

This is a summary of Cultural Fund projects appearing in the media since February 2026.

## Cultural Fund Media Releases

- [Ten outstanding novels recognised in prestigious Miles Franklin Literary Award 2026 longlist](#), 20 May
- [ECU announces acclaimed alumna as 2027 Copyright Agency Grant artist](#), 1 May
- [\\$80,000 writing Fellowships drive major new Australian books](#), 22 April
- [Fellowships for people working in publishing](#), 26 March
- [Announcing the 2026 Stella Longlisted books](#), 12 March

## Cultural Fund Projects

### CAP | ECU Gallery

- 'City Campus exhibit a homecoming for visual artist' by Belinda Hickman, [PerthNow Western Suburbs](#), 7 May
- 'ECU announces acclaimed alumna as 2027 Copyright Agency Grant artist' [ECU newsroom](#), 1 May
- 'Application open for a Copyright Agency Partnership Grant at ECU Gallery' [Artshub](#), 10 March
- 'Applications open for major ECU Gallery commission at City Campus' [ECU news webpage](#), 5 March

### CAP | PICA Alana Hunt 2024-25 Commission 'A Deceptively Simple Need'

- "the deceptively simple need for a home (on other people's land)" is part of [@visionsdureel](#) screening 22 and 25 April in Nyon, Switzerland.

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## Fellowships/Grants for Individuals

### Fellowships

2024 Author Fellow, Fiona Kelly McGregor

- *The Trap* published by [Picador Pan Macmillan Australia](#), 31 March

2023 Fellow for Non-Fiction Writing, Patrick Mullins

- *The Stained Man: a crime, a scandal, and the making of a nation* published by [Scribe](#), 28 April

2022 Fellow for Non-Fiction Writing, Saskia Beudel

- *Peaking: One Hundred and Eleven Days on Two Wheels* published by [Monash University Publishing](#), 28 April

2022 Author Fellow, Mirandi Riwoe

- *A Short History of Longans*, published by [University of Queensland Press](#), 14 July

2019 Author Fellow, Stephen Orr

- *The Night Parrots* published by [Wakefield Press](#), 5 May

### Create Grants

2025 visual artist, Tiyan Baker

- 'Mouth Mnemonica', [Newcastle Art Gallery](#), 23 May - 6 September

2022 writer, Tiffany Tsao

- 'But I won't Miss Me' published by [HarperCollins Publishers Australia](#), 30 June

### 2020 Covid Emergency Funding Grant

- Naomi Parry Duncan's book *Musquito The real story of a legendary colonial warrior*, will be published in June by [Allen & Unwin](#)

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## Perpetual | Miles Franklin Literary Award

### Longlist announced

- 'Judge at the centre of a university probe recuses herself from the Miles Franklin prize discussion' by Max Aitchison, [The Australian](#), 25 May
- 'Abdel-Fattah makes Miles Franklin cut' by Melanie Kembrey, [Sydney Morning Herald](#), 21 May
- 'Abdel-Fattah novel on award list' by Melanie Kembrey, [Age](#), 21 May
- 'Randa's Miles Franklin nod' by Will Seitam, [The Australian](#), 21 May
- 'Qbn writer Musa up for Miles Franklin' by Liz Hobday, [Canberra Times](#), 21 May

- 'Incredibly surreal': Miles Franklin longlisting caps big week for Adelaide writers' by Walter Marsh, [InDaily SA](#), 21 May
- 'The 2026 Miles Franklin Literary Award Longlist' [Readings](#), Blog, 20 May
- 'Randa Abdel-Fattah among authors on Miles Franklin list' by Liz Hobday, [AAP News](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser](#), [The New Daily](#), 20 May
- 'Randa Abdel-Fattah longlisted for Miles Franklin Literary Award' by Will Seitam, [The Australian](#), 20 May
- 'Miles Franklin 2026 longlist announced' [Books+Publishing](#), 20 May
- 'Longlist for \$60,000 Miles Franklin Literary Award announced' by Melanie Kembrey, Nine Ent ([WA Today](#)), 20 May

## Grants for Organisations – projects supported

### Association for the Study of Australian Literature

- ASAL 2026 fellows announced, [Books+Publishing](#) 5 March
- ASAL in collaboration with [@copyrightagency\\_](#) and with the support of [@austlit\\_australianstories](#) is delighted to announce the ASAL / CA writers' fellowships for 2026
  - Emily Tsokos Purtill from Western Australian
  - Shannon Benton from New South Wales.

