

INTERNATIONAL WRITERS' WORKSHOP NZ INC.

P.O. Box 36652, Northcote, 0748

iww.co.nz

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The Kathleen Grattan Prize for a Sequence of Poems

2019 Winner Announced

Siobhan Harvey has been announced today as the 2019 winner of the Kathleen Grattan Prize for a Sequence of Poems, in a prizegiving ceremony on Auckland's North Shore.

The competition is organised annually by writing group, International Writers Workshop (also known as IWW).

Harvey has won the \$1,000 prize for her sequence of poems, entitled "Ghosts." Harvey read two of the poems from her sequence at the award ceremony.

A well-known Auckland Poet, writer and lecturer at Auckland University of Technology, Harvey has been a member of IWW for almost ten years. In 2013, she won the prestigious Kathleen Grattan Award with a manuscript which was eventually published as *Cloudboy*.

On receiving her award Harvey said: "I am overwhelmed and delighted to find myself the 2019 winner of this important competition. My joy is especially magnified because this success comes as a result of selection by a poet and academic I particularly admire, Dr Bryan Walpert... I am truly honoured and humbled by my success in this year's competition."

Professor Bryan Walpert (Massey University) judged the competition and described Harvey's winning entry as a striking sequence, marked by "...admirable control over syntax, rhythm and sound, as well as an urgency that is both political and lyrical."

The Kathleen Grattan Prize for a Sequence of Poems competition has been run by IWW for eleven years and Harvey joins a list of winners including Maris O'Rourke, Michael Giacon and 2018 winner, Heather Bauchop.

For the second successive year, the runner-up was announced as **Gillian Roach** for her sequence titled "Mute as Bottles." Walpert described Roach's sequence as being "marked by masterful description, precise word-play, humour and wry social commentary."

Professor Walpert considered the task of choosing the winners as challenging and thought the "deft use of image, metaphor and language, shows just how alive poetry is in Aotearoa New Zealand."

In addition to the prize given to Harvey, IWW presented awards to the winners of its other 2019 writing competitions. The breadth of competitions the writing group organises is very wide as evidenced by awards for Flash Fiction, Children's Writing Romance Writing and a Frank Sargeson inspired short story.

Over forty people attended the ceremony in Northcote - the final event on the IWW's 2019 calendar.



From left to right: Duncan Perkinson (IWW President), Gillian Roach (runner-up), Professor Bryan Walpert (judge), Siobhan Harvey (winner).

About the Prize

The Kathleen Grattan Prize for a Sequence of Poems has been made possible by a bequest from the Jocelyn Grattan Charitable Trust. It was a specific request of the late Jocelyn Grattan that her mother be recognised through an annual competition in recognition of her love for poetry and that the competition be for a sequence or cycle of poems with no limit on the length of the poems. It is one of two poetry competitions funded by the Trust, the other being the prestigious Kathleen Grattan Award run by the publishers of Landfall magazine.

About IWW

International Writers' Workshop NZ Inc was founded in 1976 by poet Barbara B Whyte and meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month from February to November in the Lindisfarne Room at St Aidans Church, 97 Onewa Road, Northcote. IWW's main aim is to inspire writers by means of workshops and competitions across fiction, nonfiction and poetry. For further information about the Prize, contact Duncan Perkinson, President, International Writers' Workshop NZ Inc, email iww-writers@outlook.com.