

This is a summary of Cultural Fund projects appearing in the media since June 2025.

Cultural Fund Media Releases

- '[Supporting Australia's creative future: \\$650,000 in grants for writers, artists and organisations](#)' 8 August
- '[Dorothy Hewett Award announces 2025 winner](#)' 31 July
- '[LitUp communities set to revitalise reading](#)' 28 July
- '[Siang Lu's 'Ghost Cities' wins the 2025 Miles Franklin Literary Award!](#)' 25 July
- '[New three-year gallery line-up revealed for major visual arts commission](#)' 16 July
- '[Bold New Voices Take the Spotlight at Miles Franklin Shortlist Talk](#)' 8 July
- '[Libby Baker Awarded 2025 Reading Australia Fellowship for Research on Character Diversity in Picture Book](#)' 7 July
- '[2025 Miles Franklin Literary Award shortlist revealed](#)' 25 June
- '[Celebrating literary excellence: SMH Best Young Australian Novelists and The Age Book of the Year Awards](#)' 12 June

Cultural Fund Projects

- 'Writers, lit organisations receive Cultural Fund grants' [Books+Publishing](#), 11 August

Copyright Agency Partnerships

- UNSW Galleries 'New Initiatives' [newsletter](#), 5 August
- 'Copyright Agency Partnerships' [Artshub](#), 18 July
- '\$80,000 grant helps put ECU on national arts map' [Edith Cowan University \(ECU\) newsroom](#), 17 July

Reading Australia Fellowship

- 'ACT teacher librarian named 2025 Reading Australia Fellow' by Rhiannon Bowman, [Education Matters](#), 29 July
- 'Libby lands a Reading Australia Fellowship prize' by Helen Musa, [CBR City News](#), 9 July
- 'Baker named 2025 Reading Australia Fellow' [Books+Publishing](#), 8 July
- 'Opportunities and awards: Writing and publishing' by Celina Lei, [ArtsHub](#), 8 July

2022 Author Fellow Mirandi Riwoe

- 'UQP acquires new Riwoe novel' [Books+Publishing](#), 14 July

Miles Franklin Literary Award winner announcement

- '2025 Miles Franklin Literary Award assessed' [ABC The Bookshelf](#), 31 July. Kate Evans and Cassie McCullagh are joined by guests, scholar and literary biographer (and former judge of the MFLA) Bernadette Brennan; and critic and publisher, Geordie Williamson.
- 'Siang Lu, Lauren Foley, Alan Fyfe: when book rejection leads to publishing success' by Thuy On, [ArtsHub](#), 30 July
- [ABC Breakfast TV](#), 25 July
- 'Siang Lu's 'Ghost Cities' wins the 2025 Miles Franklin Literary Award' [UQP website](#), 25 July
- 'Lu awarded 2025 Miles Franklin Literary Award' [Books+Publishing](#), 25 July
- 'Migrant experience adds weight to Miles Franklin-winning Ghost Cities' by Caroline Overington, [The Australian](#), 25 July
- 'More than ghost of a chance for top gong' by Kyle Rode, [The Courier-Mail](#) 25 July
- 'Rejected 200+ times, Ghost Cities wins major book prize' by Liz Hobday, [CBR City News](#), 25 July (syndicated)
- 'A complete list of Miles Franklin Award winners: Including the 2025 winner, and all the way back to the very first award in 1957' by Georgia Moore, [Australian Women's Weekly](#), 25 July
- 'Siang Lu just won Australia's most prestigious literary prize — more than 200 rejections later' [SBS News](#), 24 July

