

24 July 2026

Media Release
26th Annual Davitt Awards

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

The judges of the 2026 Davitt Awards are pleased to announce that Australian women crime writers continue to demonstrate a high calibre of writing. For over a quarter of a century, Sisters in Crime Australia has been shining a spotlight on the incredible achievements of women crime writers, of both fiction and non-fiction. This year 126 books were entered into the 26th Davitt Awards across four categories. Sisters in Crime congratulates all 16 authors that have made the shortlist.

Ruth Wykes, Davitt Awards Judges' Chair, reports that:

"The shortlist showcases everything that's exciting about Australian women crime writers in 2026. These stories are beautifully written. They are highly original and thought-provoking and reflect many of the challenges, conflicts and often the things we love best, about contemporary Australian culture".

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

ADULT FICTION – 6 books

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

Zeyneb Gamiieldien, *Learned Behaviours* (Ultimo Press)

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

Sally Hepworth, *Mad Mabel* (Macmillan Australia)

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

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

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 Random 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 – 4 books

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

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

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

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

Georgia Harper, winner of the 2025 Best Debut Crime Book for *What I Would Do to You*, reflected on being shortlisted last year:

"As a debut author, hearing I'd been shortlisted for the 2025 Davitt Awards was a massive highlight of my publication journey. To have my work recognised by Sisters in Crime was an enormous compliment, and has encouraged me to keep writing, even during the tough times!"

26th Davitt Awards Ceremony – Save the Date!

This year the Davitt Awards for best crime books by Australian women will be presented by Dervla McTiernan and hosted by Louise Milligan and celebrated with a sit-down dinner at the Stamford Plaza, 111 Little Collins St, Melbourne on Saturday 12 September, 6.30pm. Booking details to come soon.

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