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Media Release:

NOMINEES FOR DAVITT AWARDS FOR THE TOP CRIME BOOKS BY WOMEN

Forty-one crime books by Australian women are competing for Sisters in Crime's 8th Davitt Awards for the best crime novels and true crime books by Australian women published in book form in 2007.

Four Davitts will be presented this year – adult, young adult, true crime and readers' choice, as voted by Sisters in Crime's 500 members nationally. **The awards are sponsored by the Victorian Police Museum.**

The winners each receive a handsome trophy to be presented on Friday October 10, 7pm, Celtic Club Restaurant, corner La Trobe and Queen Sts, Melbourne by **Victorian Police Chief Commissioner Christine Nixon**. Ms Nixon will also talk about her life and times with Sisters in Crime national co-convenor, **Dr Sue Turnbull**.

The books under contention are:

ADULT NOVELS

- Sydney Bauer, *Gospel* (Pan Macmillan)
- Joyce Berendes, *The Fourteenth Day* (Zeus)
- Robin Bowles, *The Curse of the Golden Yo-Yo* (The Five Mile Press)
- Lindy Cameron, *Redback* (Mira)
- Lindy Cameron, ed., *Scarlet Stiletto – The First Cut* (Mira)
- Lauren Crow, *Bye Bye Baby* (HarperCollins)
- Kathryn Fox, *Skin and Bone* (Pan Macmillan)
- Liz Filleul, *To All Appearance Dead* (Bettany Books)
- Leah Giarrantano, *Vodka Doesn't Freeze* (Random House)
- Jane Goodall, *The Calling* (Hachette Livre)
- Alison Goodman, *Killing the Rabbit* (Random House/Bantam)
- Kerry Greenwood, *Trick or Treats* (Allen & Unwin)
- Kerry Greenwood, *A Question of Death* (Allen & Unwin)
- Sheridan Hay, *The Secret of Lost Things* (HarperCollins/4th Estate)
- Katherine Howell, *Frantic* (Pan Macmillan)
- Janette Turner Hospital, *Orpheus Lost* (HarperCollins/4th Estate)
- Dorothy Johnston, *Eden* (Wakefield Press)

Fighting for justice for women crime writers; promoting women's crime fiction

Sisters in Crime Australia, Inc. ABN 52 728 423 463

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- Wendy Laing, *Cock of the Walk* (Writers Exchange E-publishing)
- Wendy Laing, *Severance Packages* (Writers Exchange E-publishing)
- Gabrielle Lord, *Shattered* (Hachette Livre)
- Pat Noad, *Rockhound* (Zeus)
- Susan Parisi, *Blood of Dreams* (Penguin/Viking)
- Dorothy Porter, *El Dorado* (Pan Macmillan/Picador)
- Leigh Redhead, *Cherry Pie* (Allen & Unwin)
- Mandy Sayers, *The Night Has a Thousand Eyes* (HarperCollins)
- Felicity Young, *An Easeful Death* (Fremantle Arts Centre Press)

YOUNG ADULT NOVELS

- June Colbert, *What Willow Knew* (Hachette Livre)
- Jenny Pausacker, *Crime Seen* (Hachette Livre)
- Felicity Pulman, *Willows for Weeping* (Random House)
- Sophie Masson, *The Maharajah's Ghost* (Random House)
- Margaret Clark, *Love Notes* (Random House)

TRUE CRIME

- Estelle Blackburn, *The End of Innocence: The Remarkable True Story of One Woman's Fight for Justice* (Hardie Grant Books)
- Robin Bowles, *Rough Justice: Unanswered Questions from the Australian Courts* (The Five Mile Press)
- Lindy Cameron, ed., *Meaner Than Fiction* (The Five Mile Press)
- Bree Carlton, *Imprisoning Resistance: Life and Death in an Australian Supermax* (Federation Press)
- Donna Carson and Debbie Ritchie, *Judas Kisses: The Remarkable True Story of One's Woman's Journey to Hell and Back* (Hardie Grant Books)
- Jennifer Cooke and Sandra Harvey, *Done Like A Dinner* (Media 21 Publishing)
- Janet Fife-Yeomans, *Killing Jodie: How Australia's most elusive murderer was brought to justice* (Penguin Books)
- Allison Langdon, *The Child Who Never Was: Looking for Tegan Lane* (Media 21 Publishing)
- Debi Marshall, *The Devil's Garden: The Claremont Serial Killings* (Random House)
- Tegan Wagner, *The Making of Me* (PanMacmillan)

Sisters in Crime spokesperson, Dr Sue Turnbull, said that the judges will again be using a unique and innovative form of assessment – the Connex Test– to assess the books in contention.

“The Connex Test establishes whether or not the book was engaging enough to distract the reader from the tedium of travel on Melbourne’s public transport system. The quality of the writing – the plot or narrative, character and originality – determined how well the books passed the test,” she said.

Last year’s winners were ***Undertow*** (PanMacmillan), Sydney Bauer’s debut legal thriller set in Boston, for the best (adult) crime novel; ***Silent Death: The Killing of***

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Julie Ramage (Hodder) by *Age* journalist, Karen Kissane, for the Davitt (true crime) which also jointly shared the Davitt (readers' choice) with **Devil's Food** (Allen & Unwin) by Kerry Greenwood; and Jacyn Moriarty for **The Betrayal of Bindy Mackenzie** (PanMacmillan) in the young adult category.



The judging panel comprises Jane Sullivan (*The Age* literary columnist), Dr Shelley Robertson (Sisters in Crime member, forensic pathologist), Rosi Tovey (former owner of Chronicles Bookshop in St Kilda), Sue Turnbull (Head of Media Studies, La Trobe University, Sisters in Crime national co-convenor and *Sydney Morning Herald* crime columnist), Katrina Beard (Sisters in Crime national co-convenor, and reviewer) and Vivienne Colmer (Sisters in Crime national co-convenor, and reviewer).

The Davitt Awards were set up by Sisters in Crime in 2001 to celebrate the achievements of Australian women crime writers. They are named after Ellen Davitt (1812-1879) who wrote Australia's first mystery novel, *Force and Fraud*, in 1865.

For more information, contact Carmel Shute, National Co-convenor, Sisters in Crime on 0412 569 356.

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