

For Immediate Release

Monday, 29 April 2024

Entries open in city's major literary award

- Entries open today for the \$60,000 Melbourne Prize for Literature 2024 & Awards
- Four prizes including a new category are on offer
- Celebrating 20 years of the annual Melbourne Prize
- Open to entries from Victorian residents

Today, entries open for the \$60,000 Melbourne Prize for Literature 2024 & Awards; one of Australia's most valuable and prestigious literary prizes.

Now in its 20th year, the annual Melbourne Prize continues to provide opportunities to Victorian writers, musicians and sculptors and demonstrates the importance of recognising and rewarding creative talent in the State.

Melbourne is a [UNESCO City of Literature](#) and this year's Melbourne Prize for Literature & Awards seeks to shine a light on the abundant literary talent we have in the State and the contribution this makes to Australian intellectual and cultural life. The categories this year recognise a body of work, enable entrants to create new work, provide writers residencies and allow the public to vote for their favourite finalist.

Melbourne Prize Trust Executive Director and Founder, Mr Simon Warrender said, "celebrating our 20th year, we are delighted to offer Victorian published authors opportunities to develop their careers. We are fortunate to have a strong and vibrant literary sector in Melbourne and Victoria."

"The annual Melbourne Prize would not be possible without the largesse of our many partners and patrons, many of whom have been with the Prize since we started in 2005," said Mr Warrender. The annual Melbourne Prize ongoing cycle includes this year's Melbourne Prize for Literature, which will be followed by the Melbourne Prize for Music (2025) and the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture (2026).

Supported by major patron, **The Vera Moore Foundation**, the **\$60,000 Melbourne Prize for Literature 2024 & Awards** will be awarded to a Victorian author whose body of published work has made an outstanding contribution to Australian literature and to cultural and intellectual life.

[The Robert Salzer Foundation](#) supports **The Writers Prize 2024** valued at \$10,000, which will be awarded to the winning author for a new essay of outstanding originality, literary merit and creative freshness. The winning essay will be published in [Meanjin](#).

The inaugural **Falls Creek Writers Residencies 2024** is supported by [Falls Creek Alpine Resort](#) and [Readings](#). Two 3-week residencies are on offer.

[Hardie Grant Books](#) generously supports the \$1,500 **Civic Choice Award 2024** awarded to a finalist with the highest number of public votes – voting open on September 4 when finalists are announced.

An exhibition of finalists and their careers will be available at Event Partner [Fed Square](#) from October 30 to November 14. During the exhibition, the public will be able to cast a vote for a finalist to win the Civic Choice Award 2024. All finalists will receive \$1,000 each, supported by [Fed Square](#).

The 2024 judges include three esteemed literary sector professionals: [Evelyn Araluen](#), [Christos Tsiolkas](#) and [Michael Williams](#).

The **Entry Form** and **Guidelines** are available at www.melbourneprize.org. Entries can be made by the individual author or by nomination.

Key dates:

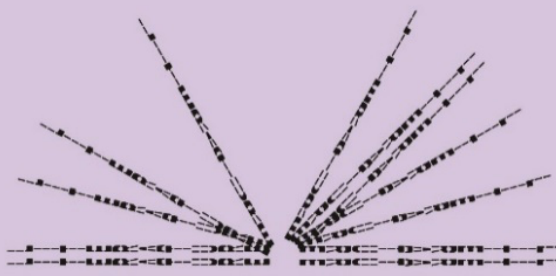
Entries open April 29 / Entries close July 1 at 5pm sharp

Finalists announced September 4 at www.melbourneprize.org / Civic Choice Award 2024 public voting opens

Winners announced November 14 at www.melbourneprize.org

All announcements and further information will be available at www.melbourneprize.org

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which the Melbourne Prize Trust operates, the People of the Kulin Nation, and pay our respects to the elders, past, present and future.



Notes to the editor:

The [Melbourne Prize Trust](#) was established in 2004 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 private and public sector partnerships and patrons. The Melbourne Prize Trust and annual Melbourne Prize were founded by Executive Director, Simon Warrender. [Committee for Melbourne](#) is a founding partner.

In its 20th year and being one of the most valuable arts prizes of its kind in Australia, the annual Melbourne Prize operates in a three-year cycle, including the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture (2023), the Melbourne Prize for Literature (2024) and the Melbourne Prize for Music (2025).

Since inception, the annual Melbourne Prize has made available more than \$2.5 million in prizes, residencies, equipment grants and an annual public exhibition at Fed Square to Victorian writers, sculptors and musicians.

