

## Tracy Ellis wins the 2022 Jolley Prize

Tracy Ellis is the winner of the 2022 *ABR* Elizabeth Jolley Short Story Prize. She receives \$6,000 for her story 'Natural Wonder'. Ellis was announced as the winner of the Jolley Prize by *ABR* Editor Peter Rose at a Zoom ceremony on 11 August, which featured readings by all three shortlisted authors.

### Judges' Comments

In 'Natural Wonder', the narrator watches over three boys – her son and his two cousins – as they spend the first days of a new year playing at a beach on Sydney harbour. This story of children swimming and fencing with toy lightsabers on the sand has a gently melancholic undertow: it emerges that the cousins have experienced the recent trauma of losing their mother. The narrator feels a strong urge to protect and comfort her nephews but she is also drawn to ideas of escape and freedom. The story is remarkable for its quietness, acknowledgment of knotty feelings, and the room it makes for small miracles.



Tracy Ellis

The Jolley Prize is a rare gift. Being fond of aquatic metaphors, I could describe it as a life raft, a watershed; land after a long journey. Writing can be a lonely pastime, but the support of the writing community is critical. Thanks to *ABR*, the patrons, and all the writers who entered.

### Tracy Ellis's Comment

The Jolley Prize is a rare gift. Being fond of aquatic metaphors, I could describe it as a life raft, a watershed; land after a long journey. Writing can be a lonely pastime, but the support of the writing community is critical. Thanks to *ABR*, the patrons, and all the writers who entered.

### About Tracy Ellis

Tracy Ellis lives in Sydney and works as an editor in digital and print media. She has a Master's in Creative Writing from UTS and was previously longlisted for *ABR*'s Calibre Essay Prize.

### Jolley Prize Shortlist and Judges

The other two shortlisted authors are: **Nina Cullen** (NSW), who was placed second and receives \$4,000 for her story 'Dog Park', and **C.J. Garrow** (Vic), who was placed third and receives \$2,500 for his story 'Whale Fall'. All three stories appear in the August issue.

This year the *ABR* Elizabeth Jolley Short Story Prize (worth a total of \$12,500) received 1,338 entries from thirty-six different countries. It was judged by **Amy Baillieu**, **Melinda Harvey**, and **John Kinsella**.

### Interviews

Tracy Ellis is available for interview. Please direct requests to Peter Rose at [editor@australianbookreview.com.au](mailto:editor@australianbookreview.com.au) | (03) 9699 8822