- 'Brisbane author Siang Lu wins 2025 Miles Franklin literary award' by Joanne Williamson, [Courier Mail](#), [Herald Sun](#), [news.com.au](#), 24 July
- 'Haunting tale of ghost cities wins 2025 Miles Franklin award for Siang Lu' by Caroline Overington, [The Australian](#), 24 July
- 'Monolingual 'bad Chinese' author wins Miles Franklin' by Michael Bailey, Arts & Culture editor, [Australian Financial Review](#), 24 July
- 'Miles Franklin Literary Award won by Siang Lu for part-fable, part-rom-com Ghost Cities' by Hannah Story, [ABC News](#), 24 July
- 'Siang Lu's 'Ghost Cities' wins 2025 Miles Franklin Award' [ABC Listen](#), [The Radio National Hour](#), 24 July
- 'Lu awarded 2025 Miles Franklin Literary Award' [Books+Publishing](#), 24 July
- 'Miles Franklin Award makes history with 2025 winner, Siang Lu' by Kerrie O'Brien, [Age](#), [Brisbane Times](#), [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [WA Today](#), 24 July
- "Siang Lu wins Miles Franklin award for Ghost Cities, 'a genuine landmark in Australian literature'" by Giselle Au-Nhien Nguyen, [Guardian Australia](#), 24 July
- 'Miles Franklin 2025: your guide to the shortlist of Australia's biggest literary prize' by Joseph Steinberg for [The Conversation](#), [Guardian Australia](#), 24 July
- 'Miles Franklin 2025: Siang Lu's Ghost Cities is a haunting comedy about tyranny. Is it the funniest winner ever?' by Joseph Steinberg, [The Conversation](#), 24 July
- 'Miles Franklin winner 2025: Siang Lu, Ghost Cities' by Thuy On, [ArtsHub](#), 24 July
- "'Shimmering" and "strikingly new" — Siang Lu wins Miles Franklin Literary Award' by Claire Nichols, ABC Radio National, [The Book Show](#), 24 July
- 'Siang Lu wins 2025 Miles Franklin Literary Award for his novel Ghost Cities' [Australian Arts Review](#), 24 July
- 'Who is Siang Lu, whose novel 'Ghost Cities' just won Australia's biggest literary award' by Aishwarya Khosla, [Indian Express](#), 24 July
- 'Your guide to the 2025 Miles Franklin shortlist - bawdy playful and intellectually ambitious' This article by Dr Joseph Steinberg, a Forrest Fellow at the UWA School of Humanities, was originally published in The Conversation on 24 July 2025, [Uni of WA news](#), 24 July
- 'The winner of the 2025 Miles Franklin Literary Award' [Readings blog](#), 24 July
- 'Siang Lu's Ghost Cities wins 2025 Miles Franklin' [Good Reading Magazine](#), 24 July
- 'Rejected 200+ times, Ghost Cities wins major book prize' syndicated (below) by AAP Newswire, 24 July

[Batemans Bay](#)
[Bega District Times](#)
[Bendigo Advertiser](#)
[Benella Ensign](#)
[Blayney Chronicle](#)
[Blue Mountains Gazette](#)
[The Border Mail](#)
[Bunbury Mail](#)
[Camden Courier](#)
[Canberra City News](#)
[Canberra Times](#)
[Central Western Daily](#)
[Cessnock Advertiser](#)
[Cobram Courier](#)
[Cootamundra Herald](#)
[Corowa Free Press](#)
[The Courier](#)
[Crookwell Gazette](#)
[Daily Advertiser](#)
[Delilguin PastoralTimes](#)
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[Eden Magnet](#)
[The Examiner](#)
[Glenn Innis](#)
[Glouster Advocate](#)
[Goulburn Post](#)
[Great Lakes](#)
[Harden Express](#)
[Hawkesbury Gazette](#)
[Hepburn Advocate](#)
[Hunter Valley News](#)
[Illawarra Mercury](#)
[Inverell Times](#)
[Irrigator](#)
[Jimboomba Times](#)
[Junee Southern Cross](#)
[Katherine Times](#)
[Kyabram Free Press](#)
[Lismore City News](#)
[Lithgow Mercury](#)
[Macleay Argus](#)
[Maitland Mercury](#)
[Manning River Times](#)

[Merimbula Weekly](#)
[Michael West](#)
[Moree Champion](#)
[Mudgee Guardian](#)
[MussellwellBrook Chronicle](#)
[Naomi Independent](#)
[Narooma news](#)
[Narromnie News](#)
[Northern Daily Leader](#)
[North West Star](#)
[Nyngan Observer](#)
[Oberon Review](#)
[Port Stephens Examiner](#)
[QBN City News](#)
[Queenbeyan Age](#)
[Redland City](#)
[The Senior](#)
[Seymour Telegraph](#)
[Shepparton News](#)
[Singleton Argus](#)
[South Coast Register](#)
[The Standard](#)