### ASLA DANZ Children's Book Awards 2026

- 'DANZ Children's Book Award 2026 shortlists announced' [Books+Publishing](#), 1 June  
Shortlist announced, 27 May
- Picture Books Shortlist
  - *The Colours of Home* written and illustrated by Sally Soweol Han (Thames & Hudson Australia)
  - *Bapa's Last Canoe* by Maree McCarthy Yoelu and illustrated by Samantha Campbell (Nee Fry) (Magabala Books)
  - *The Boab Tree* written and illustrated by Helen Milroy (Fremantle Press)
- Chapter Books Shortlist
  - *Sunny and Shadow* written and illustrated by Helen Milroy (Fremantle Press)
  - *Ava Spark* by Alex Field and illustrated by Joanna Bartel (New Frontier Publishing)
  - *Violet and the Velvets: The Case of the Angry Ghost* by Rachael King and illustrated by Phoebe Morris (Allen & Unwin Aotearoa)
- Middle Grade Books Shortlist
  - *The Haunting of Hindmarsh Hall*, written by Kate Gordon (Riveted Press)
  - *Legend of the Lighthouse Moon*, written by Helen Edwards (Riveted Press)
  - *Wurrtoo*, written by Tylissa Elisara and illustrated by Dylan Finney (Hachette Australia)
- ASLA DANZ Children's Book Award 2026 longlists announced, [Books+Publishing](#), 2 April
- The 2026 ASLA DANZ Children's Book Award longlist (26 titles), [DANZ website](#), 1 April
- Announcing The ASLA DANZ Children's Book Award Longlists of 2026! [Instagram](#), 1 April

### Australian Children's Laureate Foundation

- 'Meet the new Australian Children's Laureate' [City of Sydney news](#), 15 February
- 'Griffiths announced as Australian Children's Laureate' [Books+Publishing](#), 11 February
- Announcing your 2026–2027 Australian Children's Laureate Andy Griffiths, [ACLF newsletter](#), 10 February

### Australian Publishers Association (APA)

- BookUp conference and research day dates announced, [Books+Publishing](#), 25 March
  - The 2026 BookUp publishing conference will run in Melbourne on 22 July.
  - A research day will be held on 23 July to bring together academics and industry professionals
- 'Fifteen editors have been selected for the APA's Residential Editorial Program (REP) in 2026', APA News [website](#), 10 February

#### Australian Rural & Regional News (from 2025 and 2026)

- 'Review – *Hot Ground*' by Lisa Ellery, [book review by Serena Kirby](#), ARR News, 5 May 2026
- 'Review – *Black, White + Colour*' by Tim Dobbyn published by Ginninderra Press, [book review by Aedeon Cremin](#), ARR News, 20 October 2025
- 'Author interview – Tim Dobbyn' [interview by Aedeon Cremin](#), ARR News, 20 October 2025
- 'Review – *Little World*' by Josephine Rowe published by Black Inc Books, [book review by Serena Kirby](#), ARR News, 22 July 2025
- 'Review – *Unsettled*' by Kate Grenville published by Black Inc Books, [book review by Serena Kirby](#), ARR News, 7 July 2025
- 'Review – *The Bluff*' by Joanna Jenkins published by Allen & Unwin, [book review by Serena Kirby](#), ARR News, 2 June 2025
- 'Review – *Batty's Bush Bible – How To Do Australia*' by David Batty published by HarperCollins, [book review by Serena Kirby](#), ARR News, 7 May 2025
- 'Review – *Whisky Valley*' by Joan Sauers published by Allen & Unwin, [book review by Serena Kirby](#), ARR News, 7 May 2025
- 'Review – *Soaring with the Sugarbird Lady: The Robin Miller Story*' by Dianne Wolfer published by Fremantle Press, [book review by Serena Kirby](#), ARR News, 24 March 2025
- 'Review – *Paul Simons: His Remarkable Life on Land and Sea*' by Paul Simons and Lyndall Eeg published by Delphian Books, [book review by Aedeon Cremin](#), ARR News, 18 February 2025

#### Australian Society of Authors

- 'New ASA mentorship program winners announced' [Books+Publishing](#), 7 April
- The 2026 CA/ASA Developmental Leadership Program
  - Announcing the winners of the 2026 CA/ASA Developmental Leadership Program, [ASA newsletter](#), 1 April

