



INDIE BOOK AWARDS 2026

Celebrating the best Australian writing

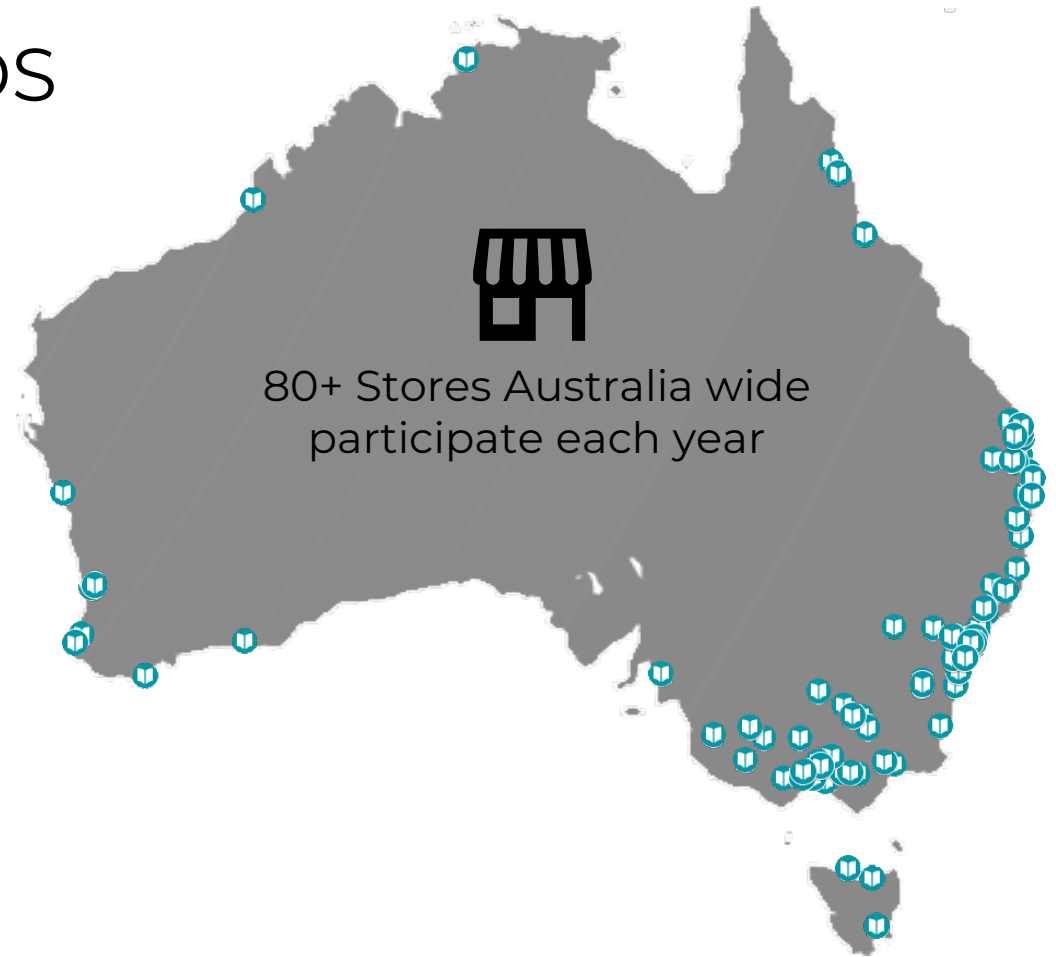
INFORMATION &
SPONSORSHIP
OPTIONS



HELP US GROW THE INDIE BOOK AWARDS

Since 2008, the Indie Book Awards have celebrated the best Australian writing, nominated and selected by Australian independent booksellers. While shining a light on the finest Australian literature, the awards also recognise the crucial role independent booksellers play in promoting and nurturing local literary talent.

Announced early in the calendar year, the Indie Book Awards are now considered a forerunner to other Australian literary awards.



All Australian independent bookshops are invited to nominate their favourite titles. Independent bookstores across the country are owned and managed by passionate people who genuinely care about their customers, books and reading, and above all play a significant role in nurturing a strong and vibrant Australian literary scene.

