

Media Release

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McGahan and Westerfeld among top authors named in Aurealis Award honours

Bestselling authors Scott Westerfeld and Andrew McGahan are some of the authors competing for the 2009 Aurealis Awards.

Aurealis Awards Coordinator Ron Serdiuk today announced 54 writers and illustrators of science fiction, fantasy and horror have been shortlisted for awards in 13 categories, honouring excellence in Australian speculative fiction.

Mr Serdiuk said the shortlist demonstrated the strength of creative talent within the genre in Australia.

“Our Aussie authors are some of the best in the business,” Mr Serdiuk said.

“Many of the names on this list aren’t just prominent within the science fiction and fantasy genre. They include Scott Westerfeld and Andrew McGahan, authors who are critically acclaimed and enjoyed throughout Australia and the world.

“This shortlist represents a fantastic reading list of the top authors in Australian speculative fiction.”

Mr Serdiuk said the shortlist was chosen by independent judging panels comprised of writers, librarians, publishers, booksellers, editors and readers from around Australia. The judges collectively reviewed hundreds of books and stories.

In total, almost 600 works were nominated encompassing novels, short stories, young adult and children’s books. The awards also recognise anthologies and collections, and illustrated books and graphic novels for adults.

Award winners will be announced at the Aurealis Awards Gala Ceremony on Saturday, 23 January 2010 at the Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts in Brisbane.

“Over the last decade we’ve seen the Aurealis Awards grow from a small community-based ceremony attended by a few writers, into a major event on the literary calendar attended by authors, publishers, editors, industry professionals and members of the public from around Australia,” Mr Serdiuk said.

The awards ceremony in January will be the last to be hosted in Brisbane by local association Fantastic Queensland.

“Brisbane has been at the heart of speculative fiction professional development over the last several years. Fantastic Queensland has driven that development through the programs and has been a proud host of the Aurealis Awards.”

Anyone interested in attending the Awards ceremony in January should visit the website for further information or to book their place at the event:

www.aurealisawards.com

For media enquiries please contact Ron Serdiuk on 0414 356 235

2009 Aurealis Awards shortlists:

best children's novel

Deborah Abela, *The Remarkable Secret of Aurelie Bonhoffen*, Random House Australia

Kate Constable, *Cicada Summer*, Allen & Unwin

Jen Storer, *Tensy Farlow and the Home for Mislaid Children*, Penguin/Viking

Gabrielle Wang, *A Ghost in My Suitcase*, Puffin Books

best children's illustrated work/picture book

Graeme Base, *Enigma*, Penguin/Viking

Anna Fienberg, Kim Gamble, *Tashi and the Golem*, Allen & Unwin

Pamela Freeman, Kim Gamble, *Victor's Challenge*, Walker Books Australia

Dan McGuinness, *Pilot and Huxley*, Omnibus Books

Gregory Rogers, *The Hero of Little Street*, Allen & Unwin

best young adult novel

Kate Forsyth, *The Puzzle Ring*, Pan Macmillan

Cassandra Golds, *The Museum of Mary Child*, Puffin Books

Glenda Millard, *A Small Free Kiss in the Dark*, Allen & Unwin

Scott Westerfeld, *Leviathan Trilogy: Book One*, Penguin

Sean Williams, *Scarecrow*, HarperCollins Publishers Australia

best young adult short story

Joanne Anderton, 'Dragon Bones', *Andromeda Spaceways Inflight Magazine*, #39, Andromeda Spaceways Publishing Co-operative Ltd

Sue Isle, 'Paper Dragons', *Shiny #5*, Twelfth Planet Press

Ian McHugh, 'Once a Month, on a Sunday', *Andromeda Spaceways Inflight Magazine*, #40, Andromeda Spaceways Publishing Co-operative Ltd

Tansy Rayner Roberts, 'Like Us', *Shiny #5*, Twelfth Planet Press

Cat Sparks, 'Seventeen', *Masques*, CSFG

best illustrated book/graphic novel:

Nathan Jurevicius, *Scarygirl*, Allen & Unwin

Bruce Mutard, *The Silence*, Allen & Unwin

Emily Rodda & Marc McBride, *Secrets of Deltora*, Scholastic Australia

Madeleine Rosca *Hollow Fields*, Seven Seas Entertainment

best anthology

Alisa Krasnostein (editor), *New Ceres Nights*, Twelfth Planet Press

Keith Stevenson (editor), *X6*, Coeur de Lion Publishing

Jonathan Strahan (editor), *Eclipse 2*, Night Shade Books

Jonathan Strahan (editor), *Eclipse 3*, Night Shade Books

Jonathan Strahan (editor), *The New Space Opera 2*, Harper Eos

best collection

Deborah Biancotti & Alisa Krasnostein (editor), *A Book of Endings*, Twelfth Planet Press

Greg Egan, *Oceanic*, Gollancz

Paul Haines & Geoff Maloney (editor), *Slice of Life*, The Mayne Press

Robbie Matthews & Donna Hanson (editor), *Johnny Phillips Werewolf Detective*, Australian Speculative Fiction

best horror novel

Peter Ball, *Horn*, Twelfth Planet Press
Honey Brown, *Red Queen*, Penguin Australia
Stephen M. Irwin, *The Dead Path*, Hachette Australia
Tracey O'Hara, *Night's Cold Kiss*, HarperCollins Publishers Australia
Kaaron Warren, *Slights*, Angry Robot Books

best horror short story

Felicity Dowker, 'Jesse's Gift', *Andromeda Spaceways Inflight Magazine*, #40, Andromeda Spaceways Publishing Co-operative Ltd
Christopher Green, 'Having Faith', *Nossa Morte*, February 2009
Paul Haines, 'Wives', *X6*, Coeur de Lion Publishing
Paul Haines, 'Slice of Life — A Spot of Liver', *Slice of Life*, The Mayne Press
Andrew J. McKiernan, 'The Message', *Midnight Echoes*, Australian Horror Writers Association

best fantasy novel

Peter Ball, *Horn*, Twelfth Planet Press
Trudi Canavan, *Magician's Apprentice*, Orbit
Glenda Larke, *The Last Stormlord*, HarperVoyager
K.E. Mills, *Witches Incorporated*, HarperVoyager
K.J. Taylor, *The Dark Griffin*, HarperVoyager

best fantasy short story

Christopher Green, 'Father's Kill', *Beneath Ceaseless Skies*, #24
Ian McHugh, 'Once a Month, On a Sunday', *Andromeda Spaceways Inflight Magazine*, #40, Andromeda Spaceways Publishing Co-operative Ltd
Tansy Rayner Roberts, 'Siren Beat', *Roadkill/Siren Beat*, Twelfth Planet Press
Angela Slatter, 'Words' *The Lifted Brow*, #5
Lucy Sussex, 'Something Better than Death', *Aurealis*, #42, Chimaera Publications

best science fiction novel

Andrew McGahan, *Wonders of a Godless World*, Allen & Unwin
Sean Williams, *The Grand Conjunction, Astropolis Book Three*, Orbit

best science fiction short story

Peter M. Ball, 'Clockwork, Patchwork and Ravens', *Apex Magazine*, May 2009
Peter M. Ball, 'To Dream of Stars: An Astronomer's Lament', *Apex Magazine*, October 2009
Christopher Green, 'A Hundredth Name', *Abyss & Apex Magazine*, #31
Greg Mellor, 'Defence of the Realm', *Cosmos*, #25
Mike Resnick & Lezli Robyn, 'Soulmates' *Asimov's*, September 2009

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