Winners announced - Northern Territory Literary Awards

27 July 2016

The winners of the prestigious Northern Territory Literary Awards have been announced tonight at a ceremony at Parliament House.

Minister for Arts and Museums Gary Higgins congratulated the seven winners on the honour of winning their categories.

The 2016 awards attracted almost 300 entries across the seven categories, which include poetry, essays, short stories and travel writing as well as theatre scripts, flash fiction and a youth award.

Out of the 300 entries, the field was narrowed down to 24 finalists who were selected by an independent panel of judges and from which the seven winners were chosen.

The winners win cash prizes as well as NT Writers’ Centre membership and master class attendance.

All 2016 winners are Darwin based except for the poetry winner Leni Shilton, who lives in Alice Springs.

“It is so pleasing to have such a strong pool of finalists for the judges to choose the winning entries from,” Minister Higgins said.

“We truly have such depth in the Northern Territory and I offer my congratulations to all those who entered the awards,” he said.

The Northern Territory Library has run the awards since 2002, with the support of its sponsors.

The winners are:

**ZipPrint Short Story Award:** Johanna Bell, *Turning back*

**NT Writers Centre Poetry Award:** Leni Shilton, *Into the West - Bertha Strehlow’s journey to Piltadi*

**Charles Darwin University Travel Short Story Award:** Fernanda Dahlstrom, *God Willing*

**Charles Darwin University Essay Award:** Adelle Sefton-Rowston, *Cleansing and Catharsis: The River as Metaphor in Tony Birch’s Ghost River*

**Kath Manzie Youth Award:** Ashleigh Abram, *Visiting Hours*

**Browns Mart Theatre Award:** Sandra Thibodeaux, *The Age of Bones - Jaman Belulang*
Southern Cross Flash Fiction: Oliver Kent Coulter, Outpatient

Details of the cash prizes are here: https://nt.gov.au/leisure/arts-culture-heritage/northern-territory-literary-awards

The awards were announced tonight at a ceremony at Northern Territory Library at Parliament House in conjunction with the NT Writers' Centre's Territory Read Book awards.

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