Leading Edge Books are proud to coordinate the administration and promotion of the Indie Book Awards.



WHY YOU SHOULD SUPPORT THE INDIE BOOK AWARDS

The Indie Book Awards celebrate Australian writing and the vital support independent booksellers provide to Australian authors and local publishing

AUSTRALIAN INDEPENDENT BOOKSELLERS SUPPORT AUSTRALIAN AUTHORS AND PUBLISHING

The Indie Book Awards celebrate Australian independent booksellers and their role in **supporting Australian authors and local publishing**.

Independent booksellers punch above their weight in **promoting new Australian literary talent**. Many Australian debut authors credit independent booksellers with helping them launch their writing careers.

Independent booksellers **embrace diverse voices**. Recommending and selling books beyond the major international brands; fostering a varied perspective and a love of quality writing.



THE INDIE BOOK AWARDS REWARD THE BEST IN AUSTRALIAN WRITING

Since their inception in 2008, the Indie Books Awards have picked the best of the best as their Book of the Year.

The following titles have won the Award:

Breath by Tim Winton

The Happiest Refugee by Anh Do

Jasper Jones by Craig Silvey

All That I Am by Anna Funder

The Light Between Oceans by M.L. Stedman

The Narrow Road to the Deep North by
Richard Flanagan

The Bush by Don Watson

The Natural Way of Things by Charlotte Wood

The Dry by Jane Harper

Nevermoor by Jessica Townsend

Boy Swallows Universe by Trent Dalton

There Was Still Love by Favel Parrett

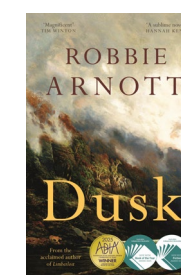
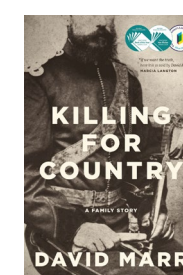
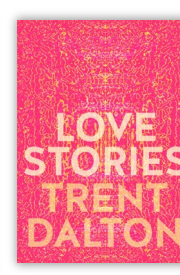
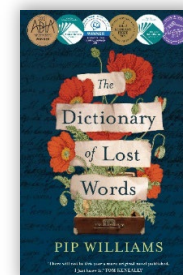
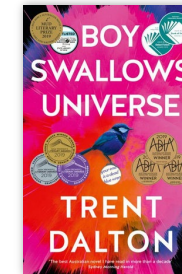
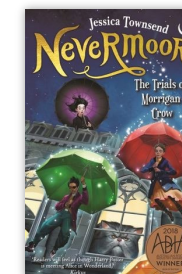
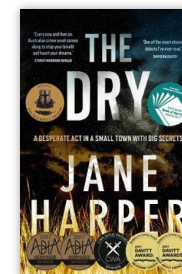
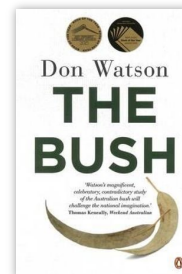
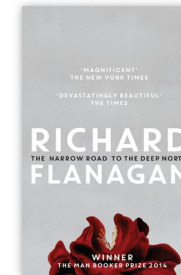
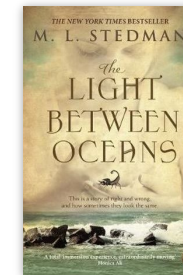
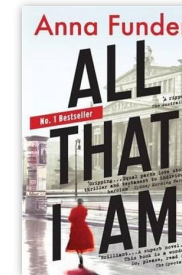
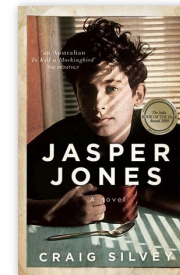
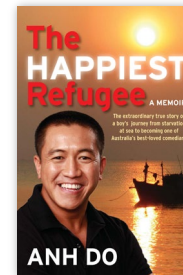
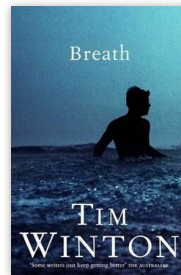
The Dictionary of Lost Words by Pip Williams

