



## GUIDELINES

The Russell Prize for Humour Writing was established at the bequest of Peter Wentworth Russell to celebrate, recognise and encourage humorous writing, and to promote public interest in this genre. It is the only award to recognise the art of humour writing in Australia.

The Russell Prize for Humour Writing is awarded biennially for the work which is judged to be the best book of humour writing by an Australian author and published in the previous two years. The winner of the 2017 prize will receive \$10,000.

The prize is administered by the State Library of NSW and Foundation on behalf of the estate of the award's benefactor Peter Wentworth Russell.

**Entries close at 5pm on Friday, 3 February 2017**

### Eligible works

Works nominated for the 2017 Prize must have been **first published between 1 January 2015 and 31 December 2016**, and commercially available within this period.

Works of fiction and non-fiction, including poetry and collections of short stories, are eligible for consideration.

The major emphasis of each entry must be on humour, but the judges will also consider the quality of the writing and the work's contribution to the genre.

A work may contain some material previously published only in anthologies, literary journals or newspapers. In such a case the judges will determine whether the new work is sufficient, in quantity and quality, to qualify as eligible and merit an award. It is the nominator's responsibility to clearly identify the previously published material.

All nominated works must be written in English, be published in book or ebook form with an ISBN and be publicly available.

All works, except for poetry, must consist of a minimum length of 40,000 words.

All entries must consist of original work by the author/s.

English translations of works that were originally written in another language will be eligible for nomination if the translations were published between 1 January 2015 and 31 December 2016.

Electronic versions of previously published books will not be accepted. Published versions of books originally released electronically before the current eligibility period will not be accepted.

The prize will not be given for a work consisting principally of photographs or illustrations unless the text is of substantial length and sufficient merit in its own right.

Self-published books may be nominated, but unpublished manuscripts will not be considered.

## Eligible authors

Authors whose works are nominated must be Australian citizens or persons holding permanent resident status.

Works published overseas are eligible if the author is an Australian citizen or holds permanent residency.

A work written by two authors in collaboration will be considered for the Prize.

The author, or one of the two joint authors, must be living at the time of nomination.

If an author, or authors, should die between recommendation and presentation of the award, the prize money may be paid to the estate of the author/s and/or the surviving author. Any payment will be made at the discretion of the State Library of NSW.

Books compiled by an editor, or someone other than the author/s, and consisting of contributions from more than two authors are not eligible for entry.

Works may not be entered in the name of a committee.

## General

Works may be entered by a publisher, agent or by the author.

People or organisations nominating a work/s on behalf of an author are deemed to be nominating with the author's consent. It is the responsibility of the nominator to ensure that the author's consent is obtained before nominating the work. The author's personal contact details must be included on the nomination form.

Nominations must be made via the online entry form on the State Library of NSW website <https://awards.sl.nsw.gov.au/russell/2017>. Up to five entries can be made on one online form; if you have more than five entries, you will need to complete and submit more than one online form.

Entries must be accompanied by **five copies** of each nominated work.

Entries in ebook format must be accompanied by five bound copies of the printed text for assessment purposes.

In some cases, additional copies of the work may be requested by judges. As a condition of entry, books cannot be returned.

The prize will be judged by an independent judging committee whose decision will be final. No correspondence or discussion will be entered into concerning the decision.

The prize will be awarded biennially.

If the winning or shortlisted titles are works written by two authors in collaboration, the prize is awarded for the work and monies will be divided equally between authors.

All reasonable care will be taken with works submitted, but no responsibility is accepted for loss or damage to books or other material.

Breach of the conditions of entry will render an entry invalid.

A shortlist of no more than six books, from the authors of which the winner of the prize will be chosen, will be released approximately four weeks before the anticipated date of the winner announcement. Unsuccessful nominees will not be personally advised of the results.

It is anticipated that the winner will be announced and the prize presented at a function to be held in June 2017. Details of the function will be available in May 2017 on the Library's website [www.sl.nsw.gov.au](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au)

The State Library of NSW encourages winning and shortlisted authors to be available to undertake a small number of activities to promote this prize up to and including the next year the award is made. Activities may include media interviews (face to face or via electronic means), photographs or personal appearances at functions promoting the prize, author events at the State Library, and, where possible, events across the NSW Public Library Network.

## Entry fee

There is an entry fee of \$66 (including GST) for each title for administration charges incurred by the State Library of NSW. Please make payment online with a credit card (Mastercard or Visa), or make cheques or money orders payable to the State Library of NSW.

## The judging process

The prize will be judged by an independent committee of writers, comedians, critics and other sector professionals.

The judges will assess all nominated works.

Judges may also take action as they consider appropriate to encourage the nomination of eligible works not already entered.

The judges may determine that the Russell Prize for Humour Writing not be awarded if the nominated works are not considered to be of sufficient merit.

The judging panel will select a shortlist (containing no more than six titles) and prepare judges' comments.

The names of the winners, and the judges' comments, will be posted on the State Library of NSW website after their announcement.

The judges' decision will be final and no discussion or correspondence will be entered into concerning the decisions.

## Privacy Notice

The State Library of NSW is subject to the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (PPIP Act) which requires us to comply with Information Protection Principles.

The State Library of NSW collects the minimum personal information necessary to process an application and administer the Russell Prize for Humour Writing. The State Library of NSW is required to collect personal information directly from the individual to whom the information relates unless the individual has authorised collection of the information from someone else.

Nominations for an award must only be submitted with the author's consent and knowledge of the State Library of NSW Privacy Notice.

We will only use the personal information on the online application form for the purpose for which it has been provided and for directly related purposes such as contacting the author and assessing the merits

of a nomination. We will not disclose the personal information without the consent of the individual to whom the personal information relates, except for directly related purposes such as judging and to promote shortlisted and winning authors or where another Act or law authorises or requires us to do so.

The individual to whom the personal information on the online application form relates has a right of access to, and correction of, the personal information collected. The personal information will be held at the State Library of NSW, Macquarie St Sydney NSW 2000. Please email [privacy.library@sl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:privacy.library@sl.nsw.gov.au) for further information.

## Right to information

Under some circumstances, information pertaining to nominations and administration of the awards may be released, subject to consultation, in response to an application request made in accordance with the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*.

## Nomination checklist

1. Read the guidelines for the 2017 Prize, including the Privacy Notice, available at <http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/about-library-awards/russell-prize-humour-writing>
2. Complete the online application form at <https://awards.sl.nsw.gov.au/russell/2017>
3. Send nominations to the State Library by **5pm, Friday 3 February 2017**

Each nomination must include:

- Five copies of each nominated work
- Appropriate payment if payment was not made online via credit card

### Postal address

The Russell Prize for Humour Writing 2017  
State Library of NSW  
Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

### Courier address/hand delivery

The Russell Prize for Humour Writing 2017  
State Library of NSW  
Loading Dock, Hospital Road  
Sydney NSW 2000

## Enquiries and Nomination Forms

Online nomination forms can be found on the State Library website:  
<https://awards.sl.nsw.gov.au/russell/2017>

Please direct inquiries or requests for further information to:

Senior Project Officer, Awards, State Library of NSW  
Email: [awards.library@sl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:awards.library@sl.nsw.gov.au)  
Telephone: (02) 9273 1605 or (02) 9273 1582