



GLEN EIRA  
CITY COUNCIL

# MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 6 July 2020

## Revamped My Brother Jack Awards back for 25<sup>th</sup> year

Glen Eira City Council's *My Brother Jack Awards* are returning to their literary roots as a celebration of local writing excellence.

Prizes will be awarded for short stories and poetry in the categories of Primary; Junior Secondary; Senior Secondary; and Open. We are excited about the possibilities and encouragement this will bring to both emerging and more experienced writers in Glen Eira. The photography category has been retired, and we will look for new ways to capture and celebrate the talent of local photographers in the future.

Glen Eira Mayor Cr Margaret Esakoff has watched the awards grow over the years and is thrilled to welcome them back again.

"The *My Brother Jack Awards* have been uncovering and celebrating local writing talent for 25 years," she said.

"In these uncertain times, creative writing and the literary arts can be deeply therapeutic — a way to express fears, hopes and joys.

"Writing can help us reflect, form new ideas, express our creativity, and make sense of the world and our place in it. These are the stories that shape our community."

Cr Esakoff welcomed the *Awards* newest judge Alicia Sometimes.

"Alicia is a poet, writer and broadcaster. Her poems have been in *Best Australian Science Writing*, *Best Australian Poems*, *Overland*, *Southerly*, *Meanjin* and ABC TV's *Sunday Arts*," she said.

"She is a member of the ABC's *Outer Sanctum* podcast and often reviews books on ABC Melbourne."

Alicia said she is excited to join the judging panel in 2020, particularly as a past winner herself.

"I was fortunate enough to win the poetry section a few years ago and it meant the world to me," she said.

"For literature to be supported and nurtured by the City of Glen Eira is an incredible distinction. I can't wait to read all the wonderful creative work that comes in."

Alicia joins fellow return judges Ozlem Baro, Annette Trevitt, Angela Meyer and Eliza Henry-Jones.

Entries for the 2020 *Awards* close Monday 7 September. Visit [library.gleneira.vic.gov.au/mbj](http://library.gleneira.vic.gov.au/mbj)

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