#### Guardian Australia – Australian Book reviews

- 'Capture by Amanda Lohrey review – a superb novel about a study of alien abductees' [book review by Catriona Menzies-Pike](#), 29 May
- 'Phantom Days by Angela O'Keeffe review – a rich, lyrical story told through the 'eyes' of a book' [book review by Seren Heyman-Griffiths](#), 22 May
- 'Songwriters on the Run by Robert Forster review – Go-Betweens frontman hits a dud note' [book review by Jack Callil](#), 15 May
- 'Goodbye, My Love by Yumna Kassab review – biting reflections on the dissolution of a marriage' [book review by Seren Heyman-Griffiths](#), 8 May
- 'A Rising of the Lights by Steve Toltz review – a darkly funny take on the male loneliness epidemic' [book review by Seren Heyman-Griffiths](#), 1 May
- 'Mantle by Romy Ash review – an exquisitely wild and exhilarating vision of the near future' [book review by Susan Wyndham](#), 24 April
- 'Circle of Wonders by Kathryn Heyman review – solace and healing in an acid-etched portrait of a dysfunctional family' [book review by Catriona Menzies-Pike](#), 10 April
- 'The Hair of the Pigeon by Mohammed Massoud Morsi review – an epic tale of a refugee's journey' [book review by Rafqa Touma](#), 7 April
- 'Sororidal by Edwina Preston review – a tale of two sisters tinged with danger' [book review by Fiona Wright](#), 3 April
- 'A Far-flung Life by ML Stedman review – a masterful examination of loss' [book review by Jack Callil](#), 27 March
- 'The Minstrels by Eva Hornung review – an audacious, confronting epic' [book review by Nigel Featherstone](#), 20 March
- 'Fourteen Ways of Looking by Erin Vincent review – an exhilarating, dazzling reckoning with grief' [book review by Catriona Menzies-Pike](#), 13 March

- 'On Not Climbing Mountains by Claire Thomas review – impressive, for a patient reader' [book review by Adele Dumont](#), 27 February
- 'Bird Deity by John Morrissey review – darkly satirical science fiction about the cost of empire' [book review by Seren Heyman-Griffiths](#), 20 February
- 'Soft Serve by George Kemp review – moving coming-of-age debut set in a regional McDonald's' [book review by Jack Callil](#), 13 February
- 'Bugger by Michael Mohammed Ahmad review – tender, unflinching and difficult to read' [book review by Seren Heyman-Griffiths](#), 6 February 2026

#### Linden New Art

- Maree Clarke transforms Linden New Art, by Phoebe Blogg, [National Indigenous Times](#) 17 March

#### Nine Entertainment

##### 2026 Best Young Australian Novelists

- 'Meet the trio crowned 2026's Best Young Australian Novelists' by Melanie Kembrey, [Age](#), 15 May
  - *Painting Portraits of Everyone I've Ever Dated* by Joseph Earp
  - *Learned Behaviours* by Zeynab Gamiieldien
  - *Cannon* by Lee Lai

##### 2026 Age Book of the Year Awards

Winners announced 7 May as part of the opening night of this year's Melbourne Writers Festival.

- 'Warren's Kate Wild pens The Age Book of the Year' [Warren and Nyngan Weekly](#), 14 May
- 'Winners of the 45th Age Book of the Year Awards Announced' [Nine](#), 8 May
- 'Giovannoni, Wild win 2026 Age Book of the Year Awards' [Books+Publishing](#), 8 May
- 'I presented The Age Book of the Year Awards and rediscovered reading for pleasure' by Orietta Guerrera, [The Age](#), 8 May
- 'Kate Wild's 'The Red House' wins The Age Book of the Year Award for Non-Fiction' [a4 Literary](#), 8 May
- 'The 2026 Age Book of the Year Winners' [Readings](#), 7 May
- 'Stories of humanity win Age's books of the year' by Kylie Northover, [The Age](#), 8 May
  - Winner of the Fiction award: *The Immigrants* by Moreno Giovannoni
  - Winner of the Non-Fiction Award: *Red House* by Kate Wild
- 'A masterclass in fiction and a vivid exploration of race: The Age Book of the Year winners' by Kylie Northover, [WA Today](#), 7 May

##### Shortlist – 2026 Age Book of the Year Awards

- 'The Age Book of the Year 2026 shortlists announced' [Books+Publishing](#), 15 April
- 'From courtrooms to distant spacecraft: The Age Book of the Year shortlists announced' by Kylie Northover, [The Age](#), 10 April

#### NT Writers' Centre

- 2026 NT Book Awards – Submissions open on 1 –30 April, [Instagram](#), 26 March.

