
The Byron Shire Echo & Creative Mullumbimby Short Story Competition

Official Terms and Conditions

1. The Competition Organisers

The Byron Shire Echo & Creative Mullumbimby Short Story Competition (the "Competition") is organised jointly by:

- **The Byron Shire Echo Pty Ltd** (ABN 86 004 000 239), and
- **Creative Mullumbimby Inc.** (ABN 55 144 588 128).

2. Entry Period

- **Opening Date:** 12:01 AM (AEDT/AEST) on **December 1st, 2025**.
- **Closing Date:** 5:00 PM (AEDT/AEST) on **February 28th, 2026**.
- Entries received after the Closing Date will not be considered. The Organisers accept no responsibility for entries not received for any reason.

3. Eligibility

- We encourage entrants to live within the Northern Rivers / Byron Shire who can attend the event in Mullumbimby if selected.
- Entry is open to **all residents of Australia** at the time of entry.
- Entrants are encouraged, but not required, to have connections to the Byron Shire, Mullumbimby, or Northern NSW.
- There is no restriction on entry for employees or family members of The Byron Shire Echo or Creative Mullumbimby Inc.
- The competition has two age categories:
 - **Open:** Entrants aged **18 years and over** as of the Closing Date.
 - **Youth:** Entrants aged **under 18 years** as of the Closing Date.

4. Entry Guidelines

- **Format:** Entries must be an original work of short fiction.
- **Word Count:** Stories must be between **500 and 1,500 words**, inclusive. Entries outside this range will be disqualified.
- **Maximum Entries:** A maximum of **two (2)** entries per person is permitted across both categories.

- **Originality:** The entry must be the entrant's own original work and must not have been previously published or be under consideration for publication elsewhere.
- **Language:** All entries must be written in English.
- **Submission:** entries must be submitted via the entry form at either of these 2 URLs - <https://form.jotform.com/253283994563874> or www.creativemullum.org.au/writerscomp

5. Judging and Finalists

- A panel of independent external judges, selected by the Organisers, will assess all eligible entries.
- Judging will be based on creativity, originality, quality of writing, and narrative strength. The judges' decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.
- **Notification: Ten (10) Finalists** (split across the two age categories) will be selected. Finalists will be notified by **March 14th, 2026**.

6. Prizes

The total prize pool includes cash prizes and non-monetary gifts.

- **Cash Prizes (First Place):**
 - **Open Category (18+):** One (1) First Prize of **\$1,000 AUD**.
 - **Youth Category (Under 18):** One (1) First Prize of **\$500 AUD**.
- **Finalist Prizes:**
 - The remaining eight (8) finalists will each receive one of a selection of prizes sourced from local businesses, which may include vouchers, gift certificates, or goods. The value of these prizes will vary.
- Prizes are non-transferable and not redeemable for cash (except for the specified cash prizes).

7. Publication and Copyright

- **Publication Consent:** By submitting an entry, the entrant grants The Byron Shire Echo and Creative Mullumbimby Inc. non-exclusive, royalty-free, perpetual, and irrevocable permission to publish their submitted work on The Byron Shire Echo's website, in The Byron Shire Echo newspaper, or in related promotional materials, should they be selected as a Finalist.
- **Finalist Publication:** The stories of the ten (10) Finalists will be published on The Byron Shire Echo's website within eight (8) weeks of the Finalists being announced.
- **Copyright:** Copyright in the submitted story remains with the author. However, the author agrees to the publication permissions stated above.

8. Finalist Event

- All ten (10) Finalists will be invited to attend a reading and awards event scheduled for **April 1st, 2026** in Mullumbimby, NSW.

- Finalists are encouraged, but not required, to attend and read an excerpt of their story.
- The Organisers will not cover any travel, accommodation, or other expenses for Finalists to attend this event.

9. Data Use and Privacy Consent

- By submitting an entry, the entrant consents to their name, contact details, and email address being added to the databases of both The Byron Shire Echo and Creative Mullumbimby Inc.
- This data will be used for communication relating to this Competition and to inform entrants about future events, programs, and news from both organisations.
- Entrants can unsubscribe from general communications at any time.

10. General Conditions

- The Organisers reserve the right to disqualify any entry that does not comply with these Terms and Conditions or is deemed inappropriate, offensive, or otherwise unsuitable.
 - The laws of New South Wales, Australia, govern these Terms and Conditions.
 - **Contact Address:** The Byron Shire Echo, 6 Village Way, 64 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby, New South Wales 2482, AU.
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