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Media Release

26th Annual Davitt Awards Winners

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.

This year, 126 books were entered into the 26th Davitt Awards across four categories, with 14 books being shortlisted.

On 12 of September, the awards ceremony, hosted by Louise Milligan, a multi-Walkley award winning investigative journalist for Four Corners, and the best-selling author of *Pheasants Nest*, was held at Stamford Plaza, Melbourne.

Over 100 guests were present to witness Dervla McTiernan, bestselling author of the Cormac Reilly novels, *The Murder Rule*, and *What Happened to Nina?* present the Davitt Awards to the 2026 winners.

And the winners are...

Best Adult Fiction: Joanna Jenkins, *The Bluff*, (Allen & Unwin)

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

Best Young Adult Novel: Amy Doak, *What Have They done to Liza McLean?* (Penguin Random House Australia)

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

Highly Commended – Children's Novel: Amelia Mellor, *Oceanforged: The Wicked Ship*, (Simon & Schuster Australia)

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

Kerry Greenwood Readers' Choice Award: Sally Hepworth, *Mad Mabel*, (Macmillan Australia)

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

Thanks to the Ruffin Falkiner Foundation and Swinburne University of Technology for their support and sponsorship of the awards.

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