

Writing NSW Grants: 2016 recipients announced

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The NSW Writers' Centre has announced the inaugural recipients of its Writing NSW Grants for early career writers, an emerging writing organisation, and a writer and technologist working on a joint project.

Four early career writers will receive a grant of \$5000 to support creation of new work, with projects including a poetry collection drawing on Wiradjuri storytelling traditions and a multi-platform young adult novel integrated with an online game.

Sydney collective Subbed In will also receive a \$5000 grant to support its program of events and publications featuring emerging writers. The \$2000 grant for a writer and technologist will assist a social media project to raise the profile of women writers from Australia and the Pacific.

The judges were particularly impressed by the quality of applications in the early career writer category, saying at least another dozen writers deserved to be funded.

The Writing NSW Grants are offered by the NSW Writers' Centre with devolved funding from Arts NSW.

"These grants create some really exciting new opportunities for writers and writing in our state," NSW Writers' Centre Executive Director Jane McCredie said.

"One of our key aims at the Writers' Centre is to help writers build sustainable careers, and access to new forms of financial support is an important part of that. By supporting writers early in their careers, and by fostering innovation and access across the sector and across the state, we hope the new grants program will help to produce some major new writing talents."

Arts NSW Executive Director Michael Brearley said the funding was supporting exciting new projects to help foster a vibrant, diverse and innovative culture throughout the state.

"The NSW Government is proud to support our emerging writers and the organisations which support them as part of this state's dynamic arts and cultural sector."

The full list of recipients is on the next page.

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Early Career Writer Grants

Khyiah Angel (Ryde) for her multi-platform YA thriller, *Jordan's Journey*. The fast-paced story will be told through a print book and online game developed by the author, an innovative approach designed to promote teenagers' interest in narrative.

Jacqueline Dent (West Pennant Hills) for her YA novel, *The Ghost Thief Gets Sam Walker*. This speculative fiction novel showed a clever concept, supported by atmospheric writing and a well realised fictional world.

Drew Rooke (Marrickville) for his non-fiction book on the poker machine industry, *The Final Spin*. The author will research this important topic through interviews with gamblers, government and industry representatives, neuroscientists and anti-gambling campaigners.

Kerri Shying (Mayfield, Hunter) for her poetry collection, *Walking in the tall weeds*. The author draws on the oral storytelling traditions of her Wiradjuri and Chinese heritage to craft assured, economical poems with strong use of humour and the vernacular.

Emerging Writing Organisation Grant

Subbed In, for its program of literary events, workshops and associated publications staged around Sydney. The collective provides grassroots support for new and diverse voices as well as helping emerging writers to achieve publication or performance.

Writer & Technologist Grant

Anna Kerr and Spider Redgold for their project, Women Write Wiki, which will use social media and other digital platforms to raise the profile of Australian and Pacific women writers. This collaborative project will see a diverse group of contributors create Wikipedia entries and Instagram pages for under-recognised.

Judges

Judges for the Early Career Writer Grants and Emerging Writing Organisation Grant were writers Emily Maguire and Walter Mason and NSW Writers' Centre Executive Director Jane McCredie. Assessors for the Writer & Technologist Grant were Jane McCredie and Tea Uglow, creative director of the Google Creative Lab, Sydney.