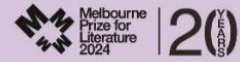
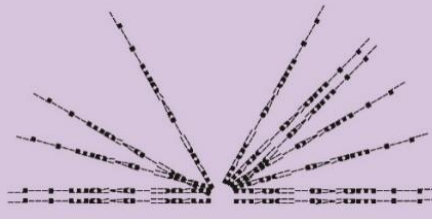


# Media Release



For Immediate Release

Wednesday, 4 September 2024

## Finalists announced in Melbourne's literature prize

- Four finalists announced in \$60,000 Melbourne Prize for Literature 2024
- Five finalist essays announced in \$10,000 Writers Prize 2024
- Public voting opens for Civic Choice Award 2024
- Celebrating 20 years of the annual Melbourne Prize this year
- Judges include three esteemed literary sector professionals: [Evelyn Araluen](#), [Christos Tsiolkas](#) and [Michael Williams](#).

Today, four finalists have been announced in the city's most sought after literature prize - the \$60,000 Melbourne Prize for Literature 2024. The Prize is one of Australia's most valuable and prestigious literary awards.

Supported by major patron, **The Vera Moore Foundation**, the **\$60,000 Melbourne Prize for Literature 2024** 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 finalists are:**

**Patricia Cornelius    Garry Disher    Pi O    Alexis Wright**

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

**Judith Bishop    Marika Sosnowski    Jeff Sparrow    Carrie Tiffany    Beau Windon**

**Judge's Statement:** *For twenty years now the annual Melbourne Prize has captured the scope and ambition of writerly achievement in this City of Literature. For the judges, assessing The Writers Prize and the Melbourne Prize for Literature side by side gives an opportunity to consider vital and urgent new writing in essay form, and then also the question of a lasting contribution and bodies of work by our literary greats. The field was very strong, and beyond the excellent shortlists, the range of entries were a pleasure to read and a reminder of the breadth and strength of writers working in this country today. Our thanks and respect to all entrants. We were all very much impressed by the standard of essays submitted for The Writers Prize this year. There was real commitment to intellectual rigour and curiosity in the best essays, as well as a fearlessness and a desire to be creatively daring. It was wonderful to read such an invigorating collection. Equally, the impressive range of applications for the Melbourne Prize for Literature speaks to both the outstanding writers we have in this country and the integrity and reputation of the annual Melbourne Prize itself. For the three of us, it was an honour and a (sometimes daunting) pleasure to be part of this judging panel.*

The inaugural **Falls Creek Writers Residencies 2024**, supported by [Falls Creek Alpine Resort](#), includes two 3-week residencies at the resort and \$1,000 for each recipient, supported by [Readings](#), to be announced at [www.melbourneprize.org](http://www.melbourneprize.org) on November 14.

[Hardie Grant Books](#) generously support the \$1,500 **Civic Choice Award 2024**, awarded to a finalist with the highest number of public votes. **Voting opens today at [www.melbourneprize.org](http://www.melbourneprize.org). Voters have a chance to win a \$100 Readings gift voucher.**

Now in its 20<sup>th</sup> 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's status as a [UNESCO City of Literature](#) is supported by abundant talent and a vibrant literary sector. This year's award categories recognise an outstanding body of work, creative new work, provide writers residencies and enable the public to vote for their favourite finalist.

Newly appointed Trust Chairman, Clive Scott AM said, "I am delighted with the strong response to this year's literature prize, which marks 20 years of the annual Melbourne Prize".

Melbourne Prize Trust Founder and Executive Director Simon Warrender said, "The calibre of finalists reflects the excellent response to the Prize from the Victorian literary sector and the huge talent we have in the state. We remain immensely grateful for the generous community investment we continue to receive from our partners and patrons, many of whom have been with us since we started".

An exhibition of finalists will be on show at Event Partner [Fed Square](#) from November 3<sup>rd</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, where visitors will be able to learn about the finalists and cast a vote for a finalist to win the **Civic Choice Award 2024** – a digital catalogue will be available for the exhibition. All non-winning finalists receive \$1,000, supported by **Fed Square**.

**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.**

Finalists announced September 4 at [www.melbourneprize.org](http://www.melbourneprize.org) / Civic Choice Award 2024 public voting opens  
Winners in all award categories announced November 14 at [www.melbourneprize.org](http://www.melbourneprize.org)  
**All announcements and further information will be available at [www.melbourneprize.org](http://www.melbourneprize.org)**

## 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 Literature & Awards (2024), the Melbourne Prize for Music & Awards (2025) and Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture & Awards (2026).

Since inception, the annual Melbourne Prize has made available more than \$2 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 CBD-based children's garden concept at the [Royal Botanic Garden Melbourne](#) – an initiative of Simon Warrender 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 support as Major Patron and partner of the Melbourne Prize for Literature 2024 & Awards.

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

The visual identity and design for this year's Prize is the creation of leading Melbourne design studio and Founding & Creative Identity Partner, [Playground](#). Thank you to CEO Sally Dobell, office manager Kim Hankin and the studio, one and all, for the generous partnership and for providing the head office of the Trust.

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

Thank you to this year's patrons **Diana Gibson AO**, [The Yulgilbar Foundation](#), **Bill Kirk & Janine Kirk AO**, **Lindy M Shelmerdine and David K H Moffatt** and [The Scanlon Foundation](#).

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

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 Finalist Fee and Foundation Events Partner and 'home' of the annual Melbourne Prize. Their generous support from inception is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to [360Q](#) as our catering partner and [Evan Evans](#) for providing the exhibition banners and signage.

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 hand-crafting the presentation trophy this year.

The Melbourne Prize Trust is proud to have [Kutcha Edwards](#) as its Cultural Advisor.

## 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](#)

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Melbourne Prize for Literature 2024 Partner



The Writers Prize 2024 Sole Patron



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