought for the following awards:

The Christina Stead Prize

The UTS Glenda Adams Award for New Writing

The Douglas Stewart Prize

The Kenneth Slessor Prize

The Patricia Wrightson Prize

The Ethel Turner Prize

The Play Award

The Script Writing Award

The Biennial Prize for Literary Scholarship

The Community Relations Commission For a multicultural NSW Award

Entry Fee

Please note that there is a \$40 (including GST) entry fee for EACH nomination in EACH category

Individuals are exempt from paying the entry fee if they meet the following criteria:

- All Australian Senior and Pensioner cardholders
- ISIC (all tertiary student cardholders)
- Australian Government cardholders (e.g. unemployed, healthcare cards)
- Australian Government Department of Veterans Affairs cardholders

Photocopied proof of your status as a cardholder must be attached to your nomination form.

Conditions of Entry

Entries must be received at Arts NSW no later than 5pm on Friday 16 October 2009. Faxed entry forms will not be accepted.

All works nominated, except for the Play and Script Writing Awards, the Prize for Literary Scholarship and the Community Relations Commission Award, must be published in book form.

Books compiled by an editor and consisting principally of contributions from a number of writers are not eligible for entry.

Self-published books may be nominated, but unpublished manuscripts will not be considered.

Novels, plays, scripts and collections of poetry which are, or contain, adaptations or re-workings of pre-existing works will be considered if they transform, rather than merely transmit, the intentions of the source work. The new work should attain a standard of achievement comparable to the source work. The new work should have been first published, produced or performed within the eligible period.

Material that has previously been published only in anthologies, literary journals or newspapers is deemed to be new work and may be entered in the Awards if it is published in book form within the eligible period.

Revised editions of books will not be considered unless the revisions are so substantial that the book is, in effect, a new work. It is the nominator's responsibility to identify the new material and to include one copy of the original edition with the nomination form.

All works must be in the English language.

All nominated works must be publicly available: books, eBooks, CD ROMs and DVDs should have ISBNs and must be available for commercial sale; plays must have been performed before a general audience; and scripts must have been produced for public screening or broadcast.

Eligibility periods:

- Books nominated for the awards (with the exception of the Prize for Literary Scholarship) must have been first published between 4 October 2008 and 2 October 2009. Books, CD ROMs and DVDs entered for the biennial Prize for Literary Scholarship must have been first published or produced between 3 November 2007 and 2 October 2009.
- English translations of works that were originally written in another language by Australian authors will be eligible for nomination if the translations were published between 4 October 2008 and 2 October 2009.
- Plays must have been first produced between 4 October 2008 and 2 October 2009.
- Film, radio and television scripts may be nominated for the Script Writing Award if programs have been produced from them between 4 October 2008 and 2 October 2009.
- Film, radio and television scripts which are entered in the Community Relations Commission Award must have been screened or broadcast between 4 October 2008 and 2 October 2009.
- Works eligible for nomination for the New South Wales Premier's Literary Awards in a previous year are not eligible for nomination in this year's awards. Electronic versions of previously published books will not be accepted. Similarly, published versions of books originally released electronically prior to the current eligibility period will not be accepted.

Nominations:

- Each entry must be accompanied by a completed and signed copy of the relevant nomination form plus appropriate remittance.
- Nominations may be made by authors or their agents, by publishers, professional theatre companies, film distributors, production companies, or broadcasting companies or corporations.
- People or organisations nominating works on behalf of an author are deemed to be nominating with the author's consent. It is the responsibility of the nominator to ensure that the author's consent is obtained before nominating the work. The author's personal contact details must be included on the nomination form.
- Writers and illustrators whose works are nominated must be living Australian citizens or persons holding permanent resident status. If a nominee dies or ceases to hold permanent resident status after his or her work has been nominated, the judges will not consider his or her work for an award. If, however, the judges recommend an award to an eligible nominee and that nominee dies before the award is presented, the Government may, at its discretion, pay the prize money to the nominee's estate.
- All nominations must be accompanied by four copies of the nominated work. Entries in ebook, CD ROM and DVD format must be accompanied by four bound copies of the printed text for assessment purposes. In some cases, additional copies of a work may be requested by the judges.
- All reasonable care will be taken with works submitted, but no responsibility is accepted for loss or damage to books or other material.
- Arts NSW will acknowledge receipt of nominations for the New South Wales Premier's Literary Awards only if requested.
- Books and other material cannot be returned unless specifically requested at the time of entry. At the conclusion of the awards process, Arts NSW may donate the support material to an appropriate institution.
- These general conditions of entry should be read in conjunction with the specific conditions for each prize and award which are set out on the following pages.