Miles Franklin Literary Award shortlist announcement, 25 June

- 'Bawdy, playful and intellectually ambitious: your guide to the 2025 Miles Franklin shortlist' by Joseph Steinberg, [The Conversation](#), 24 July
- 'Winnie Dunn's novel 'Dirt Poor Islander' puts Tongan culture in the spotlight' by Tileah Dobson, *Blacktown Advocate*, [The Daily Telegraph](#), 21 July
- 'An author's prize shortlist' by Eva Kolimar, [St George & Sutherland Shire Leader](#), 16 July
- 'From a debut to two-time winner — the Miles Franklin shortlist is here' ABC Radio National, [The Book Show](#), 14 July
- 'Connells Point author shortlisted for a major award' by Eva Kolimar, [St George & Sutherland Shire Leader](#), 10 July
- 'Why Miles Franklin posed as a maid after writing her brilliant novel' [The Canberra Times](#), 2 July
- 'Shortlists for Australian and Scottish Literary Awards Are Announced' [Book Pulse Library Journal](#), by Sarah Wolberg, 27 June
- '2025 Miles Franklin Shortlist' [Bookoccino](#) 27 June
- 'Sweat, sport and sharp Australian satire; And the 2025 International Booker Prize winner' [ABC Listen](#), [The Bookshelf](#) by Kate Evans and Cassie McCullagh, 26 June
- " 'An outsider in the mud': local literary legend shortlisted for \$60,000 Miles Franklin prize" by Walter Marsh, [InDaily South Australia](#), 26 June
- 'All the books on the Miles Franklin 2025 shortlist' by Georgia Moore, [Australian Women's Weekly](#), 26 June
- 'All the snubs, surprises and favourites from the 2025 Miles Franklin Literary Award shortlist' by Kate Evans for *The Bookshelf*, Claire Nichols and Sarah L'Estrange for *The Book Show*, Declan Fry and Nicola Heath, [ABC news](#), 25 June
- 'This year's Miles Franklin shortlist features an Australian first' by Kylie Northover and Miles Appleton ([Nine Syndicated](#)), *Age*, *Brisbane Times*, *SMH*, *WA Today*, 25 June
- 'Tongan-Australian novel on Miles Franklin shortlist', by Kylie Northover and Miles Appleton, [Age](#), *Brisbane Times*, 25, June
- "'I'm so humbled': western Sydney's Winnie Dunn up for \$60,000 Miles Franklin literary award for debut novel" by Kelly Burke, [Guardian Australia](#), 25 June
- 'Miles Franklin Literary Award 2025 shortlist announced', [Books+Publishing](#), 25 June
- '2025 Miles Franklin Shortlist', [BookPeople newsletter](#), 25 June
- 'Writers of colour dominate Miles Franklin shortlist' by Abe Maddison, [AAP syndicated](#) (*Canberra Time*, *Goulburn Post*, *Harvey Reporter*, *Illawarra Mercury*, *Mandurah Mail*, *Scone Advocate*, *The Senior*, *Western Advocate*, 25 June
- 'Siang Lu's 'Ghost Cities' shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Literary Award' [UQP blog](#), 25 June
- '2025 Miles Franklin shortlist' by Thuy On, [ArtsHub](#), 25 June
- 'Congratulations to MLC School Old Girl, Fiona McFarlane (1995) whose 'Highway 13' has been shortlisted for the 2025 Miles Franklin Literary Award' [MLC School Community news](#), 25 June
- The 2025 Miles Franklin shortlist, [Readings news](#), 24 June

Grants for Organisations – projects supported

Australian Rural & Regional News

- 'Review – The Woman in the Waves' by Serena Kirby, [ARR News](#), 22 July

Australia Reads – LitUp!