The origins of the Melbourne Prize Trust date back to *The Magic Pudding* sculpture commission and children's garden concept at the [Royal Botanic Garden Melbourne](#) – an initiative of Simon Warrender OAM implemented in 1998 through Committee for Melbourne's Future Focus Group.

Thank you to our Partners and Patrons:

The Vera Moore Foundation is acknowledged and thanked for their most generous and ongoing support as Major Patron and sole patron of the Melbourne Prize for Literature 2024 & Awards.

Thank you to our Founding Partners [Playground Studio](#), [Committee for Melbourne](#), [MinterEllison](#) and [EY](#).

We acknowledge and thank [The Robert Salzer Foundation](#) as the sole patron of The Writer's Prize, along with [Meanjin](#) and [Falls Creek Alpine Resort](#) for supporting the new Falls Creek Writers Residency, along with [Readings](#). Thank you to [Hardie Grant Books](#) for supporting the Civic Choice Award 2024

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.

[Fed Square](#) is the Event and Finalist Fee Partner and 'home' of the annual Melbourne Prize. Their generous support from inception is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to this year's patrons **Diana Gibson AO**, [The Yulgilbar Foundation](#) and [The Scanlon Foundation](#).

The visual identity and design for this year's Prize is the creation of leading Melbourne design studio and Founding Partner, [Playground](#). Thank you to CEO Sally Dobell, Creative Director Adit Wardhana, studio manager Kim Hankin and all at the studio.

Thank you to Corporate Partners [Sofitel Melbourne On Collins](#), *the Hotel for the Arts* and [Grant Thornton](#) and **Jamison Alliott** for professional services.

Thank you to [Committee for Melbourne](#) for providing the office for the [Melbourne Prize Trust, 360Q](#) as our catering partner and [Evan Evans](#) for providing the exhibition banners and signage. The Melbourne Prize Trust is proud to have [Kutcha Edwards](#) as its Cultural Advisor.

Thank you to [The Mighty Wonton](#) for our IT support and website development and [Royce](#) for media services.

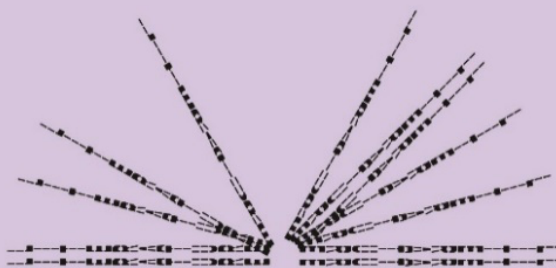
Thank you to our Print Partners [Ellikon](#), [Spicers](#) and [Rothfield](#) and [Nyora Studio Gallery](#) for the trophy.

Past recipients of the Melbourne Prize for Literature

2021 – Christos Tsiolkas
2018 - Alison Lester
2015 - Prof. Chris Wallace-Crabbe AM
2012 - Alex Miller
2009 - Gerald Murnane
2006 - Helen Garner

Past recipients of the Professional Development Award

2021 – Evelyn Araluen



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 of The Writers Prize

2021 – Eloise Victoria Grills

Past recipients Readings Residency Award

2018 - Jamie Marie Lau

Past recipients of the Civic Choice Award















2021 – Maxine Beneba Clark
2018 - Louise Milligan, *Cardinal* (MUP, 2017)
2015 - Robyn Annear, *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)

Past recipient The Writer's Prize 2015

2015 - Kate Ryan, *Psychotherapy for Normal People* (2015)

Thank you to our 2024 Partners and Patrons.

Design by **PLAYGROUND**

Major Patron	Government Partners	Event and Finalist Fee Partner	Melbourne Prize for Literature 2024 Partner	The Writers Prize 2024 Sole Patron
	 			 Meanjin
Patrons	Founding Partners	Falls Creek Writers Residency 2024 Partner	Civic Choice Awards 2024 Partner	Hotel Partner
Diana Gibson AO  	PLAYGROUND  MinterEllison 	 Readings [®] <small>AUSTRALIA'S OWN SINCE 1964</small>	 Exhibition Signage & Banners 	SOFITEL <small>MELBOURNE ON COLLINS</small> Creative Partner 2024 Identity PLAYGROUND Website Partner The Mighty Wonton
Professional Services	Media Communications	Catering Partner	Trophies	Print Partners
 Jamison Alliott <small>CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS BUSINESS ADVISORS</small>	ROYCECOMM. 