

This is a summary of Cultural Fund projects appearing in the media since the last CF committee meeting in June 2026.

Cultural Fund Media Releases

- [Omar Musa's Fierceland wins the 2026 Miles Franklin Literary Award](#), 6 August
- [Three publishing professionals awarded 2026 Cultural Fund Fellowships](#), 22 July
- [Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund invests more than \\$680,000 in Australia's creative future](#), 15 July
- [Regional Victorian teacher awarded 2026 Reading Australia Fellowship for project exploring writing in the age of AI](#), 9 July
- [Investing in Australian Literature: The 2026 Miles Franklin Literary Award Shortlist](#), 24 June
- [Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund celebrates Australian literature](#), 3 June

Cultural Fund Projects

Grants for Organisations, Reading Australia Fellowship and Create Grants

- 'Cultural Fund latest funding round announced' [Books+Publishing](#), 15 July

Fellowships/Grants for Individuals

2026 Publishing Fellows

- 'Copyright Agency Publishing Fellowship recipients announced' [Books+Publishing](#), 23 July

2026 Reading Australia Fellow, Bri Hassett

- 'Teacher Awarded' by Daniel Brewer, [Gippsland's radio TRFM](#), 20 July

Perpetual | Miles Franklin Literary Award

Winner announced 5 August

- 'Miles Franklin winner Omar Musa eschews caution and pushes limits' by Alexander Howard, [syndicated] *Central Western Daily*, *Lismore City News*, *Manning River Times*, [Southern Highland News](#), *Wellington Times*, 14 August
- 'Not a monoculture': Aussie literary life gets a rewrite' by Caroline Overington, [The Australian](#), 8 August
- 'Omar Musa Wins Miles Franklin Literary Award' [Oz Arab Media](#), 7 August
- 'Queanbeyan's Miles Franklin Literary Award winner praises his mum, describes 'slog' of 21 drafts' by Tahlia Roy and Caitlin Maloney, [ABC News](#), 6 August
- 'Omar Musa wins 2026 Miles Franklin Award with Fierceland' presented by Sally Sara, [Radio National Breakfast](#), 6 August
- 'Musa wins Miles Franklin literary award' by Kye Halford, [The Saturday Paper](#), 6 August
- 'Omar Musa wins 2026 Miles Franklin Literary Award for his novel Fierceland' [Australian Arts Review](#), 6 August
- 'Omar Musa wins Miles Franklin Literary Award' by Jason Blake, [Limelight](#), 6 August
- 'This Queanbeyan author just bagged Australia's most prestigious literary award' by Liz Hobday, [Batemans Bay Post](#), 6 August
- 'Queanbeyan's Omar Musa - rapper, poet, artist - wins Australia's most important literary prize' by Genevieve Jacobs, [Region Canberra](#), 6 August
- 'Bookseller Spotlight: Miles Franklin Award Winner 2026' [Australian Booksellers Association](#), 6 August
- 'Omar Musa wins Miles Franklin literary award for 'tour de force' novel Fierceland' by Sian Cain, [Guardian Australia](#), 5 August
- 'Omar Musa claims \$60,000 Miles Franklin Award for Fierceland' by Caroline Overington, Literary Editor, [The Australian](#), 5 August

- 'Omar Musa wins 2026 Miles Franklin Literary Award for Heart of Darkness 'critique', Fierceland' by Nicola Heath, [ABC Arts](#), 5 August
- Omar Musa wins 2026 Miles Franklin Literary Award for "Fierceland" [Books+Publishing](#), 5 August
- 'Omar Musa's Miles Franklin win rewards epic, ambitious Australian writing with a global scope' by Alexander Howard, University of Sydney, [The Conversation](#), 5 August
- 'Queanbeyan writer and artist Omar Musa is the 2026 Miles Franklin Literary Award winner' by Emma Kirk, (News Limited syndicated) [Daily Telegraph](#), [Kimberley Echo](#), 5 August
- 'Six years, 21 drafts earn hip-hop poet top book prize' by Liz Hobday, [The Daily Advertiser](#), 5 August
- 'Omar Musa celebrates his 2026 Miles Franklin win for Fierceland' by Claire Nichols, [The Book Show](#), [ABC Radio National](#), 5 August
- 'So much self-doubt, agony, imposter syndrome': Rapper and poetry slammer wins Miles Franklin award' by Linda Morris, [WA Today](#), 5 August
- 'Omar Musa wins the 2026 Miles Franklin Literary Award' by Paul Dalgarno, [Artshub](#), 5 August
- 'The winner of the 2026 Miles Franklin Literary Award' by Emily Bronte & Shirley Jackson, [Readings blog](#), 5 August

