

## PRESS RELEASE

### Announcing the results of the 2020 New England Thunderbolt Prize for Crime Writing

The New England Writers' Centre is delighted to announce the results of the 2020 New England Thunderbolt Prize for Crime Writing. The New England Thunderbolt Prize for Crime Writing is a national award for unpublished short-form crime writing in three main categories: Fiction, Non-Fiction and Poetry, sponsored by the New England Writers' Centre.

There are also three special awards: New England Award for a writer resident in New England; Emerging Author Award, for an unpublished writer over 18; and Youth Award, for writers under 18, sponsored by the Faculty of Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences and Education at UNE

#### The winners of the 2020 New England Thunderbolt Prize are as follows:

**Poetry:** Richenda Rudman (VIC), for *The River*.

**Fiction:** Kerry James (VIC) for *True Blue*.

**Non-Fiction:** Roderick Makim (NSW) for *The Late Guardian*.

**New England Award:** Roderick Makim (NSW) for *The Late Guardian*.

**Emerging Author Award:** Alyssa MacKay (QLD) for *"Monster in the Dark: The Murder of Betty Thomson Shanks"*

**Youth Award:** Eva Mustapic, age 17 (WA) for *The Dead Thing*.

Now in its eighth year in 2020, the Thunderbolt Prize for Crime Writing attracted a strong field of entries from all over Australia, by writers both published and unpublished.

It was exciting to see the Youth category well-represented, with strong submissions receiving commendations from the judges. Both the Non-fiction and New England Award were awarded to a local writer, and a number of Highly Commended and Commended citations awarded by judges in every category, with successful entries coming from all over Australia.

The New England Writers' Centre warmly congratulates all the winners, as well as everyone who received Highly Commended and Commended citations. A full list of winners, as well as all those highly commended and commended, is attached.

Judges this year were: Catherine Wright, Poetry; Linda Nix & Bronwyn Clarke, Fiction; Lili Paquet, Non-Fiction; and Jenny Blackford, Youth Award. All entries were judged anonymously, and the New England Award and Emerging Author Awards were chosen based on final commendations across all categories. All successful entries, along with judges' reports, will be published on the New England Writers' Centre website in November.

The New England Writers' Centre wishes to thank the hard-working and thoughtful judges and the generous co-sponsorship by the University of New England for helping to make 2020 another successful year for the Prize. And a big thank you to all entrants!

More information about the Thunderbolt Prize for Crime Writing can be found at on our website:  
<http://www.newc.org.au/thunderbolt-prize-2020.html>

## 2020 New England Thunderbolt Prize Winners & Commended

### Fiction

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**First Prize:** "True Blue" by Kerry James (VIC)

**Highly Commended:** "Looking for Deidre" by Carmel Bendon (NSW)

**Commended:** "Mine" by Rebecca Howden (VIC)

**Commended:** "The Mesh" by Coralie Sanderson (NSW)

### Non-Fiction

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**First Prize:** "The Late Guardian" by Roderick Makim (NSW)

**Highly Commended:** "Monster in the Dark: The Murder of Betty Thomson Shanks" by Alyssa MacKay (QLD)

**Commended:** "On the Desecration of William Lanne" by David Vernon (ACT)

### Poetry

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**First Prize:** "The River" by Richenda Rudman (VIC)

**Highly Commended:** "EndangeRED" by Margaret Ruckert (NSW)

**Commended:** "Revenge Takes the Cake" by Kristin Murdoch (SA)

**Commended:** "Leah" by Paul Prenter (NSW)

### The Youth Award

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**First Prize:** "The Dead Thing" by Eva Mustapic (WA)

**Highly Commended:** "Yellow Mist" by Tara Chau (NSW)

**Commended:** "The Black Square" by Eliza Brown (NSW)

**Commended:** "UnAustralian Corona-Crime" by Elizaveta Fedotova (WA)

**Commended:** "Accidental Murder" by Isabelle Schubert (SA)

### The New England Award

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"The Late Guardian" by Roderick Makim (NSW)

### The Emerging Authors Award

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"Monster in the Dark: The Murder of Betty Thomson Shanks" by Alyssa MacKay (QLD)