

SUTHERLAND SHIRE LITERARY COMPETITION 2021

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the top 2 tips before entering this Year's Competition?

- Read *all* the Terms and Conditions of Entry and these FAQs *carefully*.
- Make sure your name is *not* on your poem or short story, or in the computer file name *before* you upload it. (This is the *most common* mistake!)

Do I have to write 80 lines for each poem I submit and 2,000 words for each short story I submit?

No. These are the *maximum* limits. You can submit poems with fewer lines and short stories with fewer words if you wish. Many authors do.

Does the 80-line limit for poems include the title and spaces between stanzas (verses)? Does the 2,000-word limit for short stories include the title?

No. The title of your poem and the spaces between stanzas (or verses) are *not* included. Only the written lines of your poem are counted. The title of your short story is *not* included in the word count.

What if I submit a poem with more than 80 lines or a short story with more than 2,000 words?

The entry is ineligible for any Award and will not be judged. It's a good idea to double check the line count or the word count of each before you submit it.

What if I put my name on the actual poem or short story I submit or if I include my name on the file I upload from my computer?

The entry is *ineligible* for any Award and will not be judged. All Competition entries are judged *anonymously*. For that reason, your name or anything which could identify you as the author must not appear on the entry itself or in the uploaded file. The uploaded file should *only* include the title of the entry.

Your name should *only* appear on the Official Competition Entry Form. This will be used to link your name with your entry *after* judging has been completed.

Does my poem have to rhyme?

No. Category B (*free verse*) allows you to submit poems which *do not rhyme*. Only Category A requires you to submit poems which rhyme.

The choice of Category is entirely up to *you*. The Competition Administrators *cannot* advise you as to the Category into which any of your poems fall.

Is there a theme for the Open Short Story (Category C)?

No. Category C does *not* require you to submit a short story with a particular theme or with a focus on a particular subject. The choice of subject is up to you entirely — and the Competition Administrators cannot advise you on this.

Does my poem or short story have to be set out in a particular way?

No. All entries submitted should be set out and spaced so that they are easy to read. Entries must be typed (in black) *without* photographs, drawings, coloured backgrounds, illustrations or other embellishments.

Can I enter the Competition by post?

No. Entries can *only* be submitted online either as an MS Word file (.doc or .docx) or Rich Text Format (.rtf). No other file format is accepted. Entry fees must be paid online by debit card or credit card at the time of submission.

How many times can I enter?

You can enter as many times as you wish. An entry fee of \$15 is payable for each poem and each short story you submit.

Can I make changes to my entry or withdraw it *after* I submit it?

No. Changes *cannot* be made to any poem or any short story after you have submitted it. Once submitted, entries cannot be retrieved or altered or withdrawn, and any entry fees paid will not be refunded. It is worth checking each entry carefully before submitting it.

Can I enter a poem or short story which has previously won first prize or a monetary prize in another competition?

No. Entries which have previously won first prize or a monetary prize of any value in any other competition are ineligible to receive any Award in this Competition.

Can I enter a poem of mine or a short story of mine which has been previously published elsewhere?

Yes. Provided your poem or short story has not been published for profit or is under contract at the time of entry *and* has not won first prize or received a monetary prize in any other competition.

Can I also enter my poem or short story in another competition?

Yes. But you must notify us if your poem or short story wins first prize or receives a monetary prize in another competition after you enter it and before our Awards are announced.

If a winning entry is later found to be ineligible, the Award will be withdrawn and you will be required to refund any prize you have received in this Competition to the Sutherland Shire Council.

How many Prizes can I win in each Category?

Eligible entrants can only win *one* prize in each Category.

Can I win *both* a Major Prize and a Shire Resident's Prize in the same Competition Category?

No. As a *bona fide* Shire Resident you are eligible to win *either* a Major Prize *or* a Shire Resident's Prize in each Category you enter. But you cannot win *both* in the *same* Competition Category.

Are there any Awards for Commended and Highly Commended entries?

The Judges may, in their discretion, award Certificates for Commended and Highly Commended entries in each Competition Category.

Can I submit an entry in a particular Category in the 2021 Competition if I won First Prize in that same Category in the 2019-2020 Competition?

No. If, for example, you won First Prize in Category C in the 2019-20 Sutherland Shire Literary Competition, you are *ineligible* to submit *any* entry in Category C in the 2021 Competition. In this instance, you can, of course, enter Categories A and B.

Will my entry be returned to me after the Competition period ends?

No. You should retain a copy of each entry for yourself.

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