Search begins for next Northern Territory Literary Awards winners

The Northern Territory Government is calling on Territory writers to enter the 2012 Northern Territory Literary Awards, with applications opening today.

Minister for Arts and Museums, Gerry McCarthy said the awards recognise written works of outstanding literary merit and highlight the achievements of Territory writers.

“The NT Literary Awards bring together the best and most talented writers from across the Territory and allows us the opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge their works,” Minister McCarthy said.

“The competition continues to grow each year and a record 300 entrants were received last year, many from remote areas of the Territory.

“The awards help to provide a stage for recognition for both emerging and established Territory writers, and most importantly, ensure the Territory’s unique stories are heard.

“It’s also part of our plan to help us achieve our Territory 2030 goal of establishing the Territory as a major centre for creative industries and increasing the number of Territorians working in the creative industries.”

The categories for the 2012 awards include:
- Dymocks Arafura Short Story Award
- Dymocks Red Earth Poetry Award
- Charles Darwin University Bookshop Travel Short Story Award
- Charles Darwin University Essay Award
- Dymocks Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Writers’ Award
- Kath Manzie Youth Literary Award
- Darwin Festival Script Award
- Birch Carroll and Coyle Screenwriting Award.

Minister McCarthy said this year, the Australian Writers Guild (AWG) will be providing sponsorship for the two performance script categories, in which the winners receive a 12-month AWG Associate Membership valued at $310 and scriptwriting software valued at $220.

2012 Northern Territory Literary Awards presentation ceremony will be the opening event at the NT Writers’ Centre Wordstorm Festival on 10 May 2012, where the winners will be announced.

Entries for the 2012 Northern Territory Literary Awards close on 29 February 2012.

For more information go to http://www.ntl.nt.gov.au/news/literary_awards

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Background on previous award winners:

Previous award winners have gone on to achieve many other significant accomplishments, such as Territorian Philip Denson, who was accepted to the AWG’s Pathways Program after winning the 2011 NT Literary Award in the Birch Carroll and Coyle Screenwriting category for *Lucid*.

Sophie Constable, who won the 2011 Dymocks Arafura Short Story Award, was recently named one of the winners in a short story competition for the 2012 National Year of Reading, which launches 14 February 2012, for her work *Letters*.

Darwin Festival Script category winner Alex Ben-Mayor was a finalist in the 2011 Scientists, Technologists and Artists Generating Exploration (STAGE) International Script Competition.