

PRESS RELEASE

Announcing the results of the 2023 New England Thunderbolt Prize for Crime Writing

The New England Writers' Centre (NEWC) is delighted to announce the results of the [2023 New England Thunderbolt Prize for Crime Writing](#). The Thunderbolt Prize is a national award for unpublished short-form crime writing in three main categories: Fiction, Non-Fiction and Poetry. 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are also three special awards: New England Award for a writer resident in New England; Emerging Author Award, for an unpublished writer over 18; and Youth Award, for writers under 18 years.

The competition is managed and promoted by the New England Writers' Centre and supported by New England businesses. Our sponsors this year include the generous support of Armidale Central Rotary, New England Brewing Co., Golden Orb Creative, and the Armidale Branch of the Australian Decorative & Fine Arts Society.

The winners of the 2023 New England Thunderbolt Prize for Crime Writing, are:

Fiction: Janice Shaw (NSW) for *Collateral Damage*.

Non-Fiction: David Vernon (ACT) for *Two Peas*.

Poetry: Roger Vickery (NSW), for *Sea Stitch*.

New England Award: Jann Karp (NSW) for *A Country Phone Call*.

Emerging Author Award: Emma Andrews (NSW) for *They Came to Watch Mrs Monty*

Youth Award: Violette Amouroux (NSW) for *The Lacquered Box*.

Now in its 11th year, the Thunderbolt Prize for Crime Writing continues to attract a strong field of entries from all over Australia, by writers both published and unpublished. The NEWC is particularly excited to see students from a wide variety of schools, from all over Australia, submitting to the Youth Category.

The New England Writers' Centre warmly congratulates all the winners and commended writers. A full list of prize winners and commended titles is attached.

Our esteemed judges this year were: Ashley Kalagian Blunt (Fiction); Tony Maniaty (Non-Fiction); Jamie Grant (Poetry), and Judith Rossell (Youth). All entries were judged anonymously, and the New England Award and Emerging Author Awards were chosen based on final commendations across all categories. The winning entries, together with our judges' reports, are published on the NEWC's website.

The New England Writers' Centre wishes to thank our wonderful judges and the generous sponsorship of local businesses for helping to make 2023 yet another successful year for the Thunderbolt Prize. And a big thank you to all entrants!

More information about this year's Thunderbolt Prize, including the winning entries and our judges' reports, can be found here: [2023 Thunderbolt Prize for Crime Writing](#).

2023 New England Thunderbolt Prize Winners & Commended

Fiction

Sponsored by

First Prize: "Collateral Damage," by Janice Shaw (NSW)

Commended: "Blindside" by Barry Divola (WA)

Commended: "You Mustn't Leave Nelly Alone" by Anita Punton (VIC)



Non-Fiction

First Prize: "Two Peas" by David Vernon (ACT)

Commended: "Black and Blue" by Tess Merlin (QLD)

Commended: "They Came to Watch Mrs Monty" by Emma Andrews (VIC)



Poetry

First Prize: "Sea Stitch" by Roger Vickery (NSW)

Commended: "A Country Phone Call" by Jann Karp (NSW)

Commended: "In Witness Protection" by Pippa Kay (NSW)

Commended: "Knots – A Triptych" by Scott-Patrick Mitchell (WA)



The Youth Award (under 18 yrs)

First Prize: "The Lacquered Box" by Violette Amouroux (NSW)

Commended: "A Missing Ship" by Ben Delaney (NSW)

Commended: "The Last Digger" by Isabelle Schubert (SA)

Commended: "Leda and the Swan" by Grace Henderson (NSW)



The New England Award

"A Country Phone Call" by Jann Karp (NSW)



The Emerging Authors Award (over 18 yrs)

"Emma Andrews" by They Came to Watch Mrs Monty (VIC)

