

# Furphy

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## Literary Award



### MEDIA RELEASE

### 2020 FURPHY LITERARY AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

### Embargoed until 9pm AEST, 25<sup>th</sup> July 2020

#### **Ruby Todd wins the 2020 Furphy Literary Award – Open Category:**

Melbourne-based writer Ruby Todd has won the 2020 Furphy Literary Award for her short story entry, “Awakening”. The piece describing the tumultuous events in a woman’s life, brought to a head by the HMAS Melbourne – Voyager disaster, takes out the richest competition for Australian short stories earning her \$15,000, in addition to a residency program at La Trobe University and future publication in a forthcoming anthology.

Two other works were highly commended by the judging panel in the open category, which received a total of 850 entries from across Australia and overseas. “Pub Raffle” by Gippsland-based author Ya Reeves is a thoughtful piece describing events in a small community in Eastern Victoria during the recent bushfires, while “Ando Gets Plastered” by Castlemaine-based Cate Kennedy is a delightful story of a bucks night gone wrong and sweet revenge.

Furphy Literary Award director Sam Furphy said that the quality of the shortlisted and finalist entries was very pleasing.

*“It is fantastic to have received these very well written Australian stories from a variety of viewpoints. With such a large field of entries from all over the country and some from overseas, the winning and shortlisted works really are a joy to read,” he said.*

The finalist entries from each category will be available to read from Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July on the Furphy Literary Awards [website](#). The Furphy Literary Award is working towards an annual publication of an anthology of selected works from entries submitted each year. FLA Director Adam Furphy explained:

*“Now that the judging has been completed and the results announced we are thrilled to be able to publish the finalist works on our website and share them with a wider audience. We are looking forward to bringing out an anthology of works which we intend will be an annual publication and which will celebrate Australian story telling.”*

#### **How to watch the Awards Event:**

The 2020 Furphy Literary Awards will be presented online on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> at 7pm (Junior and Youth categories) and 8pm (Open category). The awards will be available to stream from the Furphy Literary Awards [website](#), and [Facebook](#) page, as well as the Greater Shepparton City Council’s [Youtube](#) channel.

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### MEDIA RELEASE – Cont'd

## 2020 FURPHY LITERARY AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

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#### Junior and Youth Category finalists and winners announced:

Some 230 short stories and poems from young people in the Goulburn Valley have been judged for this year's expanded Furphy Literary Awards. Categories for the Junior and Youth ages included Junior (12 and Under) Short Story, Youth (13-18) Short Story and Youth (13-18) Poetry. All were well supported and carry a total prize money pool of \$1,350. (\$300 1<sup>st</sup> prize, \$100 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize, \$50 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize)

Youth Short Story judge John Lewis said he found the stories very engaging.

*"Reading these stories has been a thrilling ride. There is nothing so wild and dangerous as the teenage imagination. Now I'm going to have a lie down and think about normal things like pandemics and lockdowns,"* he said.

#### Youth Short Story:

Goulburn Valley Grammar School (GVGS) student **Elly Meichel** won first prize in the Youth Short Story category with her entry titled "An Atlantic Night". In second place with her entry titled "A Perfect Coincidence" was Notre Dame College's Sophie Campisi. In third place was Layla O'Callaghan of GVGS with "To Love a Faery". There were 56 entrants in the Youth Short Story category.

#### Youth Poetry:

In the Youth Poetry category, a total of 57 entries were received. First prize was won by **Miya Smith** with here poem titled "Persimmons". Ben Shelton, also from GVGS, came in second with "Colours of a Lakeside Life" and Layla O'Callaghan was third with "The Flavours of Demurity".

#### Junior Short Story:

A total of 115 entrants submitted works for the Junior Short Story, First prize was awarded to **Lila Plunkett** of GVGS for her work titled "Off Track". Second place went to Alice Bouchier of GVGS for "Fortune Favours the Bold" and third place went to Riley Wooster of Shepparton East Primary School for "The Miners Hat".

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### Notes to Editor About the Furphy Literary Award

The Furphy Literary Award is named in honour of Australian writer Joseph Furphy and celebrates Australian story telling. Joseph Furphy was the author of a number of works written under the pen name of Tom Collins – the most famous of which, “Such is Life”, was published in 1903.

