11, May 2012

Top Territory writers take awards

Writers gathered last night at Parliament House to find out the winners of three competitions – the NT Literary Awards, the Chief Minister’s NT History Book Award and the Territory Read Awards.

Minister for Arts, Gerry McCarthy, said the initiatives offered Territorian writers a great opportunity to gain exposure and network with industry peers.

“We have a huge talent pool in the NT so as part of the Territory 2030 strategy, the Henderson Government is working to boost the number of Territorians in the creative industries,” he said.

Member for Arafura and literature fan, Marion Scrymgour said it was a hard task for judges to determine the winners of the three competitions.

“The Awards attracted some strong entries that were uniquely Territorian and offered an insight into a visual, cultural and historical landscape that is vastly different to other parts of the nation,” she said.

The 2012 NT Literary Award winners were:

- *Pig* by Karen Manton - Dymocks Arafura Short Story Award
- *Kwatye Scours the Sand*, a sonnet by Michael Giacometti - Dymocks Red Earth Poetry Award
- *The Slow Living Diary* by Karen Manton - Charles Darwin University Bookshop Travel Short Story Award
- *Looking for Bertha Strehlow – giving voice to silence* by Leni Shilton - Charles Darwin University Essay Award
- *Territory Days* by Joey Flynn - Dymocks Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Writers’ Award
- *I’m Faster Than You Know* by Kierra-Jay Power - Kath Manzie Youth Literary Award
- *Lion Tamer* by Sandra Thibodeaux - Darwin Festival Script Award
- *Hopetown* by Mary Anne Butler - Birch Carroll and Coyle Screenwriting Award
The Chief Minister’s NT History Book Award joint winners were:

- **Great Central State: The Foundation Of Northern Territory** by Jack Cross - tells the story of South Australia’s ambitious plan to become the premier colony of Australia using its own unique experience in planned colonisation, and its bid to develop the north coast of Australia as an integral part of south-east Asia.

- **Darwin Frontiers by Anthony Cooper** - explores what happened after the Japanese air raids on Darwin on 19 February, 1942. To date, historical research into this period of Australian history has been on the initial air raids, this work details the air raids that continued over North West Australia in 1942-1943, about 70 in total.

And the Territory Read NT book of the year awards winners were:

- **Savannah Dreams by Lolla Stewart and Elaine Russell** - Children's Literature/Young Adult Fiction Award winner

- **Northern Voyagers by Professor Alan Powell** - Adult Non-Fiction Book of the Year and the Chief Minister's Book of the Year Award

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