



**Media Release:**

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**\*\*Strictly Embargoed until 7pm\*\***

## **Winners of the 2011 NT Literary Awards and Chief Minister's NT History Book Award Announced**

The Northern Territory Library is proud to announce the winners of the 2011 NT Literary Awards recognising the Territory's best poems, short stories, essays and published books from across Central Australia, Tennant Creek, Katherine and Darwin.

Northern Territory Library Director Jo McGill congratulated all the winners who were honoured at the awards ceremony held at Parliament House tonight, Thursday 12 May 2011.

"I would like to thank our esteemed judging panel comprised of editors, university lecturers, teachers, journalists, literary agents, poets, readers and writers who had the tough task of deciding the winners from a record field of over 300 entries," Ms McGill said.

"The screenwriting and script awards were particularly exciting inclusions this year following the inaugural success of the two new categories last year.

"Last year's 2010 Darwin Festival Script Award winner Mary Anne Butler's play *Dragons* was performed as a rehearsed reading at the Darwin Festival, and this year's winning script will be considered for a reading at the Festival this year."

### **The 2011 winners are:**

- Dymocks Arafura Short Story Award: *Khmoc*, by Sophie Constable
- Dymocks Red Earth Poetry Award: *under attack (sic)* by Bronwyn Mehan
- Dymocks Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Writers' Award: *Wadjita* by John Bodey
- Charles Darwin University Bookshop Travel Short Story Award: *The Streets of France* by Christine Wilson
- Charles Darwin University Essay Award: *Imagining Darwin* by Kate Smith
- Kath Manzie Youth Literary Award: *With Stars in His Eyes* by Kierra-Jay Power
- Darwin Festival Script Award: *C (299 792 458)* by Alex Ben-Mayor
- Birch Carroll and Coyle Screenwriting Award: *Lucid* by Philip Denson

The Chief Minister's NT History Book Award was also presented at tonight's ceremony with local historian Dr Mickey Dewar winning for her work *Darwin – No Place Like Home*.

"The book gives an overview of life in Darwin in the 1950s, using evidence from oral histories and original archival records impressing the judges with its depth of research," Ms McGill said.

“The Chief Minister’s NT History Book Award aims to develop an appreciation and understanding of not only who we are, but where we come from.”

Ms McGill said the Northern Territory Library is proud to be the custodians of these awards, which endeavour to cultivate a prosperous creative writing industry in the Territory.

“We aim to give writers an accessible way in to the world of creative writing, and these awards are a great asset to a writer’s career,” Ms McGill said.

“The judges’ feedback can be requested by sending an email to [library.events@nt.gov.au](mailto:library.events@nt.gov.au).”

For more information about the Northern Territory Library, including a list of upcoming events, go to [www.ntl.nt.gov.au](http://www.ntl.nt.gov.au).

Ends

**Media Note – for more information contact Jo McGill on 0401 118 752**

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