Entrants for the open category must reside in Australia or be citizens of Australia. The Open category is for short stories of 5,000 words or less, for which first prize is \$15,000. The theme nominated for the award is “Australian Life”.

There are also three junior/Youth categories, which were open to young people from Shepparton and surrounding regions.

Results for each category, as well as details of the Open category finalists, are attached in following pages

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#### Sponsors of the Furphy Literary Awards

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## 2020 Open Category Short List

### Title

### Author

**Awakening**

Ruby Todd

Winner

**Pub Raffle**

Ya Reeves

HC

**Ando Gets Plastered**

Cate Kennedy

HC

**King of George Street**

Sue Osborne

**Straining at the Leash**

Jean Flynn

**Waiting for the Dog**

Mira Robertson

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### **Finalists:**

#### **Ruby Todd**

Ruby Todd is a Melbourne-based writer of prose and poetry, and creative arts researcher. She holds a PhD on the subject of elegy from Deakin University, where she teaches. Her short stories, essays, and poems have been published in *Ploughshares*, *Overland*, *TEXT Journal*, *Qualitative Inquiry* and *Meniscus*, among other publications. In 2019, she won the *Ploughshares Emerging Writer's Contest* for fiction, and a separate work of long-form fiction was longlisted for Hachette Australia's *Richell Prize*. Her fiction has previously won the 2016 *Chapter One Prize* of the Australasian Association of Writing Programs, and her poetry has twice been shortlisted for the *Whitmore Press Manuscript Prize*.



#### **Ya Reeves**

Ya Reeves grew up in both the remote mountain village of Dinner Plain and the far-flung coastal town of Marlo in Victoria, and has a strong connection to the rugged outdoor places of South Eastern Australia. She completed a university degree in Outdoor and Environmental Education and is currently undertaking an honours year following the publication of a co-authored paper. Ya's passion for writing started at an early age, inspired first by the literature of Elizabeth Honey and Alison Lester, before Tim Winton, Cormack McCarthy, Charles Bukowski and John Steinbeck flooded her library as a teenager. Her passion for the people and landscapes of remote and rural Australia inform much of her writing and artwork.



#### **Cate Kennedy**

Cate Kennedy is an Australian writer who has published fiction, non-fiction and poetry, but who especially loves the short story form. She lives in regional Victoria and works as an editor and creative writing teacher and mentor. Cate has won numerous awards for her work including the *Age Short Story Award*, the *C.J. Dennis Prize* (2011) and the *Steele Rudd Award* (2012), amongst others.



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## 2020 Youth Short Story Short List

Title	Author	
<b>An Atlantic Night</b>	Elly Miechel	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize
<b>A Perfect Coincidence</b>	Sophie Campisi	2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize
<b>To Love a Faery</b>	Layla O'Callaghan	3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize
<b>Aggie and Fergus</b>	Lacey O'Brien	
<b>Gone</b>	Heidi Smith	
<b>Hard to Imagine</b>	Imogen Templeton	
<b>The Celtic Knot Tattoo</b>	Hannah Freeman	

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## 2020 Youth Poetry Short List

**Title**

**Author**

**Persimmons**

**Miya Smith**

**1st Prize**

**Colours of a Lakeside Life**

**Ben Shelton**

**2nd Prize**

**The Flavours of Demurity**

**Layla O'Callaghan**

**3rd Prize**

**Autumn**

Georgia Flatman

**Colours of That Night**

Heidi Smith

**Every Morning**

Hailey Moffatt

**Little Green Box**

Cliona Ingram

**Memories**

Georgia Flatman

**Time After Time**

Imogen Templeton

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## 2020 Junior Short Story Short List

Title	Author	
<b>Off Track</b>	Lila Plunkett	1st Prize
<b>Fortune Favours the Bold</b>	Alice Bouchier	2nd Prize
<b>The Miner's Hat</b>	Riley Wooster	3rd Prize
<b>Beyond Earth</b>	Lilly Fidock	
<b>Hope</b>	Tylah O'Brien	
<b>Master</b>	Addison Oswald	
<b>Your Deeds Are Your Monuments</b>	Janani Murali	