Love Stories by Trent Dalton

Runt by Craig Silvey

Killing for Country by David Marr

Dusk by Robbie Arnott



A UNIQUE AWARDS PROCESS & DIVERSE AWARD CATEGORIES

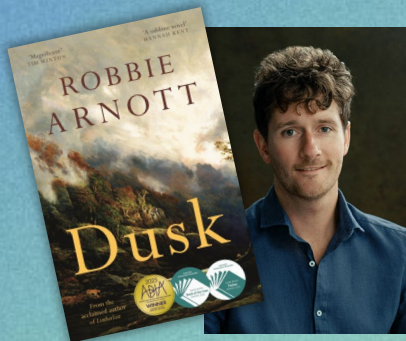
What sets the Indie Books Awards apart from other literary awards is that Australian independent booksellers select the titles. The entire process revolves around the choices and participation of these booksellers.

All Australian independent booksellers are invited to nominate their favourite titles. Judging panels made up of booksellers judge the books shortlisted for the Awards selecting the category winners. All participating booksellers then vote for their overall Book of the Year.

The Indie Book Awards recognise titles in the following categories:

Fiction **Non-fiction** **Illustrated Non-Fiction** **Debut Fiction**
Children's books (*up to 12 yo*) **Young Adult Fiction** (*12+*)

It is from these category winners, booksellers choose their top Australian book, the **Indie Book Awards Book of the Year**.



I'm thrilled that the independent booksellers of Australia have seen some merit in *Dusk*. I got a job at an independent bookseller when I was fifteen, and worked there for seven years, so to be honoured by my peers like this is truly special. Thank you so much.



ROBBIE ARNOTT, INDIE BOOK AWARDS 2025 BOOK OF THE YEAR WINNER, *DUSK*

DEDICATED MEDIA & PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN

The Indie Book Awards publicity and PR campaign is run by a freelance publicist, ensuring wider media reach and maximising promotional opportunities for the longlisted, shortlisted and winning books.

National press releases including announcements of Longlist, Shortlist, Category winners and the overall Indie Book Awards Book of the Year winner.

Local press release for stores to target their local community and customers.

Social media campaign for longlisted, shortlisted, category-winning titles and Book of the Year.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2025 CAMPAIGN

Social Media Engagement



58,856
IMPRESSIONS



3,605
ENGAGEMENTS

COME WRITERS & CRITICS

Caroline Overington
Literary editor

Festival powers ahead

There cheer for Corrie Perkins, everlast. She's released the program for the 2025 Sorrento Writers Festival, and ticket sales are already hungry upon last year.

She's over the moon, obviously.

Long-time readers will remember Corrie was a first-class journey at The Age and here at The Australian, who later became a bookseller. She still remembers how it felt to open the door of her shop every morning, and then to sweep the floor, ready for the first customers. She was so happy then so she could ever remember being in her working life.

Books and music shops hit the stride during Covid in Victoria, and she had to let the place go. She wasn't sure what she was going to do, because she loved bringing books to readers. She lives in the beautiful village of Sorrento, on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula, where the her neighbours are vibrant, intelligent, politically-aware, and community-minded, and she wondered whether they might support a writers' festival.

Answer?

Yes!

They most certainly would.

"We are now the biggest event, by ticket sales, in Victoria," says Corrie. "and the growth is all coming from demand. People want tickets. The events sell out. So we put on more events, and now we're selling even more tickets. It's a wonderful feeling."

Last year, for example, they sold 15,730 tickets. They've already ahead of that. They had 121 events last year. 84 of which sold out. They've got 160 events this year, and they'll probably sell out 100.

She's keen to thank the volunteers, who are so enthusiastic, helping set up and bump out, and drive people around. Without them, nothing would happen.

She's also keen to say how much she absolutely loves journalists. She's been one, and knows plenty, and she says: "They are natural storytellers. They are curious, interesting people. I love hosting them, and thinking how do I support them, elevate them?"

