

## MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Monday, 17 May 2021

### Entries open for major literary awards Melbourne Prize for Literature 2021 & Awards

- Over \$98,000 prize pool available
- Open to Victorian resident published authors only
- Two new categories announced

From today, Victoria's writers have the opportunity to enter the renowned Melbourne Prize for Literature and Awards - one of Australia's most prestigious and valuable literary prizes.

Promoting Melbourne as a lively [UNESCO City of Literature](#), a prize and awards pool valued at over \$98,000 will offer significant opportunities to published Victorian authors, across all career stages and literary genres, through the Melbourne Prize for Literature 2021 and Awards.

This year marks the 17th year of the annual Melbourne Prize, which runs in a three-year cycle providing significant opportunities to Victorian musicians, writers and sculptors. Through community investment partnerships, the Prize program recognises and rewards excellence and talent and inspires creative development to enrich public life.

The **\$60,000 Melbourne Prize for Literature 2021** will be awarded to a Victorian author whose body of published work has made an outstanding contribution to Australian literature, as well as to cultural and intellectual life. The author's work may include all literary genres for example, fiction, non-fiction, essays, plays, screenplays and poetry. **The Prize is supported by Major Partner, The Vera Moore Foundation.**

The **NEW \$20,000 Professional Development Award 2021** will be awarded to a Victorian published author to fund a project/s, travel or other proposal that will assist them to pursue their writing career. **The Award is supported by the Melbourne Prize Trust.**

The **NEW \$15,000 Writer Prize 2021** will be awarded to a Victorian writer and author of an essay of 10,000 words maximum, which has outstanding originality, literary merit and creative freshness. **The Award is supported by its sole patron The Robert Salzer Foundation.**

The **\$3,000 Civic Choice Award 2021**, supported by [Readings](#) and [Hardie Grant Books](#), will be awarded to one of the finalists in the Melbourne Prize for Literature and The Writers Prize with the highest number of public votes. Voting will commence on 15<sup>th</sup> September at [www.melbourneprize.com](http://www.melbourneprize.com)

Entries can be completed online at <http://www.melbourneprize.org> by the individual author or by nomination. Entries close on **19 July 2021 at 5pm sharp.**

Finalists in the Melbourne Prize for Literature 2021 and Professional Development Award 2021 will be given a fee of \$1,000 each, **supported by Fed Square.**

Judges this year include three leading literary identities: **Declan Fry**, Writer, **Alice Pung**, Writer and **Michael Williams**, Artistic Director, Sydney Writers Festival.

"The Melbourne Prize for Literature is not only important and remarkable in its originality, it is also much needed. Few prizes combine rewarding excellence in literature with a constant desire to create space and opportunities for the new voices, while all the time being linked to its City, Melbourne City of Literature", said Sandeep Mahal, Chair Cities of Literature Network, Director of Nottingham City of Literature.



Melbourne Prize Trust Executive Director, Mr Simon Warrender, said “with the generous support of our 2021 partners, we are delighted to be offering this year’s program, which provides opportunities to Victorian writers and importantly develops the literary sector.”

“I greatly appreciate the dedication of our judges and the support of the literary community. A thriving literature sector is integral to a vibrant, healthy and creative community.”

“Melbourne is one of the world’s most celebrated literary cities and the Prize supports Melbourne’s status as a UNESCO International City of Literature by demonstrating the importance of literature in our community and the central role writers play in our cultural life,” Mr Warrender added.

<b>Entries open</b>	17 May 2021
<b>Entries close</b>	19 July 2021 at 5pm
<b>Announcement of finalists</b>	15 September 2021
<b>Announcement of recipients</b>	10 November 2021
<b>Announcement of Civic Choice Award 2020</b>	11 November 2021

The Melbourne Prize for Literature 2021 and Awards are made possible through the generous support of the many partners and patrons. Many of the partners and patrons have supported the Prize since inception. Please see a full list below.

The visual identity and design for this year’s Prize is the creation of leading Melbourne design studio [PLAYGROUND](#).

The Melbourne Prize Trust is proud to have Kutcha Edwards as its Cultural Advisor.