Shortlist announced 24 June

- 'Your guide to the books in the 2026 Miles Franklin award shortlist: provocation, ruin and empire' by Alexander Howard for the *Conversation*, [Guardian Australia](#), 5 August
- 'Book experts reveal their 2026 Miles Franklin Literary Award snubs, surprises and hot tips' by Kate Evans for The Bookshelf; Claire Nichols and Sarah L'Estrange for The Book Show; Declan Fry and Nicola Heath, [ABC Arts](#), 29 July
- 'We've read every book on the 2026 Miles Franklin shortlist. Who will win?' by Claire Nichols & Rhiannon-Brown, [ABC Radio National](#), [The Book Show](#), 27 July
- 'Who is Evercreech? The micro publisher shortlisted for the Miles Franklin with its first book' [Books+Publishing](#), 24 June
- 'Grand and intimate': Miles Franklin shortlisted novels grapple with profound questions of our time by Emma Joyce, [Guardian Australia](#), 24 June
- 'Miles Franklin Literary Award 2026 shortlist announced' [Books+Publishing](#), 24 June
- 'Anti-Israel activist Randa Abdel-Fattah's novel makes Miles Franklin shortlist' by Caroline Overington, Literary Editor, [The Australian](#), 24 June
- 'The 2026 Miles Franklin Literary Award Shortlist' [Readings](#) Blog, 24 June
- 'Former ad man makes Miles Franklin finals on the first try' by Michael Bailey [The Australian](#), 24 June
- 'Tiny publisher with one book shortlisted for top award' by Linda Morris, [Age](#), [Brisbane Times](#), 24 June
- 'Miles Franklin Literary Award: the 6 shortlisted books for 2026' by Jane O'Sullivan, [ArtsHub](#), 24 June

Grants for Organisations – projects supported

Australia Reads LitUp

- 'LitUp sparks kids reading interest' by Georgina Jelovic, [Blue Mountains Gazette](#), 3 June

Big Day of Books Perth 2026

- 'Big Day of Books Perth 2026 program announced' [Books+Publishing](#), 3 June

Blak & Bright Writers Festival 2026

- Blak & Bright Writers Festival 2026 program announced, [Books+Publishing](#), 27 July

Byron Writers' Festival 14 – 16 August

Supported sessions by Copyright Agency Cultural Fund

- [Benevolence and Compassion](#): Julie Janson in conversation with Grace Lucas-Pennington. Friday 14 August, 4:30-5:30 pm

- [Radical Reading](#): Ender Baskan, Micaela Sahhar, Michael Winkler. Chair Kris Kneen. Saturday 15 August, 4:30-5:30pm
- [Art & AI](#): Evelyn Araluen, Kirra Pendergast, Steve Toltz. Chair Natasha Mitchell. Saturday 15 August, 4:30-5:30pm

Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA)

- 'Finding her voice: Behind the microphone with Mia' by Janine Curtis, [Aurora Features](#), Schools & Education, Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, 5 June

Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair (DAAF)

- 'Fair marks 20 years as crowds show up for authentic art' by Liz Hobday, [Kyabram Free Press](#), 8 August
- '2026 Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair opens its doors with 75+ art galleries' by Zizi Averill, [Daily Telegraph](#), 8 August
- 'Your ultimate guide to a packed weekend of art, music and culture in Darwin.' by Kate Dinning, [Daily Telegraph](#), 8 August
- 'Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair opens to the public' by Phoebe Blogg, [National Indigenous Times](#), 7 August

Griffin Theatre Company – 2026 Griffin Award

The winner was announced on Monday 13 July at Downstairs Belvoir alongside [a keynote speech from writer, actor and director Sheridan Harbridge](#).

Winner: Vernon Pua – 8 Hot Tips on Sharing Your Bed

- 'Vernon Pua announced as winner of 2026 Griffin Award' *Australian Arts Review*, 16 July
- 'Vernon Pua Named Winner of 2026 Griffin Award for Australian Playwriting', by Stephi Wild, [Broadway World](#), 14 July
- 2026 Griffin Award announced by Jason Blake, [Limelight](#), 14 July

Griffin Award finalists

- Amarantha—THEY CAME FOR CANE
- Danish Sheikh—BUREAUCRACY: A LOVE STORY
- Vernon Pua—8 HOT TIPS ON SHARING YOUR BED

