

## Cinnamon Pencil Competition

The competition to win free mentoring or a bursary place ended at the end of September.

We're grateful to everyone who entered the competition. Supporting the competitions helps us to keep publishing amazing writers and it also brings wonderful new writers to our attention.

Perhaps it's the time we are living in that is making people more reflective, more determined to give their writing the space and power it needs, but whatever the cause, the entrants to this year's Cinnamon Pencil Competitions saw many outstanding submissions.

There is nearly always a solid group of exciting novels and poetry collections, often with one genre standing out in any one year, but this year that group was bigger with more of the writing pushing boundaries and taking risks across the genres. What we also noticed this year, especially in the longlisted manuscripts, was that not only was there ambitious writing, but the personal statements about the writing were deep and engaging.

Of course, this made adjudication a protracted and particularly difficult task this year.

### **The longlist:**

Jenny Alexander

Steve Blandford

Ama Bolton

Sara Buckingham

Selma Carvalho

Alexina Dalgetty

Rachel Davies

Edmund (Aziz) Dixon

Julia Duke

Mick Evans

Axel Forrester

Lydia Harris

Gerald Hewitson

Isobel Hunter

Manon James

Susan K. Jones

Donald Lewis

Rod Livesey

Harry Matthews

Louis McGallagher

Kelly Moffett  
Ali Norrell  
Robyn Penny  
Sharon Richards  
Louise Reilly  
Craig Stewart-Smith  
Sarah Susskind  
Dominic Swanson  
Deborah Torr  
Andrea Turner  
Mark Wagstaff  
Marjory Woodfield

We got this down to a shortlist of fourteen manuscripts, all of which were well written and full of potential.

Selma Carvalho  
Ama Bolton  
Alexina Dalgetty  
Rachel Davies  
Manon James  
Mick Evans  
Lydia Harris  
Isobel Hunter  
Rod Livesey  
Louis McGallagher  
Kelly Moffett  
Ali Norrell  
Sharon Richards  
Dominic Swanson  
Mark Wagstaff  
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We read and re-read this manuscripts, impressed by the commitment and thoughtfulness of the writing statements and also by the writing itself, from utopian-influenced short stories to thrillers to

poetry that is putting pressure on form and pushing beyond the writers' usual boundaries. Making a final decision was the hardest it's ever been, but it had to be done.

Huge congratulations to Dominic Swanson as the overall winner of the full bursary to develop his poetry collection *Reading Backwards*.

And congratulations also to Mark Wagstaff and Rachel Davies, each awarded a 50% bursary. Mark will be working on his novel, *Dark Ground* and Rachel on her poetry collection, *History Test*.

Once again, thank you to everyone who entered. Keep writing and keep well.

Jan, Adam, Seth & Michelle