The Judging Process

The awards will be judged by an independent committee of writers and critics who have been appointed by the Minister for the Arts or the Minister's delegate.

At its first meeting, the judging committee will review the nominated works and take such action as it considers appropriate to encourage the nomination of eligible works not already entered. It may also request additional information on nominations.

The committee will be divided into panels with a minimum of three persons on each. The panels will assess fiction, non-fiction, poetry, children's books, plays and scripts, and the Community Relations Commission Award.

Each panel will choose one of its members to chair its discussions and report on the outcome of the judging. The reports of the panels will then be considered by the committee of members. The committee will also identify the winners of the Special Award and the Book of the Year.

The committee's recommendations will be submitted to the Minister for the Arts, who will publicly announce the short lists at least four weeks prior to the announcement of the winning titles. The short lists will contain no more than six titles per category.

The short lists, with the judges' comments, will be posted on the NSW Premier's Literary Awards website (www.pla.nsw.gov.au) and the Arts NSW website (www.arts.nsw.gov.au) by the end of March 2010. Unsuccessful nominees will not be advised personally of the results.

The winners will be announced and the awards presented at a public function in late May 2010. Winners will be notified before the public announcement. The names of the winners, and the judges' comments, will be posted on the NSW Premier's Literary Awards website (www.pla.nsw.gov.au) and the Arts NSW website (www.arts.nsw.gov.au) by 31 May 2010.

The judges may decide against recommending an award in a particular category to the Minister if they consider that the nominated works are not of sufficient merit.

The decisions of the Minister will be final and no discussion or correspondence will be entered into concerning the decisions.

Arts NSW's Privacy Policy

Arts NSW adheres to the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*. Arts NSW collects the minimum personal information to enable it to process and assess nominations, for internal government reporting requirements and to promote shortlisted and winning titles. Arts NSW will not use personal information for any other purpose and will not disclose it without consent.

All privacy issues are handled in accordance with *Arts NSW's Privacy Management Plan (2000)*, obtainable from our website www.arts.nsw.gov.au/AboutUs/PoliciesandDocuments/ManagementPracticesandPolicy/tabid/135/Default.aspx

Applicants must ensure that people whose personal details are supplied with nominations are aware that Arts NSW is being supplied with this information and how this information will be used by Arts NSW.

Freedom of Information

The provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1989* apply to documents in the possession of Arts NSW.

The 2010 Prizes and Awards

The Christina Stead Prize

The Christina Stead Prize (\$40,000) is offered for a book of fiction. The award may be made for a novel or a collection of stories.

A collection of stories may contain some previously published work. In such a case the judges will determine whether the new work is sufficient, in quantity and quality, to merit an award. It is the nominator's responsibility to identify clearly previously published material.

Works of multiple authorship, including anthologies, are not eligible for nomination.

The UTS Glenda Adams Award for New Writing – *This award is sponsored wholly by the University of Technology, Sydney.*

The UTS Glenda Adams Award (\$5,000) is for a published book of fiction written by an author who has not previously published a book-length work of fiction.

The Award seeks to recognise outstanding new literary talent. The winning author may produce an excellent piece of writing in a traditional fictional form or may challenge and expand the boundaries of the genre.

The winner of the UTS Glenda Adams Award is chosen from entries submitted for the Christina Stead Prize. Entrants who meet the UTS Glenda Adams Award criteria should indicate on the nomination form if they wish to be considered for the Award. There will not be a short list in this category.

