

12 June 2026

Media Release 26th Annual Davitt Awards

Sisters in Crime Australia has announced the 2026 Davitt Awards Longlist.

For a quarter of a century, Sisters in Crime Australia has been shining a spotlight on the incredible achievements of women crime writers of fiction and non-fiction. From the first year of the Davitt Awards with its seven entries, to the present day where over 100 books are entered each year, it's been an astonishing journey, filled with inspiring talent and unforgettable stories.

The judges of the 2026 Davitt Awards have selected a longlist of books that reflect the excellent quality and maturity of stories written by Australian women crime writers. These stories are notable for their originality, depth and the high level of the authors' skills, with narratives covering a diverse landscape of themes and ideas.

Ruth Wykes, Davitt Awards Judges' Chair, observed that the 2026 entries that stood out '*were the ones that entertained, challenged, taught us, and stayed with us long after we had read the final chapters. Stories that were bold and brave, or beautifully nuanced.*'

'The stronger contenders this year were those who created depth in their protagonists, who avoided cliches in developing stories and those who raised the bar for crime writers in Australia. I'm inspired by the incredible talent of our Australian women crime writers, and I include the number of authors whose books narrowly missed out on reaching the longlist. They are all gifted and world-class writers,' said Wykes.

This year, 126 books were entered into the 26th Davitt Awards across four categories. There are 28 books remaining in contention for the coveted Davitt Awards: 16 adult fiction, 3 non-fiction, 3 young adult and 6 children's books, including debut authors and self-published books. Sisters in Crime and the Davitt Awards' judges are proud to unveil the 2026 Davitt Awards Longlist.

The 2026 Davitt Awards Longlist authors are (by category):

ADULT FICTION – 16 books

Shaeden Barry, *At Café 64*, (Echo Publishing)

Jane Caro, *Lyrebird*, (Allen & Unwin)

Shankari Chandran, *Unfinished Business*, (Ultimo Press)

Pip Fioretti, *Skull River*, (Affirm Press)

Sara Foster, *When She Was Gone*, (Harper Collins Australia)

Susan Francis, *Revelation Beach*, (Wild Dingo Press)

Zeyneb Gamiieldien, *Learned Behaviours*, (Ultimo Press)

Fiona Hardy, *Unbury The Dead*, (Affirm Press)

Sally Hepworth, *Mad Mabel*, (Macmillan Australia)

Elise Janes, *The Canvas Killings*, (JETT Books)

Joanna Jenkins, *The Bluff*, (Allen & Unwin)

Angie Faye Martin, *Melaleuca*, (HQ Fiction) **Debut**

Laura McCluskey, *The Wolf Tree*, (Harper Collins Australia) **Debut**

Fleur McDonald, *The Prospect*, (Harper Collins Australia)

Tanya Scott, *Stillwater*, (Allen & Unwin) **Debut**

Patricia Wolf, *Nemesis*, (Echo Publishing)

NON-FICTION – 3 books

Sonia Orchard, *Groomed*, (Simon & Schuster)

Lucy Sussex & Megan Brown, *Outrageous Fortunes, the biography of Mary and Geroge Fortune*, (Black Inc Books)

Kate Wild, *The Red House*, (Allen & Unwin)

YOUNG ADULT – 3 books

Amy Doak, *What Have They done to Liza McLean?*, (Penguin Randon House Australia)

Kate Emery, *A Murder Is Going Down*, (Allen & Unwin)

Carla Salmon, *We Saw What You Started*, (Pan Macmillan Australia) **Debut**

CHILDREN'S BOOKS – 6 books

Sarah Armstrong, *Run*, (Hardie Grant Children's)

Gisela Ervin-Ward, *True South*, (Midnight Sun) **Debut**

Jacqueline Harvey, *The Girl and the Ghost*, (Penguin Randon House Australia)

Amelia Mellor, *Oceanforged: The Wicked Ship*, (Simon & Schuster Australia)

Jessica Townsend, *Silverborn: The Mystery of Morigan Crow*, (Hachette Children's)

Sue Whiting, *Promises and Other Lies*, (Walker Books)

Author **Vikki Wakefield**, winner of the **2025 Davitt Award for Best Adult Fiction**, for her novel *To the River*, said:

'Accept(ing) the 2025 Davitt Adult Fiction Award was the highest compliment. Not only did winning this award give my work a boost on a professional level, on a personal one it gave me new connections with the wider community of Australian women crime writers and readers. (And, of course, the Davitt ceremonies are legendary - Sisters know how to get frocked up!).'

Since winning the Davitt Award, Vikki Wakefield also won the Best Paperback Original at the Edgar Allan Poe Awards for *To The River*.

Hayley Scrivenor, 2023 Davitt Award winner of Best Debut Book for her novel *Dirt Town*, recently remarked on how the Awards are so important: *'(you know) your work has been read and appreciated. I want to thank the whole Sisters in Crime community because you really lift up and celebrate Australian female crime writers...I'm really excited to see who the next batch of Davitt Award nominees and winners will be'*. Other previous winners, including Emma Viskic, Meg Mundell, Erin Gough and Ellie Marney, have also shared the positive impact and career opportunities that receiving a Davitt Award has given them, on the **Sisters in Crime Instagram page**: <https://www.instagram.com/sistersincrimeau/>

Sisters in Crime is proud to continue this tradition of promoting women authors and congratulates all authors that have made the Longlist!

Stay tuned for updates on how to vote for the Kerry Greenwood Readers' Choice Award (open to Sisters in Crime financial members) and the announcements of the Shortlist and the 2026 Davitt Awards Ceremony.

Media Contact: Ruth Wykes, Davitt Awards Judges' Chair, email: davitts@sistersincrime.org.au or phone: 0407 898 754

Further information: <https://sistersincrime.org.au/davitt-awards-2026/>