Highly Commended

Zack Lewin—FUCK•A•PAPA

Guardian Australia – Australian Book reviews

- 'Blue Giant by Jordan Prosser review – would life be better on Mars?' [book review by Catriona Menzies-Pike](#), 21 August
- 'Mine by Adam Ouston review – novel told in a single sentence is a hallucinatory reading experience' [book review by Catriona Menzies-Pike](#), 14 August
- 'Now, Autonomy by Max Easton review – a sardonic yet compassionate take on millennial apathy' [book review by Jack Callil](#), 7 August
- 'Rite of Spring by Kris Kneen review – a woman's sexual awakening lurks in the ocean's depths' [book review by Bec Kavanagh](#), 31 July
- 'Sophie, Standing There by Meg Mason review – a witty story of infatuation set in the literary world' [book review by Sam Leith](#), 28 July
- 'I Made This Just For You by Chris Ames review – absurd satirical takes on the bleak absurdity of modern life' [book review by Catriona Menzies-Pike](#), 24 July
- 'Worry Doll by Laura McPhee-Browne review – a sensual, sinister novel about the horrors of desire' [book review by Beejay Silcox](#), 17 July
- 'A Short History of Longans by Mirandi Riwoe review – a moving family portrait devoured in one sitting' [book review by Seren Heyman-Griffiths](#), 10 July

- 'The End of Romance by Maria Takolander – a bleak, bold and urgent novel for our times' [book review by Catriona Menzies-Pike](#), 3 July
- 'No God But Us by Bobuq Sayed review – a buzzy and political queer love story' [book review by Beejay Silcox](#), 30 June
- 'Night Swimming by Sharon Kernot review – a sharp, sexy and tremendously satisfying thriller in verse' [book review by Fiona Wright](#), 26 June
- 'The Sisters of Serendib by Ayesha Inoon review – Sri Lankan asylum seekers seek a safer life in Australia' [book review by Seren Heyman-Griffiths](#), 19 June
- 'How to Love the World by Ilka Tampke review – a woman is trapped by a fallen tree' [book review by Catriona Menzies-Pike](#), 12 June
- 'The Ruiners by Ellena Savage review – a playful and subversive take on Great Expectations' [book review by Bec Kavanagh](#), 5 June

Magabala Books

- Daisy Utemorrah Award 2026 shortlist announced [Books+Publishing](#), 30 July

The winners will be announced in September. The shortlisted works are:

- “Barefoot Running”, “a literary First Nations mystery and coming of age novel”, by Amanda Lott, a writer of Bigambul and European heritage
- “Off by a Mark”, “a contemporary, warm, witty and relatable coming-of-age romance about first love, first heartbreak and the unexpected people who change our lives”, by Junaidah Mamid, a writer of proud Yawuru and Bardi descent
- “Saltwater, City Lights”, “a YA work of literary fiction that reflects on the stories we inherit, the lies we tell ourselves and the journey to healing when truths are shared”, by Elise Thornthwaite, a Gamilaraay writer and mum.

Red Room Poetry

- National Poetry Month Gala, SLNSW, The Library Auditorium, [Red Room Poetry website](#), 27 August

SCBWI Australian Picture Book Illustrator Awards

- 'SCBWI Australian Picture Book Illustrator Awards 2026 Winners and Judges' Report, SCBWI [Blog](#), 1 August
 - Established Illustrator category
 - First Prize: Sara Acton
 - Second Prize: Karen Blair
 - Third Prize: Michelle Conn
 - Highly Commended: Annabelle Hale, Anna McGregor, Ross Morgan, Binny Talib
 - Emerging Illustrator category
 - First Prize: Bindy James
 - Highly Commended: Susan Joy Lu

State Library of New South Wales

- Fresh Takes: Spring '26, event on 18 August [City of Sydney](#), 23 July
 - Barry Corr (*Surveying the Wild Abyss: Unravelling settler memory*)
 - Neha Kale (*Foreign Return: On art and inhabitation*)
 - Dinuka McKenzie (*She Lied First*)
 - Laura McPee-Browne (*Worry Doll*)
 - Jaclyn Moriarty (*Time Travel for Beginners*)
 - Jordan Prosser (*Blue Giant*)

University of Queensland: AustLit Creative Writing Fellowships

- Applications are open for the [2026 AustLit Creative Writing Fellowships](#), 8 August

University of Tasmania

- 'Adam Sharp announced as 2026 Hedberg Writer-in-Residence' [Books+Publishing](#), 29 June

UTS New Writer in Residence Fellowship

- 2021 Fellow, Christopher Raja's book *Eye of the Needle*, published by [Text](#) on 4 August, [Instagram](#), 25 June

Eleanor Dark Foundation: Varuna

- 'Varuna announces First Nations fellowship' [Books+Publishing](#) 11 June

Walkley Foundation

[Arts Journalism & Arts Criticism Prize](#)

Supported by the Geraldine Pascall Foundation. Through the generous support of the Copyright Agency, the winner will receive \$5000 in prize money.

- Tim Douglas, *Culture*, *The Australian*, 'Body of work'