She particularly excelled this year by an events in which speakers, including The Australian's own Paul Kelly, will reflect on the fall of the Whitlam government (50-50 years this year, since the Dismal). She's excited to hear from Germaine Brooks and Jack Seering. She's thrilled to have Robert Dinsack, and Kate Greenfield going along (I haven't read Kate's book, but I have read Robert's and ...sworn)

Books 15

Sorrento Writers Festival coordinator Corrie Perkins is looking forward to an event that's bigger than ever

Sorrento janes and the finished program are now live on the festival website. Other guests include Sally Harpworth, Virginia Teal, Thomas Mann, Dan Watson, Ben Sherry and Julia Gillard.

It's all happening over the Anzac Day long weekend. Irons, Corrie. It's a triumph.

Australian independent booksellers have announced *Dusk* by Robbie Arnott (Picador) as the Indie Book Awards 2025 Book of the Year.

Robbie said "Didn't see this coming! What a world, hey. Can't believe it. I'm thrilled and honoured that people who love books so much they tell them for a living found something worthwhile in this book. I'm off for a lager".

Robbie's publisher, our own chief literary critic Germaine Williams, said "It has been an honour and a delight to publish Robbie Arnott. He's not only a tremendous Australian author, but a consummate professional to work with and a lovely bloke to boot. *Dusk* was a whole of publishing house effort, however, and its success is a collective one". Warmest congratulations.

Today's pages: I've done an interview with Oliver Freeman, who has written a book about marriage. He's done it three times, so he knows his stuff. It's in the fugate section. Also today, captions. The least worst of all the systems? You'll find a lovely take on p.13. The wonderful Cheryl Ahle's back with *Notable Books*. We have a short story by John Kinsella (I won't, and I think you might, too. It's about an elderly couple who don't want to go into a home) and the skilled home cook Christopher Zinn is back with a review of a Persian cookbook. Enjoy.

'Dusk' takes out Book of the Year at Indie Book Awards

BOOK BRIEF | MAR 2025

Australian independent booksellers have announced *Dusk* by Robbie Arnott as the best book from the last year, and the winner of the Indie Book Awards 2025 Book of the Year.

The Book of the Year is voted by independent Australian booksellers across the country from the six category winners.

On winning the Award, Robbie Arnott said:

"Didn't see this coming! What a world, hey. Can't believe it. I'm thrilled and honoured that people who love books so much they tell them for a living found something worthwhile in this book. I'm off for a lager".

Books 15

celebrate indie booksellers as the number one supporters of Australian booksellers uniquely placed to judge and recommend the best Aussie

their incredible passion and knowledge, their contribution to the cultural reading public, by recommending beyond the big brands, and above all,

ners in Fiction, Debut Fiction, Non-Fiction, Illustrated Non-Fiction.

we were also announced. From these six category winners, the Independent

ist of the best – The 2025 Indie Book of the Year.

lie Book Awards 2025 are:

BOOK OF THE YEAR
Dusk by Robbie Arnott
[Read our book review](#)

FICTION
Dusk by Robbie Arnott
[Read our book review](#)

NON-FICTION
Three Wild Dogs and the Truth by Markus Zusak
[Read an extract](#)

Shortlist:

Online features in:

Books + Publishing – 15 January, **Good Reading** – 15 January, **ArtsHub** – 17 January

Category and Overall Winner:

The Weekend Australian, Come Writers & Critics – 29 March

Online features in:

Books + Publishing – 25 March; **Good Reading** – 25 March; **ArtsHub** – 25 March

SOCIAL MEDIA & BOOKSTORE PARTICIPATION

The Indie Book Awards runs a **social media campaign** promoting the Awards and listed authors and titles. Digital assets are provided to stores and publishers to share via their own channels.

Point of Sale and Display materials will be produced and distributed by Leading Edge Books to all participating Australian independent booksellers for both Shortlist and Winners announcements.



INDIE BOOK AWARDS 2025 WINNERS

For the best Australian writing of 2024 as chosen by Australian Independent booksellers.



