

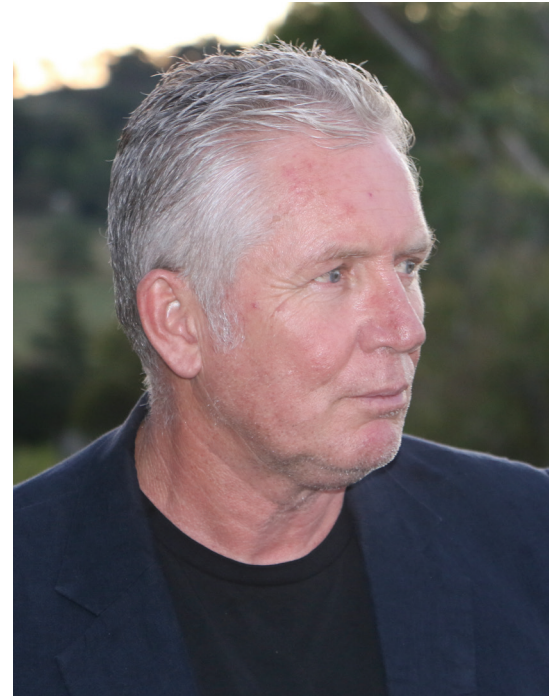
## Anthony Lawrence wins the 2022 Porter Prize

Anthony Lawrence was named the overall winner of the [2022 Peter Porter Poetry Prize](#) at an online ceremony on 19 January 2022.

The Porter Prize – Australia’s most prestigious poetry competition – is worth a total of \$10,000. This year’s judges – Sarah Holland-Batt, Jaya Savige, and Anders Villani – shortlisted five poems by Chris Arnold (WA), Dan Disney (South Korea/Australia), Michael Farrell (Vic.), Anthony Lawrence (Qld), and Debbie Lim (NSW). The shortlisted poems were selected from 1,328 entries sent through from thirty-four countries. They appear in the January–February issue of *Australian Book Review*.

The judges noted: “In the Shadows of Our Heads” is a stunningly vibrant poem by a masterful technician at the top of his game. This unusual love poem revels in the unpredictability of those connections, intellectual and physical, forged between simpatico minds and damaged bodies across space and time. A vivid, potent reminder of love’s dance of proximity and distance – at a time when these fundamental bases of human intimacy have been thrown into fraught relief – it is a work deftly attuned to our present moment.’

On learning of his win, Anthony Lawrence commented: ‘To win the 2022 Peter Porter Poetry Prize is not only a wonderful surprise, given the quality of the other poems on the shortlist, but it’s an important personal delight, given my respect and admiration for Peter Porter and his enduring influence, in Australia and the United Kingdom. My sincere thanks to Peter Rose, the judges of this year’s prize, and all the entrants who contributed to this important international award.’



**Anthony Lawrence**  
(photograph by Julie Manning)

### About Anthony Lawrence

Anthony Lawrence has published sixteen books of poems, the most recent being *Ken* (Life Before Man, 2020). His books and individual poems have won a number of awards, including the Peter Porter Poetry Prize, the Prime Minister’s Literary Award for Poetry, the Philip Hodgins Memorial Medal, and the Blake Poetry Prize. A new book of poems, *Ordinary Time*, a collaboration with the poet Audrey Molloy, is to be published in 2022. He teaches Creative Writing at Griffith University, Queensland, and lives on Moreton Bay.

### Further information

The Peter Porter Poetry Prize honours the life and work of the great Australian poet Peter Porter (1929–2010), an honoured contributor to *ABR* for many years. For more information about the [Peter Porter Poetry Prize](#), or to read the [2022 shortlisted poems](#), please visit the [ABR website](#).

*We gratefully acknowledge the long-standing support of Morag Fraser AM and Andrew Taylor AM.*

### Interviews

Anthony Lawrence is available for interviews. Please direct requests to [editor@australianbookreview.com.au](mailto:editor@australianbookreview.com.au)