



**Media Release:**

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## **2009 NT Literary Awards and Chief Minister's NT History Book Award**

The Territory's best poems, short stories, essays and published books were rewarded during the 2009 Northern Territory Literary Awards and the Chief Minister's Northern Territory History Book Award, announced at a ceremony at Parliament House on Friday, 9 October 2009.

Northern Territory Library Director Jo McGill congratulated all the writers who entered.

"This year a panel of 15 judges including interstate publishers, international authors, local journalists and academics had the task of determining the most outstanding work of literary merit for each category," Ms McGill said.

"The Literary Awards, established in 1984 to recognise significant contributions to the Northern Territory's literature culture, offer Territory writers' an industry-recognised award and is a great asset to a writer's career.

"For the first time, entrants in the 2009 Northern Territory Literary Awards were able to access the comments made by the judges, with the aim of further encouraging and nurturing emerging talent.

More than 200 entries were received from across the Territory, with 22 finalists for the six literary award categories. Finalists included:

### **Charles Darwin University Bookshop Travel Short Story Award**

#### **Barbara Eather – *Castronomy* (winner)**

Mary Allmich – *Against the Odds*

Claire Marron – *Tigers and Goats*

### **Charles Darwin University Essay Award**

#### **Roland Dyrting – *The Poinciana Woman of East Point* (winner)**

Mary Anne Butler – *...Drowning...*

Kieran Finnane – *Firework*

Leni Shilton – *Larapinta Trail: Notes from a Journal*

### **Dymocks Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Writers' Award**

#### **Ellen Maria Pocock – *Time Marches On* (winner)**

Joy Cardona – *The Buffalo Shooter*

### **Dymocks Arafura Short Story Award**

#### **Karen Manton – *Hannah's Bread* (winner)**

Michael Giacommetti – *Encounter at Kalaykapi, circa 1880*

Glenn Morrison – *The Mad Woman*

Natalie Sprite – *This is What Love Sounds Like*

Angela Schoen – *Ten Birds and Revelations*

### **Dymocks Red Earth Poetry Award**

#### **Dani Powell – *Sketch of This Day* (winner)**

Kaye Aldenhoven – *Cows, Stuart Highway*

Kelly-Lee Hickey – *Sustenance*

Kelly-Lee Hickey – *Reflux*  
Fred Vant Sand – *Thirty Years*

**Kath Manzie Youth Literary Award**

**Shona Welsh - *Oubliette* (winner)**

Rosie O'Reilly – *In Fertile Wet*

Oceana Pastor-Eisgood – *Taj and the Creature*

“The Northern Territory Library is proud to act as custodian of these awards, we endeavour to cultivate a prosperous creative writing industry in the Territory, and aim to inspire a new generation of writers,” Ms McGill said.

“The Chief Minister’s Northern Territory History Book Awards recognise a book that documents the history of the Territory and was published in 2008,” Ms McGill said.

“The Award received seven entrants, but the two finalists *Yalangbara: art of the Djang’kawu* and *Lives of the Papunya Tula Artists* particularly impressed the judges and ended up joint winners for the 2009 Award.

“*Yalangbara: art of the Djang’kawu* by the Marika family and the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory is the first Indigenous art publication to focus upon one significant ancestral site Yalangbara (Port Bradshaw).

“*Lives of the Papunya Tula Artists* by Vivien Johnson celebrates 50,000 years of culture, covering half a million square kilometres of country, across five deserts.

“Both books really fit the bill for the Chief Ministers NT History Book Award, which aims to develop an appreciation and understanding of not only who we are, but where we came from.”

Entries for the 2010 Northern Territory Literary Awards and the Chief Minister’s Northern Territory History Book Award are now open, with the new closing date on the 31 January 2010 for the NT Literary Awards and 28 February 2010 for Chief Ministers NT History Book Award.

The awards ceremony for 2010 will be held in May to coincide with the NT Writers Centres WORDSTORM writers’ festival.

Ends

**Media Note – for more information contact Jo McGill on 8999 5562**

**Image – Winner of the Charles Darwin University Essay Award Roland Dyrting with Professor Wendy Brady from Charles Darwin University**

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