

## **Geography Writing Competition**

This is your opportunity to write a short story using imagination, creativity and with a wide interpretation, on any geographical concept, set in Queensland.

This competition is open to all writers, nationally and internationally, at any stage of their writing career.

The winning story will receive a \$300.00 first prize and be published in the *RGSQ Bulletin*. The story coming second will receive \$150.00 and the story coming third will receive a one-year membership of the Queensland Writers Centre.

The Geography Writing Competition is organised by the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland.

By entering the Geography Writing Competition you agree to be bound by the following terms and conditions:

### **Categories**

Stories can be entered under two categories:

Category 1: 19 years and under

Category 2: Open (all ages)

### **Rules**

This is a competition for original short stories written in English, of up to 500 words in length.

Hyphenated words and contractions each count as one word. The title is not included in the word count.

Stories must be unpublished (including online) and not under consideration by other publishers.

Stories that have won or are under consideration in other competitions are not eligible.

The prize is open to all writers (located in Australia or elsewhere). The geographical concept must relate to Queensland.

Members of the Geography Writing Competition Committee and the Judging Panels are ineligible to enter the competition.

Submissions will be processed electronically. Only electronic entries will be accepted.

Please submit stories as pdf files. Font is to be Times New Roman 12 or Arial 12 with double line spacing. Pages must be numbered.

The competition will be judged anonymously. The author's name must not appear on the manuscript or the story will be disqualified.

Entrants must provide their own name on the entry form for administrative purposes. However, pen names, aliases or pseudonyms may additionally be provided on the entry form.

Multiple entries are acceptable, although each must be entered into the submission system separately and accompanied by the relevant fee. Category 1 (19 years and under) writers are also eligible to enter Category 2 (Open (all ages)). Once an entry has been submitted it cannot be changed. It can be withdrawn from the competition by emailing the organizers, however, the fee will not be refunded.

AI-generated work will be disqualified.

The winning entries will be published in the RGSQ *Bulletin* and on the RGSQ website in 2024. Other entries may be considered for publication.

The judges' decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into.

### **Entrance fee**

\$10.00 per entry (Multiple entries are acceptable although each must be entered into the submission system separately. Each entry will incur the \$10.00 entrance fee.)

Entry fees are non-refundable if a story is withdrawn from the **Geography Writing Competition**.

### **Judging**

There will be 2 rounds:

1<sup>st</sup> round judged by RGSQ.

2<sup>nd</sup> round judged by an independent judge, The Queensland Writers Centre.

A panel of judges appointed by RGSQ will judge the entries and compile a shortlist of 6 entries in each category; category 1: 19 and under, and category 2: Open (all ages).

The entries in the shortlist will be judged by an independent panel appointed by the Queensland Writers Centre.

No more than one story by the same writer will be shortlisted.

Judging is conducted blind and all entries are anonymous.

The judges' decisions are final and no correspondence will be entered into with either the judges, the staff or the Board of the Queensland Writers Centre and of the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland.

The judges will not provide feedback on individual entries.

The judges, in their absolute discretion, may disqualify any entrant or entries if they reasonably suspect any unlawful or improper conduct, such as infringing a third party's intellectual property rights, or if there has been a breach of these terms and conditions.

Only the shortlisted stories will be listed and made public.

### **Judging criteria**

In 2024, stories will be judged on the following criteria:

- Has the story engaged you from the start?
- Does it evoke a vivid sense of place?
- Does the story move you?
- Does it reach a satisfying conclusion?
- Does it engage the human senses?
- Does it use standard English sentence construction, grammar and spelling and a variety of expression?
- Is it powerful and thought-provoking?

### **Winning announcement**

The three place winners in each category; category 1: under 19 and category 2: Open (all ages) will be announced at an event held by The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland in 2024.

### **Prizes**

For each category, the 2024 Geography Writing Competition provides cash prizes of 1<sup>st</sup> place \$300.00 and 2<sup>nd</sup> place \$150.00. The two first-placed entries will be published in the *RGSQ Bulletin*. The 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner will receive a one- year membership to the Queensland Writers Centre to the value of Junior \$55.00, Adult \$89.00 or Concession \$69.00 (whichever category is relevant).

### **Content warning**

Submissions should be sensitive to Indigenous cultural values and perspectives.

Stories should be suitable for a general audience and should not contain racist, violent, abusive, or erotic content, or excessive coarse language.

### **Deadline for submissions**

The Competition will be open from 9:00 am on 1 February 2024 until 11:30 pm on 30 April 2024. No late entries will be accepted.

To avoid disappointment should there be any issues with submitting your work please aim to submit at least a few days before the closing date.

Entries are to be submitted online via the RGSQ website.

<https://rgsq.org.au/event-5551067>

Information on how to submit can be found at that address on the website.

## **Registration acknowledgement**

Each submission will receive a Confirmation of Entry email. If you have not received a confirmation email, please check:

- the entry fee has been deducted from your bank account, and
- the Confirmation of Entry email is not in your spam or junk folder. Some email hosts may block emails generated from websites.

If you still have not received your Confirmation of Entry email, please contact us on [info@rgsq.org.au](mailto:info@rgsq.org.au) using the subject line **Geography Writing Competition**.

Stories submitted will not be returned to authors.

### **Rights:**

The authors will retain the intellectual property of their work. A non-exclusive perpetual license to use the three winning entries in each category will automatically be given by the respective authors to the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland as a condition of entry.

### **Responsibility**

It is the author's responsibility to keep a copy of the submission. The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland will not store or archive entries which are not in the final 3 in each category.

### **Further information**

Anyone requiring further information should address enquiries to [info@rgsq.org.au](mailto:info@rgsq.org.au)

Phone: 07 3368 2066

Email: [info@rgsq.org.au](mailto:info@rgsq.org.au) Subject line **Geography Writing Competition**

Website: <https://rgsq.org.au/>

Address: RGSQ, PO Box 625, Spring Hill Qld 4004

Opening hours: Monday to Friday: 9:00 am to 2:30 pm

Copyright © 2023 The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland (RGSQ). All Rights Reserved.