



MEDIA RELEASE: 4 February 2008

### ***2008 Festival Awards for Literature – Short List Announced***

The short list of nominees for the **Adelaide 2008 Festival Awards for Literature** has been announced.

The biennial Awards, with **total prize money of \$130,000**, are the most competitive awards in Australia attracting 667 entries to its nine categories, which judge the best work by Australian writers published in the previous two years.

10 awards are made including the following six national awards, open to all Australians: **Children's Literature** (\$15,000), **Fiction** (\$15,000), **Innovation** (\$10,000), **Non-Fiction** (\$15,000), the **John Bray Poetry Award** (\$15,000) and the **Premiers Award** (\$10,000).

Writers from across Australia are represented on the short list, debut works such as *Monster Blood Tattoo Book 1: Foundling* by D M Cornish and *The Worry Tree* by Marianne Musgrove as well as the latest works by some of Australia's most highly regarded authors such as *Diary of a Bad Year* by J. M. Coetzee and *Home* by Narelle Oliver.

Two of the awards are specifically for South Australian writers: the **Award for an Unpublished Manuscript by a South Australian Writer to be Published by Wakefield Press** (\$10,000) and the **Jill Blewett Playwright's Award** (\$10,000). Two important writing fellowships for leading South Australian writers, the **Carclew Fellowship** (\$15,000) and the **Barbara Hanrahan Fellowship** (\$15,000) will also be announced at the ceremony.

The awards are judged by 25 leading representatives of the South Australian literary community including academics writers, publishers, booksellers and reviewers.

The 2008 Festival Awards for Literature will be announced at Adelaide Writers' Week in the East Tent on Sunday 2 March 2006 at 4.30pm.

#### **THE 2008 FESTIVAL AWARD FOR LITERATURE SHORTLIST**

##### **\$15,000 Award for Children's Literature (212 entries)**

*Home* by Narelle Oliver (Omnibus Books)

*Monster Blood Tattoo Book 1: Foundling* by D M Cornish (Omnibus Books)

*Don't Call Me Ishmael* by Michael Gerard Bauer (Omnibus Books)

*Macbeth and Son* by Jackie French (Angus & Robertson)

*Danny Allen Was Here* by Phil Cummings (Pan Macmillan)

*The Worry Tree* by Marianne Musgrove (Random House)

**\$15,000 Award for Fiction (147 entries)**

*Sorry* by Gail Jones (Vintage)  
*Diary of a Bad Year* by J. M. Coetzee (Text Publishing Melbourne)  
*El Dorado* by Dorothy Porter (Picador)  
*Carpentaria* by Alexis Wright (Giramondo)  
*The Ballad of Desmond Kale* by Roger McDonald (Vintage)  
*Orpheus Lost* by Janette Turner Hospital (Fourth Estate)

**\$10,000 Award for Innovation (38 entries)**

*Diary of a Bad Year* by J. M. Coetzee (Text Publishing Melbourne)  
*Montale, a Biographical Anthology* by John Watson (Puncher and Wattmann)  
*Cube Root of Book* by Paul Magee (John Leonard Press)  
*Someone Else: Fictional Essays* by John Hughes (Giramondo)

**\$15,000 Award for Non-Fiction (125 entries)**

*The Lamb Enters the Dreaming* by Robert Kenny (Scribe)  
*Sunrise West* by Jacob G Rosenberg (Brandl & Schlesinger)  
*Packer's Lunch* by Neil Chenoweth (Allen & Unwin)  
*The Content Makers* by Margaret Simons (Penguin Books)  
*The Vietnam Years: From the Jungle to the Australian Suburbs* by Michael Caulfield (Hachette)  
*Not Part of the Public: Non-Indigenous Policies and Practices and the Health of Indigenous South Australians, 1836 – 1973* by Judith Raftery (Wakefield Press)

**\$15,000 John Bray Poetry Award (90 entries)**

*At the Flash and at the Baci* by Ken Bolton (Wakefield Press)  
*Esperance: new and selected poems* by Caroline Caddy (Fremantle Press)  
*Urban Myths: 210 poems (news and selected)* by John Tranter (University of Queensland Press)  
*A Bud* by Claire Gaskin (John Leonard Press)  
*Not Finding Wittgenstein* by J. S. Harry (Giramondo)  
*Seriatim* by Geoff Page (Salt)

**\$10,000 Jill Blewett Playwright's Award for the Creative Development of a play script by a South Australian Writer (12 entries)**

*Umbrellas* by Sheila Duncan  
*Merger – art, life and the other thing* by Duncan Graham  
*Wives and Boats* by Thomas Brittain

**\$10,000 Award for an Unpublished Manuscript by a SA Emerging Writer to be Published by Wakefield Press (32 entries)**

*The Second Fouling Mark* by Stephen Orr  
*As the Sun Shines* by Lesley Beasley  
*The Minaret Path* by Julia Archer

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