

Date: 19/03/19

From: Progressive PR and Publicity on behalf of *Australian Book Review*

(03) 9696 6417 | darren@progressivepr.com.au



Andy Kissane and Belle Ling share the 2019 Porter Prize



Andy Kissane

Andy Kissane and Belle Ling are the joint winners of the [2019 Peter Porter Poetry Prize](#), worth a total of \$8,500. The winners were named at a ceremony at fortyfivedownstairs in Melbourne on 18 March 2019.

This year's judges – Judith Bishop, John Kawke, Paul Kane – shortlisted five poems from almost 900 entries, from 28 countries. The shortlisted poets were John Foulcher (ACT), Ross Gillett (Vic.), Andy Kissane (NSW), Belle Ling (QLD/Hong Kong), and Mark Tredinnick (NSW).

Porter Prize judge Judith Bishop (representing the judges) commented:

'In Belle Ling's "63 Temple St, Mong Kok", other voices are rendered equally as vividly as the speaker's own. Together they create the generous and gentle texture of this exceptionally resonant work.'

'Andy Kissane's "Searching the Dead" recounts a moment in Australian history – our soldiers' involvement in the Vietnam War – that has not been captured before in this way. This dense, strongly physical and evocative poem grips the reader's mind and body, and that imprint remains long after reading.'



Belle Ling

About Andy Kissane

Andy Kissane has published a novel, a book of short stories, *The Swarm* (Puncher & Wattmann, 2012), and four books of poetry. His poetry awards include the Fish International Poetry Prize, the Australian Poetry Journal's Poem of the Year, and the Tom Collins Poetry Prize. His new work, *The Tomb of the Unknown Artist*, is out in 2019.

About Belle Ling

Belle Ling is a PhD student in Creative Writing at The University of Queensland, Australia. Her first poetry collection, *A Seed and a Plant*, was shortlisted for The HKU International Poetry Prize 2010. Her poetry manuscript, *Rabbit-Light*, was awarded Highly Commended in the 2018 Arts Queensland Thomas Shapcott Poetry Prize.

Further information

The Peter Porter Poetry Prize is one of Australia's most prestigious poetry awards. It 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 [2019 shortlisted poems](#), please visit the [ABR website](#).

More information about *Australian Book Review* can be found on the *ABR* website. Please direct interview requests to Darren Saffin at Progressive PR and Communications on (03) 9696 6417 or darren@progressivepr.com.au

ABR gratefully acknowledges the support of Ms Morag Fraser AM and Mr Ivan Durrant.