

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release



The Big Issue celebrates literary talent in milestone 20th Fiction Edition

The Big Issue is back with its 20th annual Fiction Edition, on sale across Australia from today Friday 16 August.

The milestone issue includes new short fiction from 13 writers, who were selected from an incredible entry pool of 808 submissions around the country.

Since it was first launched in 2004, the Fiction Edition has become the biggest-selling fiction magazine in Australia. The short story competition is a rare opportunity for new and emerging writers to see their work published in a national print magazine. There is no entry fee to the competition and each published author receives a prize of \$500.

The Big Issue editor Amy Hetherington says that the beloved bumper issue isn't only a highlight for readers and vendors, but an increasingly valuable showcase of local talent.

"To make it to the 20th year of the Fiction Edition shows how important it is to have an accessible platform in Australia for anyone with a story to tell," she says.

"Aside from being a best-selling edition for our vendors, the Fiction Edition is an extraordinary opportunity for emerging writers to share their work on a national scale. The Edition is full of fantastic stories, and I congratulate all our successful writers!"

The Fiction Edition – which boasts 16 more pages than usual editions – was made possible by the generous support of the Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund. Submissions were anonymously judged by Melissa Fulton, Daniel James and Claire Cao, as well as *The Big Issue* editorial team. Original illustrations are by Adelaide-based artist Alice Lindstrom. Read about this year's contributors below.

The Fiction Edition has provided a launchpad for writers who've gone on to have prolific literary careers. Crime writer Jane Harper was inspired to write her international bestseller *The Dry* after her short story 'Spiders and Flies' was published in the 2014 Fiction Edition. Melissa Manning's 2018 story 'Stone' formed part of her *Smokehouse* collection, which won the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Fiction in 2022. Other writers discovered through the submissions process have gone on to win the Miles Franklin and Vogel Literary Awards.

Copies are available for \$9 from *The Big Issue* vendors around the country. Vendors are equipped for cash, card and app payments. Readers who aren't close to a vendor can purchase the magazine through our [online store](#) or [subscribe](#) and support our Women's Workforce.

ENDS

The Big Issue spokespersons, authors and judges are available for media. For more information and to confirm media opportunities, contact:

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The Big Issue Fiction Edition 2024 Authors

AIDAN PREWETT

Aidan Prewett teaches music in Melbourne's southeast, and is the author of non-fiction titles *Woodstock at Fifty*, *To Know John Lennon* and *Our Jimi*. Prewett's debut novel is moments away from completion.

X: @aidanprewett

CHRIS AMES

Chris Ames is a writer from California. His work has been featured in *The Saturday Paper*, *The Big Issue*, *Kill Your Darlings* and elsewhere. A 2024 Hot Desk Fellow, he lives in Melbourne with his wife and son.

X: @_chrisames

MURRAY MIDDLETON

Murray Middleton is the author of *No Church in the Wild*, which is out now. The novel was recently named Readings' April Fiction Book of the Month. Murray's first collection of short stories, *When There's Nowhere Else to Run*, won *The Australian/Vogel Literary Award*. His next collection of short stories – each one about an artist in a state of despair – will be released by Pan Macmillan in 2025.

NATASHA SEYMOUR

Natasha Seymour is an emerging writer and arts worker with Australian and Indo-Trinidadian heritage. Her writing is usually about family, place and identity, but sometimes she writes about sharks. Her love of Australian literature is fed into her Substack, *Tell Me What to Read*. She lives and works on Wurundjeri land.

X: @natashadseymour

MAX EASTON

Max Easton is a writer from Sydney. He is the creator of underground music zine and podcast series *Barely Human*, and the author of two novels: the Miles Franklin-longlisted *The Magpie Wing* (2021), and its loose sequel *Paradise Estate* (2023), both published by Giramondo.

RT WENZEL

RT Wenzel is a writer on Melukerdee country, exploring folklore and ecology from an animist perspective. Recent publications include *Dark Mountain*, *Island* and *Folklore for Resistance*.

Instagram: @the_quiet_wilds

JAMES NOONAN

James Noonan is a writer and editor based in Melbourne. His short fiction has appeared in *Kill Your Darlings*, *Award-Winning Australian Writing*, *Talent Implied* and elsewhere. He is a dog dad to cavoodle Maggie and is currently at work on his first novel.

Instagram: @jimmynoonz

DANIEL RAY

Daniel Ray was shortlisted for the 2023 and 2024 Griffith Review Emerging Voices Competitions and is the recipient of the 2024 Faber Academy Writing a Novel Online Scholarship, where he is developing his debut novel about H and co, supported by a Create NSW Grant.

Instagram: @danielraywrites

CONSTANCE HUNTER

Constance Hunter grew up in a small town called Eldorado. Although she does not live there now, she returns when she can. This is her first time being published professionally. She writes cold-blooded short fiction, and her work is about mud and hexes, strange women and hunger, power and beasts.

Instagram: @conhunterart

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ALICIA GADD-CAROLAN

Alicia Gadd-Carolan is a writer in Naarm. She recently completed a Master of Creative Writing, Publishing and Editing at the University of Melbourne. Her work has been published in *Meanjin*, *Voiceworks*, *The Suburban Review*, *Stereo Stories* and ABC Online.

Instagram: @alicia.g_c

MEREDYTH TAMSYN

Meredyth Tamsyn has a Diploma of Professional Writing and Editing from RMIT University. She has written about the conflicts in Timor-Leste and Aceh for *The NZ Listener*, *Eureka Street* and *New Matilda*; as well as film and TV for *Metro* and *Screen Education*.

AMELIA MCBRIDE BAKER

Amelia McBride Baker is an emerging writer who lives in an old milking shed in the Otway Ranges in Victoria. She is completing a Master of Arts in Writing and Literature at Deakin University. After adapting classic novels into stage productions for many years, this is her first short story.

Instagram: @ameliamcbridebaker

ELEANOR EDSTROM

Eleanor Edstrom is an editorial assistant and French teacher based in Sydney. Her travel writing has been featured in *Vacations & Travel*, *Signature Luxury Travel & Style*, *Holidays With Kids* and *Ski & Snowboard With Kids* print magazines. She is currently completing a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in philosophy and English at the University of Sydney.

Instagram: @eleanoredstrom

ALICE LINDSTROM

Alice Lindstrom is an artist and illustrator working in Adelaide. Alice generally works in paper and digital collage. Her work draws on diverse influences, including mid-century illustration and design, folk art and twentieth-century art movements.

Instagram: @alicemlindstrom

About The Big Issue

The Big Issue is an independent, not-for-profit organisation dedicated to supporting and creating work opportunities for people experiencing homelessness, marginalisation and disadvantage. The Big Issue is best known for its fortnightly street magazine, which has put more than \$38 million collectively into vendors' pockets.

Alongside the magazine The Big Issue has additional programs such as the Women's Workforce, Community Street Soccer Program and Classroom. For more information visit thebigissue.org.au.

About the Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund

The Copyright Agency is a not-for-profit rights management organisation that ensures artists, writers and publishers are fairly rewarded for the reproduction of their work.

The Agency's Cultural Fund provides grants to creative individuals and organisations for a diverse range of projects which aim to enrich Australian cultural life. This project is supported by the Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund.

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