



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Thursday, 29 September 2005

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Premier's Literary Awards

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Treasurer) (9.45 am): Last night I was pleased to announce the winners of the 2005 Queensland Premier's Literary Awards. These awards are Australia's richest literary awards, with a prize purse of \$235,000, for those whose vocation it is to stir debate, entertain, educate and challenge. Indeed, we have a writers' festival on here at the moment which I will be attending later today. In particular, I want to congratulate in the 'literary or media work advancing public debate' category the Harry Williams award winner, the *Courier-Mail's* Hedley Thomas, for his success for 'Sickness in the System'. As you know, Mr Speaker, his use of a mouse on the internet exposed what happened in Bundaberg. While I have not agreed with everything Hedley has written, I congratulate him on this award and I congratulate him on the initiative he took. I seek leave to incorporate details in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

In seven years, these awards have become a Smart State tradition, honouring professional and aspiring writers from across the nation and across Queensland.

This year for the first time we awarded a \$10,000 in-kind encouragement and development prize for an emerging Queensland author—Simon Cleary of Windsor for his story *The Comfort of Figs*.

These awards recognise that writers who cause the most discomfort can be the most important—and that is clear from the judges' choices.

They had a tough job to distinguish the 15 winners from 797 entries.

The entrants' high standard gives hope to those of us who hanker for a great read penned by an Aussie and—even better—a Queenslander.

The winners are:

FICTION BOOK AWARD (\$25,000)

Tim Winton for *The Turning*

EMERGING QUEENSLAND AUTHOR—MANUSCRIPT AWARD (\$20,000)

Patrick Holland for *The Long Road of the Junkmailer*

UNPUBLISHED INDIGENOUS WRITER—THE DAVID UNAIPON AWARD (\$15,000)

Yvette Holt for *Anonymous Premonition*

NON-FICTION BOOK AWARD (\$15,000)

Geoffrey Bardon and James Bardon for *Papunya—A Place Made After the Story*

HISTORY BOOK AWARD (\$15,000)

Shane White and Graham White for *The Sounds of Slavery: Discovering African American History Through Songs, Sermons and Speech*

CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD (\$15,000)

Prue Mason for *Camel Rider*

YOUNG ADULT BOOK AWARD (\$15,000)

Joanne Horniman for *Secret Scribbled Notebooks*

SCIENCE WRITER—DEPARTMENT OF STATE DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION AWARD (\$15,000)

Elizabeth Finkel for Stem Cells

POETRY COLLECTION—ARTS QUEENSLAND JUDITH WRIGHT CALANTHE AWARD (\$15,000)

Sarah Day for The Ship

AUSTRALIAN SHORT STORY COLLECTION—ARTS QUEENSLAND STEELE RUDD AWARD (\$15,000)

John Clanchy for Vincenzo's Garden

LITERARY OR MEDIA WORK ADVANCING PUBLIC DEBATE—THE HARRY WILLIAMS AWARD (\$15,000)

Hedley Thomas for Sickness in the System

FILM SCRIPT—PACIFIC FILM AND TELEVISION COMMISSION AWARD (\$15,000)

Jacquelin Perske for Little Fish

TELEVISION SCRIPT—QUT CREATIVE INDUSTRIES AWARD (\$15,000)

Sue Smith for RAN (Remote Area Nurse)—Episode 5—Blue Hawaii

DRAMA SCRIPT (STAGE) AWARD (\$15,000)

Van Badham for Black Hands/ Dead Section

ENCOURAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PRIZE (\$10 000 in-kind)

Simon Cleary for The Comfort of Figs