#### Overland Magazine

- 'Pilled to the gills: Ariel Bogle and Cam Wilson's Conspiracy Nation' by Cher Tan, [Overland](#), 21 April

#### PEN Melbourne

- 'The role of the committed writer in an unfree world' by André Dao, [Overland](#), 10 March.
  - *This essay was first published in PEN Melbourne's Keeping Words Free pamphlet series*
- PEN Melbourne: 'Keeping Words Free' launch three new pamphlets, PEN Melbourne [website](#), 16 February
  - Plestia Alaqaad—But Who Reports on the Reporters?
  - André Dao—The Role of the Committed Writer in an Unfree World
  - Jeanine Leane—Poem Series

### Roderick Centre for Australian Literature and Creative Writing

- 'Writers on the Reef 2026 residents announced', [Books+Publishing](#), 28 April
- The 4 successful writers are:
  - Andrea Rowe
  - Dimitra Harvey
  - Laura Jean McKay
  - Sonia Shah
- Writers on the Reef residencies: 2026 Shortlisted writers, [website](#), [Instagram](#), 17 April
  - Frankey Chung
  - Stuart Cooke
  - Sophie Cunningham
  - Dimitra Harvey
  - Heather Johnson
  - Laura Jean McKay
  - Kate Mildenhall
  - Andrea Rowe
  - Sonia Shah
  - Karen Viggers

### SCBWI Australian Picture Book Illustrator Awards

#### 2025 prize recipients:

- The winner of the Emerging Illustrator category is Sarah Zweck.
- Highly Commended in the Established Illustrator category
  - Anna McGregor
  - Jess Racklyeft

### State Library of New South Wales

- Fresh Takes: Winter '26, [SLNSW website](#), Library Café, Macquarie Street Building, 6 pm 16 June
  - Mary Colussi, Ayesha Inoon, Yumna Kassab, Roy V Marshan, Angela O'Keeffe and Michael Winkler
- Fresh Takes: Autumn '26, [Instagram](#), The Library Bar, 6pm 24 March
  - Toby Fitch, Lulu Houdini, George Kemp, Lee Lai, Helen Pitt and Fiona Wright

### Stella Prize

- 'Stella Prize 2026: All the remarkable books longlisted' by Georgia Moore, [The Australian Women's Weekly](#), 14 March
- The 2026 Stella Prize Longlist announced, Stella [website](#), 11 March
- 'Stella Prize 2026 longlist celebrates the power of memory, truth and creative fiction' by Alannah Sue, [Artshub](#), 11 March

### Sydney Writers' Festival

- Cultural Fund supported panels for 2026
  - [Past, Present, Emerging](#) – On First Nations writing yesterday, today and tomorrow, with Melissa Lucashenko, Tony Birch, Tasma Walton, Bruce Pascoe, Melanie Saward, **Friday 22 May** 3-3.55pm. \$30
  - [Rewriting Histories](#) – Retelling the history of Australian colonisation and the frontier wars with Stephen Gapps, Rachel Perkins, Henry Reynolds, Clare Wright, **Saturday 23 May** 3-3.55pm. \$30
  - [Big Beginnings](#) – Debut novelists shooting for the stars with Florence Knapp, Steve MinOn, Michael Pedersen, Madeleine Gray, **Saturday 23 May** 7-7.55pm. Free

### University of Technology Sydney

#### Copyright Agency-UTS New Writer in Residence 2026

- "'Genre-defying' author Johanna Bell, whose practice spans fiction, poetry, prize-winning picture books and community arts, will join the Creative Writing Department at UTS as its New Writer-in-Residence 2026", [UTS website](#), 2 March

### University of Western Australia (UWA) – 2025 Dorothy Hewett Award winner

- 'The Hair of the Pigeon review: Mohammed Massoud Morsi's masterwork: *The Hair of the Pigeon* is an intricately woven story about the freedom of truth, the horrors of war, and much more ...' book review by Nanci Nott, [Artshub](#), 30 April

- 'Despots, brutality and the quest for a home: The Hair of the Pigeon explores suffering and love' book review by Kevin John Brophy, [The Conversation](#), 20 April
- 'Mohammed Massoud Morsi: The Hair of the Pigeon' book review, [Australian Arts Review](#), 10 April
- *The Hair of the Pigeon* by Mohammed Massoud Morsi, published by [UWA Publishing](#), 31 March

Varuna, The National Writers' House

- Copyright Agency First Nations Fellowships, applications close 10 March, [website](#), 17 February