WINNER
Book of the Year Award 2025
&
CATEGORY WINNER Fiction

CATEGORY WINNERS



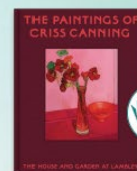
Non-Fiction



Debut Fiction



Young Adult



Illustrated Non-Fiction



Children's

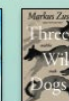
INDIE BOOK AWARDS 2025 SHORTLIST

For the best Australian writing of 2024 as chosen by Australian independent booksellers.

Fiction Shortlist



Non-Fiction Shortlist



Debut Fiction Shortlist



Illustrated Non-Fiction Shortlist



Children's Shortlist



Young Adult Shortlist



SPONSOR OR PARTNER WITH THE INDIE BOOK AWARDS

The Indie Book Awards provide publishers, industry bodies, cultural institutions and corporations with an opportunity to be associated with a highly positive industry event - awards that recognise and celebrate the role of independent booksellers, contribute to the positive growth of Australian publishing and increase sales of locally published titles.

You can choose from the following Sponsorship and Partner options:

Overall Indie Book Awards Sponsor - \$2000 ex GST (x1), including \$1500 prize money to the Book of the Year winner.

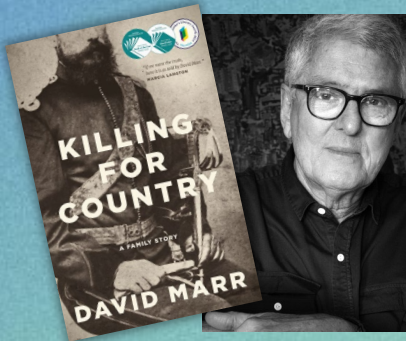
Indie Book Awards Category Sponsor - \$1200 ex GST (x6), including \$1000 prize money to a category winner.

Partner - \$500 ex GST (multiple)

Printing Partner

Media Partner

In-kind Supporter



This is an extraordinary honour. Thank you for choosing Killing for Country as book of the year. It began as a confession and ended five years of work with my collaborator and partner Sebastian Tesoriero as a history of the conquest of the country. That the independent booksellers have recognised our work in this way means a great deal to us. You are true friends to writers across the country. Thank you.



DAVID MARR, INDIE BOOK AWARDS 2024 BOOK OF THE YEAR WINNER, KILLING FOR COUNTRY

WHAT YOUR SPONSORSHIP WILL DELIVER

The 2026 Indie Book Awards Event will be a virtual event streamed live.

The Awards Event is attended by independent booksellers, authors, publishers, media and the wider book-buying public. Promoting the virtual event via social media and encouraging store watch parties to broaden the award event audience.

Brand reach via:	Details	Overall Sponsor \$2,000	Category Sponsor \$1,200	Partner \$500
Logo displayed on POS - Shortlist	Shortlist Posters			
Logo displayed on POS - Category Winners	Category Winners Posters			
Acknowledgment at Awards Event				
Sponsors listed on all official press releases				
Sponsors listed on all internal & external communications	Dedicated communications and member bulletins			
Logo, profile and link on the Indie Book Awards website				
Presentation of the Book of the Year Award at the Awards Event				
Sponsor message opportunity at Awards Events				
Logo printed on Awards trophy				
Digital Marketing package from Leading Edge valued at \$200 *	eDM & Social Media	 x2	 x1	 x1

*Digital Marketing Package from Leading Edge includes dedicated eDM to over 100 booksellers, 4000+ Indies subscribers, plus eDM template provided for stores to send onto their own customer contacts. Optional additional content: Online banner, Facebook cover image, Facebook & Instagram Posts. Content and timing of your choice, dependent on availability. To be redeemed prior to 30 June 2026.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE INDIE BOOK AWARDS

For more information about the Indie Book Awards

Visit us:



www.indiebookawards.com.au

Follow us:



[#IndieBookAwards26](https://twitter.com/IndieBookAwards26)

For sponsorship opportunities and how you can contribute, please contact:

Leanne Kadareanu

Head of Books

Leading Edge Retail

Ph: 02 8732 9522

kadareanu@leadingedgegroup.com.au