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**Celebration: 25th Davitt Awards for the best crime books by Australian women**



*Proudly supported by Swinburne University of Technology, Department of Media and Communication*

A capacity crowd is expected at Sisters in Crime's celebration for its 25<sup>th</sup> Davitt Awards for best crime books by Australian women – Friday 5 September at Melbourne's Angliss Restaurant.

"We have so much to celebrate – not just the 150 crime books in contention this year but the boost the Davitts have given to women's crime writing overall in the past 25 years," said Davitts coordinator **Ruth Wykes**.

"Back in 2001, when former Victoria Police Commissioner **Christine Nixon** launched the Davitt Awards at our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary SheKilda convention, only seven books were in competition. Since then, Australian women's crime writing has gone gangbusters, winning audiences and awards right around the globe.

"A swag of Davitt Award winners has gone on to have global success – **Jane Harper, Liane Moriarty, Emma Viskic, Sulari Gentill, Ellie Marney, Jacqueline Bublitz, Sally Hepworth, Dervla McTiernan, Alison Goodman, Hannah Kent, Malla Nunn, Heather Rose, and Judith Rossell**.

"Their books are increasingly being translated to screen – and with great success. Both Jane Harper and Liane Moriarty have three books that we've seen on the small screen or at the movies. Sunday nights on the ABC at the moment we're enjoying *The Family Next Door*, based on Sally Hepworth's domestic thriller of the same name. And there's more to come. . ."

Multi-award-winning author [Ellie Marney](#) will present Davitt Awards in six categories: Best Adult Crime Novel, Best Children's Crime Novel, Best Young Adult Crime Novel, Best Non-Fiction Book, Best Debut Book (any category) and the newly named Kerry Greenwood Readers' Choice Award, as judged by the 600+ members of Sisters in Crime. Marney will first discuss her life in crime with another multi-award-winning author, [Cate Kennedy](#).

Marney said that her first big break as a writer was through Sisters in Crime when she won the Scarlet Stiletto Award trophy for best short story in 2010. She went on to win the Davitt Award (Young Adult) in 2015 and was highly commended in 2018. Her titles for teens and adults include the *New York Times* bestseller *None Shall Sleep*, the Kirkus-starred sequel *Some Shall Break*, and fan favourite series finale *All Shall Mourn*, as well as CBCA Notable standalone *The Killing Code*. Her Every Breath series (2013-2015), set in Australia, helped establish her credentials.

"It seems a little surreal to now be presenting the Sisters in Crime 25th (silver anniversary!) Davitt Awards more than 15 years later. The Davitts are a fantastic recognition of achievement, and a

reminder of how much women writers contribute to the field of crime and thriller writing in this country. I'm very proud to hand out the awards for this year's ceremony," Marney said.

Emma Viskic has more Davitt Awards under her belt than any other author – three in 2016 for her debut Caleb Zelic debut, *Resurrection Bay*, a fourth in 2018 for the next in the series, *And the Fire Came Down* and a fifth in 2020, a joint Readers' Choice Award for *Darkness for Light*.

"The Davitts have changed the landscape of Australian crime fiction. I didn't know anyone in the writing world before my debut novel, *Resurrection Bay*, was published. The Davitts helped it into the international market. The Sisters' support and the awards have been instrumental in building my career. They've inspired me to pay it forward, by mentoring women and underrepresented writers. Because, if I've learnt one thing from the Sisters, it's that everyone's stronger when we're a community: readers, writers, publishers and booksellers."

Thirteen books made it to Davitts shortlist this year – five adult novels, three non-fiction books, two YA adult novels, and three children's novels. Three of the books in contention are debut works. All 34 debut books are under consideration for the Debut Award. All shortlisted books will be on sale on the night courtesy of the Sun Bookshop, Sisters in Crime's long-term supporter. (View shortlist here: <https://sistersincrime.org.au/davitt-awards-2025-short-list/>)

Attendees are urged to wear a splash of silver, the traditional colour for a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The Davitts are named after **Ellen Davitt**, the author of Australia's first mystery novel, *Force and Fraud*, in 1865.

The awards are handsome wooden trophies featuring the front cover of the winning book under perspex.

The judging panel for 2025 comprised **Ruth Wykes**, 2016 Scarlet Stiletto Award winner, author, editor and review editor; **Professor Emerita Christina Lee**, 1994 and 1996 Scarlet Stiletto Award winner; **Morag Kisler**, Sisters in Crime's Secretary, and former review editor; **Romany Rzechowicz**, 2023 Scarlet Stiletto Award winner and communications manager; **Dr Philomena Horsley**, winner of the 2018 Scarlet Stiletto Award and medical autopsy expert; **Ashleigh Meikle**, blogger; writer, editor, proofreader, book reviewer; and **Cecile Shanahan**, editor, proof-reader and co-curator of the Bendigo Writers Festival.

The Davitts are again supported by the [Swinburne University of Technology](#).

**25<sup>th</sup> Davitt Awards: Friday 5 September. 6.00pm for 6.30pm, Angliss Restaurant, 550 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne. Accessible venue. Book by Friday 29 August:**  
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/sisters-in-crimes-25th-davitt-awards-dinner-tickets-1533502931549>

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<https://sistersincrime.org.au/davitt-awards-2025/>