The Douglas Stewart Prize

The Douglas Stewart Prize (\$40,000) is for a prose work other than a work of fiction. Books including biographies, autobiographies and works of history, philosophy and literary criticism may be nominated. Oral histories are ineligible unless the author claims artistic responsibility for the majority of the text.

Books compiled by an editor and/or consisting of contributions from four or more writers are not eligible for the Douglas Stewart Prize.

An award will not be given for a work consisting principally of photographs or illustrations unless the text is of substantial length and of sufficient merit in its own right. In such cases, no part of the prize money will be paid to the photographer or illustrator.

The Kenneth Slessor Prize

The Kenneth Slessor Prize (\$30,000) is offered to a poet for a book of collected poems or for a single poem of substantial length published in book form. A collection of poems may consist partly of work previously published in book form, but this work must be clearly identified by the nominator. In such cases the judges will assess only the new work and determine whether it is sufficient, in quantity and quality, to merit an award.

A collection of poems may be published in a book containing the work of up to four poets. The judges will exercise their discretion in determining whether the work of the nominated poet is sufficient to make it eligible for an award.

The Patricia Wrightson Prize

The Patricia Wrightson Prize (\$30,000) is offered for a work of fiction, non-fiction or poetry written for children up to secondary school level. Books containing the work of four or more authors, including anthologies, are not eligible for nomination.

In the case of books containing original illustrations, the judges may determine that the award be shared by the writer and the illustrator.

The Ethel Turner Prize

The Ethel Turner Prize (\$30,000) is offered for a work of fiction, non-fiction or poetry written for young people of secondary school level. Books containing the work of four or more authors, including anthologies, are not eligible for nomination.

In the case of books containing original illustrations which are integral to the success of the book, the judges may determine that the award be shared by the writer and the illustrator.

Play Award

The Play Award (\$30,000) is offered for a play or a work of music drama given its first production in Australia between 4 October 2008 and 2 October 2009. The production may be given by a professional or amateur theatre company, but it must involve a season of several performances before a general audience.

Plays written by more than four authors are not eligible for the Play Award.

Unpublished plays must be submitted in a bound form, NOT loose-leafed.

Assessment will be made primarily on the literary merit of the written text, and not on the merits of a particular production, although the judges will take into account the success of the work within the medium for which it has been written.

The prize money will be paid to the playwright. In the case of a work of music drama, the judges may decide that the award should be shared by the writer and the composer. In this instance, the composer must be a living Australian citizen or hold permanent resident status.

Script Writing Award

The Script Writing Award (\$30,000) is offered for the screenplay of a feature-length fiction film, for the script of a documentary film, for the script of a play or documentary for radio, or for the script of a television program (whether fiction or non-fiction).

A script will be eligible for consideration if a film or radio or television program has been produced from it and substantially completed between 4 October 2008 and 2 October 2009. It is not necessary that the production should have been publicly screened, broadcast or telecast during that time, although persons making nominations will be asked whether, to their knowledge, screenings or broadcasts have been scheduled.

Scripts written by more than four authors are not eligible for the Script Writing Award.

Only the writer's original work will be considered for an award. In the case of a feature-length film, the final shooting script should be submitted; in other cases, shooting and production scripts, which may differ from the original script, may be submitted only if accompanied by the original script. Assessment will be made primarily on the literary merit of the written text, and not on the merits of the resulting film, radio or television program, although the judges will take into account the success of the work within the medium for which it has been written.

Unpublished scripts must be submitted in a bound form, NOT loose-leafed.

The 2010 New South Wales Premier's Prize for Literary Scholarship

The biennial New South Wales Premier's Prize for Literary Scholarship (\$30,000) is made to an outstanding book, CD ROM or DVD which presents an original and convincing perspective on one or more published works of acknowledged excellence and historical renown from any language, literary or cultural tradition.

To be eligible, the nominated work must be written by a living Australian scholar and it must focus primarily on analyzing, understanding, and rendering literary texts accessible to a contemporary readership. Annotated re-editions of texts may be considered if they can be shown to be the result of intense literary scholarship and if they present the original texts in a new light.

