

2014

NSW PREMIER'S
HISTORY AWARDS

Media Release



Shortlists announced for 2014 NSW Premier's History Awards

11/8/2014

The Premier of NSW, the Honourable Mike Baird MP today [Monday 11 August] announced the shortlist for the 2014 NSW Premier's History Awards.

Eight judges considered almost 150 entries across the five prize categories.

The Premier commented: "This year's World War One commemorations are a time to reflect upon our nation's involvement in the war and a reminder of the importance of the work of historians in marking and understanding our nation's past."

2014 NSW Premier's History Awards shortlist:

Australian History Prize

Broken Nation: Australians in the Great War, Joan Beaumont (Allen & Unwin)

The Aboriginal Story of Burke and Wills: Forgotten Narratives, edited by Ian Clark and Fred Cahir (CSIRO Publishing)

The Forgotten Rebels of Eureka, Clare Wright (Text Publishing)

General History Prize

Encountering the Pacific in the Age of Enlightenment, John Gascoigne (Cambridge University Press)

Antipodean America: Australasia and the Constitution of U.S. Literature, Paul Giles (Oxford University Press)

Lamaze: An International History, Paula Michaels (Oxford University Press)

NSW Community and Regional History Prize

The Wallpapered Manse: The Rescue of an Endangered House, Peter Freeman (The Watermark Press)

Coast: A History of the New South Wales Edge, Ian Hoskins (NewSouth)

Sydney Mechanic School of Arts: A History, Garry Wotherspoon (Sydney Mechanic School of Arts)

Young People's History Prize:

The Road to Gundagai, Jackie French (HarperCollins Publishers)

Yoko's Diary, Edited by Paul Ham, translated by Debbie Edwards (HarperCollins Publishers)

Australians All, Nadia Wheatley, illustrated by Ken Searle (Allen & Unwin)

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Multimedia History Prize:

Public Intimacies: The 1974 Royal Commission on Human Relationships, Michelle Arrow, Catherine Freyne and Timothy Nicastrì (ABC Radio National/Hindsight)

Persons of Interest – Gary Foley (Ep 3), Haydn Keenan (Smart Street Films)

The Reef (www.the-reef.com.au), Ian McCalman (Penguin Group Australia/Spring in Alaska)

Senior judge and President of the NSW History Council, Professor Richard Waterhouse, said: “The quality of the books submitted was extremely high and the judges faced a formidable task in determining the shortlist. The shortlisted books will all, in their own different ways, make significant and long lasting contributions to our understandings about the past. These books provide clear evidence that Australian historians are producing history that matches the very best international standards.”

“The State Library of NSW is home to some of our nation’s most important historical documents and artefacts, and we are committed to increasing access to our collection on site, on line and on tour. I’m delighted that this year the Library will host the award announcement, which will also launch NSW History Week,” said Alex Byrne, NSW State Librarian & Chief Executive.

Background notes

- Works nominated for the 2014 NSW Premier’s History Awards must have been first published, produced or made publicly available between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014.
- Writers, creators and illustrators whose works are nominated must be living Australian citizens or person holding permanent resident status.
- This year, the Australian Military History Prize has been introduced to commemorate the centenary of World War One. The winner will be chosen from a major published work submitted for the Australian History Prize. No additional entry fee is required for this award.
- This special prize acknowledges the work of historians in marking, interpreting and understanding our nation’s involvement in the First World War.
- The awards are judged by an independent committee of academics, historians and other sector professionals who have been appointed by the Premier or the Minister for the Arts or their delegates.
- The NSW Premier’s History Awards were first presented in 1997 to honour distinguished achievement in history.

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Announcement of winners

The winners of the 2014 Awards will be announced as part of the launch of NSW History Week at a presentation and cocktail reception held at the State Library of NSW on Friday 5 September 2014.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the event. Tickets: \$45/40 each. Bookings are essential: (02) 9273 1770, bookings@sl.nsw.gov.au

More information

The NSW Premier's History Awards are presented by the NSW Government and administered by the State Library of NSW in association with Arts NSW, with support from the History Council of NSW. For more information please contact: Kate Butler, Senior Project Officer, Awards, State Library of NSW (02) 9273 1414 or Kate.Butler@sl.nsw.gov.au

MEDIA CONTACT:

Vanessa Bond, Media & Communications Manager, State Library of NSW
(02) 9273 1566, 0411 259 898, vanessa.bond@sl.nsw.gov.au