

LANE COVE **L**ITERARY AWARDS 2025



The Lane Cove Literary Awards is a prestigious national writing competition organised by Lane Cove Council that recognises writing excellence and fosters Australian writing talent. Australian writers over 16 years of age are invited to submit unpublished works.

Enter Now

Entries close Wednesday 20 August 2025

www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/literaryawards



Terms and Conditions

1. By entering this competition, the entrant agrees to the requirements and terms and conditions of entry.
2. The competition will be judged to select, in the opinion of the judges, the best entries for the following prizes:

• Short Story Prize	\$2,000
• Poetry Prize	\$1,500
• Travel Story Prize	\$1,500

The following additional prizes may be awarded:

• The Burns Bay Bookery Residents Prize	\$500
• Synergy Youth Prize (16 – 24 years)	\$500
• WAIG Women Writers Prize	\$500
• Wise Sage Prize (65+ years)	\$500



Anonymous Sponsor

3. Entries must be original, unpublished (anything that has appeared in the public arena, including self-publishing and social media, is considered published) either in print or online, not have received an award in another competition, and not under consideration elsewhere from the time of entry in these awards until the official announcement of winners. Long and shortlisted entries will be checked.
4. Entries must not have been entered in previous Lane Cove Literary Awards.
5. An Entry fee of \$15.50 per entry is applicable.
6. The following word limits apply:
 - Short Stories must not exceed 3,000 words
 - Poems must be single poems with a maximum length of 50 lines and must not exceed 1,000 words
 - Travel Story must not exceed 2,000 words



Left to Right: Cr Scott Bennison (Mayor of Lane Cove), Andrea McMahon, Paulene Turner, Pippa Kay and T.A.R. Wallace



Entries in excess of these lengths will not be considered.

7. Entrants must be over 16 years, Australian citizens or permanent residents of Australia and must be living in Australia at the time of entry. Entrants under 18 years must have parental/guardian consent.
8. While all categories are open, an additional youth prize and senior prize may be awarded at the discretion of the judging panel. For the purpose of this award youth eligibility is 16 – 24 years and senior eligibility 65+ years. To be considered for this award, the entrant's date of birth must be provided when entering.
9. While all categories are open, an additional Lane Cove Resident prize may be awarded at the discretion of the judging panel. A Lane Cove resident is defined as someone living in the Lane Cove Local Government Area as at 28 May 2025.
10. While writers are welcome to submit entries for each category and can be shortlisted in any of these categories, each writer is only eligible to win one category – Short Story, Poetry or Travel Story. Winning writers remain eligible to win additional prizes (Lane Cove Resident, Women Writers, Youth Prize or Seniors Prize) if they meet the eligibility criteria.
11. Employees of Lane Cove Council, all sponsor organisations, private sponsors and members of the judging panel are ineligible to enter.
12. Only one (1) entry in each category is permitted per person – Short Story, Poetry and Travel Story.
13. The competition opens **Wednesday 28 May 2025**.

Submissions are to be made online **www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/literaryawards**

All entries must be received by 5:00pm Wednesday 20 August 2025. No changes can be made to submitted entries.

14. It is the entrant's responsibility to inform Lane Cove Council if their address, email or telephone number changes during the competition period.
15. Entries which infringe on the intellectual property rights of any third party, contain any objectionable content, profanity or are potentially insulting, inflammatory or defamatory will be ineligible to win an award.

16. Entries must be original works by an individual author (not a company or other collective entity or be created by a computer program, AI, ChatGPT, DeepSeek etc). An entry will be ineligible if it is under contract to any publisher or broadcaster.
17. All entries must use A4 size page layout and be typed in simple clear formatting using Times New Roman font 11 point. Each page should be numbered and have the title of the entry at the top. Entries must be written primarily in English, using the English (Australia) language setting.

To ensure anonymity writers names must not appear on the manuscript.

18. Chance plays no part in the selection of the award winners.
19. Entries will be judged by an independent panel of judges, selected from the general literary community. The judging panel may determine that an award not be made if the entries are not considered to be of sufficient merit. The judges may elect to have a longlist and a shortlist.
20. The decision of the judging panel is final and no correspondence will be entered into concerning this decision.
21. The winners will be announced and the Awards presented at a public function in November 2025. The winners will be notified of the result in advance of the date. It is regretted that no advice will be sent concerning unsuccessful entries.
22. Longlisted and shortlisted authors may be invited to the function, but this does not indicate that they have won a prize.
23. Lane Cove Council reserves the right to invite the winners of the Award to deliver a talk pertinent to the subject of their entry or to their experience writing the entry. This talk may be delivered at Lane Cove Library, or at a place to be determined by Lane Cove Council. Lane Cove Council may also call upon, by invitation other shortlisted writers to participate in literary discussions and events.
24. Entrants retain the intellectual property rights of all material submitted. However, Lane Cove Council reserves the right to retain, display in exhibitions, publish royalty-free (including electronically), perform, broadcast, edit and adapt winning and shortlisted entries.
25. Copyright remains with the author.
26. Entries which do not reflect the stated conditions may be disqualified.
27. If a winning entry is subsequently found to have been ineligible at the time of entry, the Award will be withdrawn and the writer must immediately repay prize money to Lane Cove Council.