[Federation Square](#) is the Events partner and ‘home’ of the Melbourne Prize. The Melbourne Prize Trust appreciates Federation Square’s generous support from inception of the annual Melbourne Prize.

The Melbourne Prize Trust is proud to have the **Victorian Government**, through [Creative Victoria](#) and the [City of Melbourne Awards - Arts Excellence Program](#), as Government Partners.

**The Vera Moore Foundation** is acknowledged and thanked for their outstanding support as a major patron and sole patron of the Melbourne Prize for Literature 2021. Thank you to the [Sofitel Melbourne On Collins](#) as our Corporate Partner.

– Ends –

For more information or for interview opportunities call **Adi Stevens** at [RoyceComm](#) on 0407 411 088, or visit [www.melbourneprize.org](http://www.melbourneprize.org).

Progress of the Prize can be followed via our social media platforms:

- <https://www.facebook.com/MelbournePrize>
- [https://twitter.com/Melbourne\\_Prize](https://twitter.com/Melbourne_Prize)

### Notes to the editor:

Launched in 2004, the [Melbourne Prize Trust](#) was established to recognise and reward talent, excellence and inspire creative development. The Trust achieves this aim by running the annual Melbourne Prize, which is funded by a collaboration of partners and patrons. The Melbourne Prize Trust and annual Melbourne Prize was founded by Executive Director, Simon Warrender. Committee for Melbourne is a founding supporter.

Now in its 16th year and being one of the most valuable arts prize of its kind in Australia, the annual Melbourne Prize operates in a three-year cycle, including the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture (2020), the Melbourne Prize for Literature (2021) and the Melbourne Prize for Music (2022).

Since inception, the annual Melbourne Prize has made available more than \$1.8 million in prizes and award, artist residencies, equipment grants and an annual public exhibition at Federation Square to Victorian writers, sculptors and musicians.

The origins of the Melbourne Prize Trust date back to *The Magic Pudding* sculpture commission, as part of a children's garden concept, at the Royal Botanic Garden Melbourne. Miniatures of this sculpture are available for purchase through the Melbourne Prize Trust; a Deductible Gift Recipient and Income Tax Exempt Charity.

All announcement and information will be available at [www.melbourneprize.org](http://www.melbourneprize.org)

### Past recipients of the Melbourne Prize for Literature

2018 – Alison Lester  
2015 - Prof. Chris Wallace-Crabbe AM  
2012 - Alex Miller  
2009 - Gerald Murnane  
2006 - Helen Garner

### Past recipients of the Best Writing Award

2018 – Maria Turmakin, *Axiomatic* (Penguin, 2021)  
2015 - Andrea Goldsmith, *Memory Trap* (4th Estate, 2013)  
2012 - Craig Sherborne, *The Amateur Science of Love* (Text, 2011)  
2009 - Nam Le, *The Boat* (Penguin, 2008)  
2006 - Christos Tsiolkas, *Dead Europe* (Random House, 2006)

### Past recipients Readings Residency Award

2018 - Jamie Marie Lau

### Past recipients of the Civic Choice Award

2018 – Louise Milligan, *Cardinal* (MUP, 2017)  
2015 - Robyn Anear, *Place Without Poetry* (Essay, 2015)  
2012 - Tony Birch, *Blood* (UQP, 2011)  
2009 - Amra Pajalic, *The Good Daughter* (Text, 2009)  
2006 - Henry von Doussa, *The Park Bench* (Thompson Walker, 2006)



Thank you to our 2021 partners and patrons

Government Partners	Major Patron	Melbourne Prize for Literature 2021 Partner	The Writers Prize 2021 Sole Patron	Civic Choice 2021 Partners
Founding Partners	Patrons	Event Partner and Finalist Fees	Corporate Partner	Professional Development Award 2021 Partner
  	Diana Gibson AO 	 Creative Partner 	 Media Communications 	 Print Partners  
Professional Services	Signage & AV	IT Services and Website	Banners	Trophies

Design by PLAYGROUND  
 Committee for Melbourne a founding supporter