

Aurealis Awards: Anthology/ Collection
Judges' Report
Date: 2008

Panel members:

Keith Stevenson (convenor), Sarah Darmody, Marianne de Pierres, Anita Gibson, Van Ikin

Number of Submissions:

17

Judging Criteria:

Our focus was on all aspects of the anthology/ collection/ magazine, not only the strength of the stories, but how those stories supported any theme the publication had, the way the stories were placed in relation to each other and the overall effect of the placement, the cover design and internal artwork and layout, the introduction or editorial, any factual essays or articles, the editing, in short: all aspects of the publication.

Overview of Nominations:

The number of eligible works for the category indicated that this was a division of the Aurealis Awards that has been long overdue. The interesting thing about this category over the others is that it allows an appreciation and acknowledgment not only of the work of individual authors, but of those unsung heroes – the editors – who make it all happen and receive little of the kudos.

This was a bumper year for anthologies, with significant entrants on the Australian and world stage. The range of thematic approaches also pointed to a thoughtfulness in the way our anthologies were constructed, not to mention the quality and variety of the stories the editors had to play with. The standard was generally high and the panellists all had their firm favourites. A couple of the collections featured reviews of significant bodies of work from our top authors and both sub-divisions had their quirkier entrants. Of the magazines, the titles entered came from publications with significant longevity and proven track records. Our deliberations were by no means easy.

Shortlisted Works:

Collection

Magic Dirt, Sean Williams & Russell B Farr (editor) WINNER

Creeping in Reptile Flesh, Robert Hood

Anthology/ Magazine

The Starry Rift, Jonathan Strahan (editor) WINNER

The Year's Best Australian Fantasy and Science Fiction, Bill Congreve & Michelle Marquardt (editors)

Dreaming Again, Jack Dann (editor)

Honourable Mentions:

2012, *Scary Food*

Review of Shortlist:

Collection

Magic Dirt WINNER

Nicely put together by Russell B Farr, *Magic Dirt* proves, if proof be needed, the range and depth of talent from Sean Williams, and brings to a new readership some classic stories in a welcome reprint.

Creeping in Reptile Flesh

An impressive, very personal and thematically cohesive collection of stories from horror writer, Robert Hood, and nicely laid out by Cat Sparks. *Creeping* shows the significant contribution Robert has made to the Australian horror genre.

Anthology/ Magazine*The Starry Rift* WINNER

A beautifully put together book, a thoughtful editorial, a simple but engaging theme that was illustrated beautifully by a group of very strong stories from an international cast, all ably put together by editor Jonathan Strahan.

The Year's Best Australian Fantasy and Science Fiction:

Now an anthology regular, this significant round up for the year is a handsome volume ably researched, selected and edited by Bill Congreve and Michelle Marquardt. No self respecting Australian Speculative Fiction fan would be without this on their shelf.

Dreaming Again

This is a landmark collection, following on from its sibling publication ten years before with a dazzling array of very strong stories from some of our brightest established authors and the best newcomers.