

The Horne Prize

The Horne Prize 2020 awarded to Steven Amsterdam

It is a pleasure to announce that Melbourne-based writer Steven Amsterdam has won the 2020 Horne Prize, worth \$15,000, for his essay 'There and Here'. Chosen from a field of 520 entries, Amsterdam's work moves between continents and decades to weave together themes of nostalgia, distance and human connection.

In making their selection, the judges were unanimous: 'A finely observed piece that builds unshowy emotion with deftness and control. Poetic and powerful, it explores what it means to be homesick not just for a place, but for another time; and perhaps a different life.'

'There and Here' will be published in *The Saturday Paper* on December 19.

Steven Amsterdam is an award-winning author and palliative care nurse. His debut novel *Things We Didn't See Coming* was published to critical acclaim, followed by *What the Family Needed* and, most recently, *The Easy Way Out*. Born in New York, he has lived in Melbourne since 2003.

This year marks the fifth year of The Horne Prize, which was launched in August 2016 by Aēsop and *The Saturday Paper*. The award was named for the late Donald Horne AO in honour of his exceptional contribution to Australian letters. His 1964 book *The Lucky Country*, a razor-sharp critique of Australian culture, remains as incisive and vital as ever.

The 2020 judging panel comprised Maddison Connaughton, editor of *The Saturday Paper*; Suzanne Santos, Aēsop's chief customer officer; Wiradjuri author Tara June Winch; novelist and poet Nam Le; and writer and journalist Anna Krien. Kate Torney, chief executive officer of the State Library of Victoria, oversaw the judging as an independent moderator.

Key dates for the 2021 iteration of The Horne Prize will be announced mid-next year. The inaugural winner was Melbourne novelist and nonfiction writer Anna Spargo-Ryan, for *The Suicide Gene*. Other winners are Dr Kerryn Goldsworthy, for *The Limit of the World* (2017); Daniel James, for *Ten More Days* (2018); and Rachael Lebeter, for *Diary of a Wildlife Carer* (2019).

Press enquiries

media@thehorneprize.com.au

Aēsop Australia

25 Smith Street
Fitzroy VIC 3065
Australia

☎ +61 3 9412 8900

☎ +61 3 9412 8990

✉ aesop@aesop.com

📱 @aesopskincare

Press Contact

Ophelia Phu

EVH Aēsop Account Manager

☎ +61 2 9358 0600

✉ op@evh.agency

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