

# Media Release

**The Hon Colin Brooks MP**  
Minister for Development Victoria  
Minister for Precincts  
Minister for Creative Industries



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## JOHN CLARKE HONOURED WITH NEW PREMIER'S LITERARY AWARD

The 40<sup>th</sup> Victorian Premier's Literary Awards are now open for entries and a new prize has been added to recognise excellence in humour writing in honour of legendary satirist John Clarke – backed by the Allan Labor Government.

The annual awards include the country's most valuable literary prize – the Victorian Prize for Literature – and in 2025 a new category will be awarded for comedic writers.

The Prize for Humour Writing commemorates the late John Clarke, the respected screenwriter behind some of the country's sharpest film and TV comedies. John was also a beloved fixture on screen for his iconic mock interviews in *Clarke and Dawe*, the mockumentary series *The Games* and comedy film *Crackerjack*.

Established by the Allan Labor Government with the Clarke family, the John Clarke Prize for Humour Writing is valued at up to \$25,000 and is open to books of comedic fiction, non-fiction and poetry published in 2023 and 2024.

The Victorian Premier's Literary Awards were established by then Premier The Hon. John Cain in 1985 to recognise and honour the contribution of Australian writers. The program is administered independently by The Wheeler Centre on behalf of the Labor Government.

Submissions are now open until 5pm on Friday, 27 September. For guidelines and to enter visit [wheelercentre.com](https://wheelercentre.com)

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Creative Industries Colin Brooks

*"The late, great John Clarke made an exceptional contribution to our cultural life – he used sharp writing and humour to help us hold up a mirror to ourselves, while giving us the gift of laughter."*

*"We are proud to introduce the new John Clarke Prize for Humour Writing, which will sit alongside the most coveted literary award in the country – the Victorian Prize for Literature."*

### Quote attributable to Erin Vincent CEO of The Wheeler Centre

*"John Clarke created his own brand of humour, and it remains beyond compare. To know this prize will help strengthen the careers of future humour writers is a beautiful and fitting tribute to one of the great satirists of our time."*

### Quote attributable to the Clarke family

*"For the Victorian government to support such a significant award in his name so that humorous writing can be celebrated is a wonderful and fitting tribute."*