

# INTERNATIONAL WRITERS' WORKSHOP NZ INC.

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[iww.co.nz](http://iww.co.nz)

**Press Release: 17 November 2020**

## **The Kathleen Grattan Prize for a Sequence of Poems**

### **2020 Winner Announced**

**Liz Breslin** has been announced as the 2020 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).

Breslin won the \$1,000 prize for her sequence of poems, entitled: "In bed with the feminists."

The competition was judged by 2019 winner, **Siobhan Harvey**, a well-known Auckland Poet, writer and lecturer at Auckland University of Technology.

Harvey read two of the poems from Breslin's sequence at the award ceremony.

On receiving her award Breslin said: "I was so surprised and delighted to get the call to say I'm this year's winner. I worked on these poems during a period on my own in lockdown, so it's really affirming to see them recognised outside my head and my house."

Harvey judged the competition and commended Breslin's winning entry... "for its unapologetic voice, clear vision and assured awareness."

Harvey continued: "The her-storical narrative and creativity make this a compelling lyrical analysis of feminism both in the contemporary age and in the past."

The runner-up was announced as **Sophia Wilson** from Dunedin for her sequence of poems.

In addition to the Kathleen Grattan Prize for a Sequence of Poems, IWW presented certificates and awards for all of the writing competitions throughout the year.

At the conclusion of the formal prize giving, the winning play - "Text or Subtext" written by **John Leyland** - was performed by members of the group.

Over thirty people attended the ceremony in Northcote - the final event on the IWW's 2020 calendar.



Liz Breslin, 2020 winner of the Kathleen Grattan Prize for a Sequence of Poems (photo by Lauren Rimmer).

### **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](mailto:iww-writers@outlook.com).