

1999 Victorian Premier's Literary Awards shortlist

The Vance Palmer Prize for Fiction

Eucalyptus by Murray Bail
The Sooterkin by Tom Gilling
Mr Darwin's Shooter by Roger McDonald

The Nettie Palmer Prize for Non-Fiction

Mosaic: A Chronicle of Five Generations
 by Diane Armstrong
Sacred Places: War Memorials in the Australian Landscape by K S Inglis
M by Peter Robb

The Cross Pen Prize for Young Adult Fiction

Singing the Dogstar Blues by Alison Goodman
Deadly Unna? by Phillip Gwynne
Piggy in the Middle by Catherine Jinks

The Louis Esson Prize for Drama

Fred by Beatrix Christian
Cold Harvest by Noëlle Janaczewska
Clark in Sarajevo by Catherine Zimdahl

The C J Dennis Prize for Poetry

The World Beyond the Fig by MTC Cronin
Pure and Applied by Gig Ryan
New and Selected Poems by Philip Salom

The 1999 Victorian Premier's Literary Awards received 290 entries for the five awards, with record numbers of entries for the poetry and drama prizes. This is the fifteenth anniversary of the Awards.

Judges are drawn annually from the Victorian literary community and include authors, playwrights, publishers, booksellers and academics. A shortlist of three works is selected for each award.

Des Cowley, convenor of the judging panel for The Vance Palmer Prize for Fiction said, 'there is an intriguing coincidence of theme in this year's shortlisted books: *Mr Darwin's Shooter* and *The Sooterkin* are about new frontiers and early scientific marvels, while *Eucalyptus* locates the scientific study of species in the modern Australian environment'.

Jack Clancy, convenor of the panel judging The Nettie Palmer Prize for Non-fiction said, 'The judges noted a large number of works in the 'migrant memoirs' and 'aboriginal experience' genres — and of the former, the Holocaust loomed large.'

Margot Hillel, convenor of the judging panel for The Cross Pen Prize for Young Adult Fiction said, 'Each of the novels shortlisted explores strong ethical concerns and the notion of being different, but they are not overtly didactic'.

Richard Mudford, scriptwriter, filmmaker and convenor of the judging panel for The Louis Esson Prize for Drama said, '...the panel was drawn towards those plays that pushed at theatrical boundaries.'

A record number of 58 entries were received for this year's C J Dennis Prize for Poetry. Entries ranged from minimalist lyrics and verse novels to a performance-based CD-ROM.

Winners will be announced at the Awards Presentation Dinner on Friday 15 October at the Grand Hyatt Melbourne. The Dinner will feature the celebrated Australian actor Ruth Cracknell as special guest speaker and Andrea Stretton of ABC TV's 'The Arts Show' as host. For more information about the awards contact Anita Stephens on 03 9669 9716. ■

ALIA Distance Education Special Interest Group Biennial Conference

Flexible learning: the new paradigm

Conference themes:

- ❖ Alliances between academics, IT and library staff in the delivery of flexible learning.
- ❖ The role of technology within flexible learning.
- ❖ Funding, resource and service issues for libraries involved in supporting distance education.
- ❖ New library initiatives for distance education students.

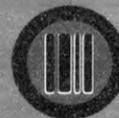
Conference venue:

**Monash University
 Gippsland campus
 Churchill, Victoria
 13 - 14 February, 2000**

15 February - optional bus tour, incorporating a visit to Monash's 'virtual campus' at Berwick. Tour finishes in Melbourne.
 VALA 2000 Conference - 16 to 18 February

More information will appear on:

<http://www.alia.org.au/signs/disted/>
 or email: M.T.VanDyk@lib.monash.edu.au

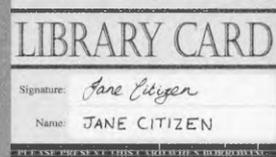


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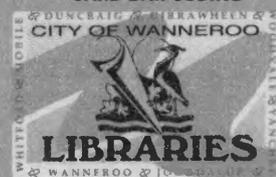
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