Although the intention of this prize is to acknowledge individual excellence in literary scholarship and presentation, works which present the combined work of up to three scholars may be nominated.

Comparative literary studies, biographical works on authors and their times, and works of cultural analysis should be entered for the Douglas Stewart Prize. Bibliographies, indexes and non-interpretive works are not eligible.

Note that works first published or produced over the two year period 3 November 2007 and 2 October 2009 may be entered for this prize. They should be publicly available at the time of nomination.

Entries in ebook, CD ROM and DVD format should be accompanied by four bound copies of the printed text for assessment purposes.

Community Relations Commission For a multicultural NSW Award – *This award is sponsored wholly by the Community Relations Commission*

The Community Relations Commission Award (\$15,000) is offered to the writer of a book, play, music drama or script which is deemed by the judges to have both

- made a significant contribution to Australian literature, theatre, film, radio or television in its portrayal of the interaction of Australia's diverse cultures, and
- canvassed issues arising from the Australian immigration and migrant settlement experience.

The Community Relations Commission Award may be awarded to either:

- a book (fiction, non-fiction or poetry) first published between 4 October 2008 and 2 October 2009;
- a play or music drama which has had a premiere season of several performances given by an amateur or professional theatre company before a general audience between 4 October 2008 and 2 October 2009; or
- the original writer's script for a full-length fiction or documentary, or a television program (fiction or non-fiction). The film, radio or television program must have been screened or broadcast between 4 October 2008 and 2 October 2009.

Writers who have previously won this award are not eligible to win it in the subsequent two years.

Books, plays, music dramas and scripts may be nominated specifically for this award by their authors, publishers, agents or producers. Four copies of the nominated title must be submitted with the nomination form, whether or not the title has been entered in any other category. Unpublished scripts must be submitted in a bound form, not loose-leafed.

The judges may elect to give the award to any eligible work which has been entered in the other awards categories.

Book of the Year

The judges of the book awards may choose from among the winners of the awards a 'New South Wales Book of the Year', and the Government may at its discretion make an additional payment of \$10,000 prize money to the writer of the work so designated.

Special Award

The judges of the book awards may propose to the Government that a special award, with or without prize money, be made for a work not readily covered by the existing categories, or in recognition of a writer's achievements generally. Recipients of this award include A. D. Hope, Judith Wright, Nick Enright, Ruth Park, Ruby Langford Ginibi, Rosemary Dobson, Thomas Keneally and Katharine Brisbane. The special award will be made at the Government's discretion, but no award will be made except on the committee's recommendation. The prize money for the Special Award is usually \$20,000.

The People's Choice Award

The annual People's Choice Award was introduced in 2009 to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the New South Wales Premier's Literary Awards. The Award is not open to entry. The 2010 winner will be chosen by the people of New South Wales from amongst the 2010 shortlists. Voting details will be posted on the NSW Premier's Literary Awards website (www.pla.nsw.gov.au) and the Arts NSW website (www.arts.nsw.gov.au) in March 2010.

The 2011 New South Wales Premier's Translation Prize

The biennial New South Wales Premier's Translation Prize with accompanying PEN Medallion will be offered again in 2011. The prize was proposed by the International PEN Sydney Centre and is funded alternately by Arts NSW and the Community Relations Commission For a multicultural NSW.

The prize recognises the vital role literary translators play in enabling writers and readers to communicate across cultures and in ensuring that dissident voices are heard around the world. It is offered only to Australian translators who translate works into English from other languages.

Specific guidelines and application forms for the 2011 Prize will be available on the Arts NSW website by October 2010.

Enquiries and Nomination Forms

Nomination forms can be downloaded from:
www.arts.nsw.gov.au

Enquiries should be made to:

Arts NSW
PO Box A226
SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235
(Level 9, St James Centre, 111 Elizabeth Street, Sydney)

Telephone: (02) 9228 5533

Freecall: 1800 358 594 (within NSW)

Email: artsfunding@arts.nsw.gov.au

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