NSW PREMIER’S HISTORY AWARDS FINALISTS

NSW Arts Minister George Souris today announced the 16 shortlisted entrants for the 2011 Premier’s History Awards.

The finalists include works documenting manners in colonial Australia, a murder plague in Sydney, the life and legacy of Mahatma Gandhi and travel during the Age of Sail.

“These awards honour distinguished achievement by Australian historians,” Mr Souris said.

“The Premier’s History Awards recognise excellence in historical research, writing and presentation and celebrate our historians’ passionate commitment to exploring the many stories that comprise our past.

“Theyir work reminds us that history is central to the way in which we understand ourselves and our place in the world.

“This year there was an impressive 139 eligible nominations received across the five award categories, each offering $15,000 in prize money.”

The finalists for the 2011 Premier’s History Awards are:

- **Australian History Prize**: Joy Damousi (Colonial Voices: A Cultural History of English in Australia 1840-1940); Jim Davidson (A Three-Cornered Life: The Historian W.K. Hancock); Penny Russell (Savage or Civilised?: Manners in Colonial Australia); and Martin Thomas (The Many Worlds of R.H. Mathews: In Search of an Australian Anthropologist)

- **General History Prize**: Emma Christopher (A Merciless Place); Sean Scalmer (Gandhi in the West: The Mahatma and the Rise of Radical Protest); and Shane White, Stephen Garton, Stephen Robertson, Graham White (Playing the Numbers: Gambling in Harlem Between the Wars)

- **NSW Community and Regional History Prize**: Laila Ellmoos (Beneath the Pines: a history of the Stockton Centre); Delia Falconer (Sydney); and Stephen Gapps (Cabrogaal to Fairfield City: A History of a Multicultural Community).

- **Young People’s History Prize**: Sherryl Clark (Our Australian Girl: Meet Rose); and Kirsty Murray (India Dark) and Nicole Pluss (Scout).

- **Multimedia History Prize**: Sonia Bible (Recipe for Murder); Sharon Davis, Timothy Nicastri (The Aarons Family Files); and Dan Fill, Frank Verheggen (Immigration Nation: Building Multicultural Australia website [http://sbs.com.au/immigrationnation/interactive](http://sbs.com.au/immigrationnation/interactive)).
Mr Souris said works accepted for nomination for the Premier’s History Awards include books, websites, DVDs, film, television and radio.

“All works have to be published, produced, performed or made publicly available between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011,” Mr Souris said.

“Past winners of these prestigious awards include K.S. Inglis, Patricia Jalland, Inga Clendinnen, Bruce Scates and Raelene Frances, Trevor Graham, Christopher Clark, Nadia Wheatley and Grace Karskens.

“The quality of entrants for the awards this year was exceptional so I offer my congratulations to all finalists announced today.”

The winners of the 2011 NSW Premier’s History Awards will be announced by the Premier on Monday 5 September at a formal awards presentation dinner held at CarriageWorks in Eveleigh.

The recipients of the 2011 NSW History Fellowship ($20,000) and the 2011 NSW Archival Research Fellowship ($15,000) will also be announced at the event.

The 2011 Awards are judged by an independent committee including Associate Professor Ian Jack (Chair), Dr Michelle Arrow, Dr Josephine May, Ms Kate Cameron, Ms Pauline Curby, Dr Zora Simic, Emeritus Professor Desley Deacon, and Professor Iain McCalman.

MEDIA: Norm Lipson 0467 734 679