- 'Inverell Shire Library to revitalise reading with LitUp program', [New England Times](#), 31 July
- 'Moree and Inverell libraries to host 2026 LitUp events' [Moree News](#), 31 July

Australian Book Review

- 'A bullet with butterfly wings: Precarity obscured by an emphatic federal election result' by John Byron [Australian Book Review](#), 7 June

Australian Publishers Association

- BookUp [schedule](#)
- 'BookUp: Australian Book Industry Conference 2025' [APA newsletter/website](#), 26 June
- 'BookUp 2025 conference, research day program announced' [Books+Publishing](#), 26 June

Better Reading

- 'Fresh Voices: A Debut Author Spotlight – Episode 6: Joshua Gilbert', by Cherly Arkle, Better Reading [Podcast](#), 17 July

Guardian Australia – Australian Book reviews

- '[Hawke PM by David Day review – a portrait of a vicious drunk and womaniser who mostly mended his wicked ways](#)' book review by Paul Daley, 15 August
- '[Learned Behaviours by Zeynab Gamielien review – murder mystery probes privilege and class politics](#)' book review by Sarah Ayoub, 8 August
- '[Pissants by Brandon Jack review – is this novel a critique or a celebration of toxic masculinity? Even it isn't sure](#)' book review by Catriona Menzies-Pike, 4 August
- '[The Immigrants by Moreno Giovannoni review – family history fuels a novel of understated beauty](#)' book review by Joseph Cummins, 1 August
- '[What Kept You? by Raaza Jamshed review – an extraordinary debut full of ritual and poetry](#)' book review by Bec Kavanagh, 25 July
- '[Cure by Katherine Brabon review – moments of grace in meditation on chronic illness](#)' book review by Isabella Gullifer-Laurie, 18 July
- '[Over one stinking summer in Athens, a thirtysomething couple open their relationship – with disastrous consequences. It's no surprise a film adaptation is already in the works](#)' book review by Giselle Au-Nhien Nguyen, 11 July
- '[A Beautiful Family by Jennifer Trevelyan review – an immersive but imperfect coming-of-age mystery](#)' book review by Jack Callil, 4 July
- '[Our New Gods by Thomas Vowles review – debut queer thriller dares to wade into the muck of modern desire](#)' book review by Giselle Au-Nhien Nguyen, 27 June
- '[Wait Here by Lucy Nelson review – stories of childless women that are complex and wonderfully varied](#)' book review by Fiona Wright, 20 June
- '[Salvage by Jennifer Mills review – urgent post-apocalyptic novel proposes a better way of living](#)' book review by Catriona Menzies-Pike, 13 June
- '[King of Dirt by Holden Sheppard review – a grim portrait of homophobia and masculinity](#)' book review by Tim Byrne, 6 June

Kill Your Darlings

- 'Does Australia Have a Queer Literary Canon?' by Rebecca Starford, [Kill Your Darlings](#), 26 September

Overland Journal

- 'Sing a rainbow, too: Keio Yoshida's queer legal dream' by Sam Elkin, [Overland](#), 1 August
- 'Poetry, because our lives depend on it: Hasib Hourani's rock flight' by Micaela Sahhar, [Overland](#), 11 July

Perpetual Ltd – Miles Franklin Literary Award 2025 Longlist

- 'Miles Franklin Literary Award 2025 longlist announced' [Books+Publishing](#), 15 May

Sydney Review of Books

- 'Announcing the 2025 CA-SRB Emerging Critics Fellows' [SRB website](#), 1 August

University of Tasmania

The University of Tasmania has announced author Angela Slatter as the 2025 [Hedberg Writer-in-Residence](#), running from 4 August to 12 December 2025.

- 'Slatter announced as 2025 Hedberg Writer-in-Residence' [Books+Publishing](#), 5 June

University of Western Australia

- 'Literary win for Perth writer' by Justin Bianchini, [The Sunday Times](#), 10 August
- 'Perth writer Mohammed Massoud Morsi wins Dorothy Hewett Award for his novel The Hair of the Pigeon' by Justin Bianchini, [PerthNow](#), 9 August
- 'Morsi wins 2025 Dorothy Hewett Award' [Books+Publishing](#), 31 July
- 'Gripping novel set in Damascus wins 2025 Dorothy Hewett Award' [University of Western Australia](#), 31 July

WestWords

- 'Workshop inspires students' love of literature' [The Western Herald](#), (Bourke) 18 September