

## GUIDELINES

**Closing date: 5pm, Friday 3 February 2023**

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 2023 Prize will receive \$10,000.

The Humour Writing for Young People Award (\$5,000) is offered for a work promoting humour and championing laughter. The Award is aimed at primary school level readers (5-12 years) and recognises the role of humour in encouraging children to read.

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

### Eligible works

To be eligible for consideration or shortlisting, and/or to be eligible to win, submitted works must:

- be **first published between 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2022** and commercially available within this period.
- be works of fiction, non-fiction, poetry and/or collections of short stories;
- have a major emphasis on humour. The judges will also consider the quality of the writing and the work's contribution to the genre;
- be written in the English language, published in book or ebook form with an ISBN; and
- consist of original work by the author and if the work draws on direct samples or copies of other works not created by them, those sources should be publicly acknowledged and documented.

The following will not be eligible for consideration or shortlisting, and/or to be eligible to win:

- electronic versions of previously published books or published versions of books originally released electronically before the current eligibility period;
- revised editions of books unless the revisions are so substantial that the book is, in effect, a new work. It is the nominator's responsibility to identify the new material and to include one copy of the original edition as part of the entry;
- compilations, edited editions of works by other authors, and works by more than two authors (for the Main Prize);

- works consisting principally of photographs or illustrations unless the text is of substantial length and sufficient merit in its own right;
- Unpublished manuscripts (however self-published works may be entered).

## 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 (with the exception of the Young People's Award: works written by up to three authors will be allowed, this does not include the contribution of illustrator/s).
- In the case of books containing original illustrations, the judges may determine that the award be shared by the writers/s and the illustrator.
- 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.
- Works may not be entered in the name of a committee.
- If the winning or shortlisted titles are works written by more than one author in collaboration, the prize money will be divided equally between the authors.
- In the case of books containing original illustrations which are integral to the success of the book, the judges may determine that the prize money be shared by the writer/s and the illustrator.

## Entering the Prize

- Entries must be made via the online entry form on the State Library of NSW website: <https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/russell-prize-humour-writing> Up to five entries can be made on the one online form; if you have more than five entries, you need to complete and submit more than one online form.
- Works may be submitted by a publisher or agent or by the author.
- If work is submitted on behalf of an author, permission must be obtained from the author and the author's direct contact details must be provided.
- The State Library of NSW will acknowledge receipt of submissions.
- Once the online form has been completed, the entrant must send four copies of each nominated work to the State Library of NSW by the closing date. In some cases, additional copies of the work may be requested. **Entrants should note that books submitted will not be returned.**

## Fees

- There is an early-bird entry fee of \$50 (including GST) for each work submitted by 5pm Friday 23 December 2022 and \$66 (including GST) for entries submitted after that date and up to the closure date on Friday 3 February 2023.
- The entry fee is payable for each entry.
- Publishers who are current members of The Small Press Network are exempt from paying the entry fee.
- The following groups are also exempt from paying the entry fee:

- Australian Senior and Pensioner cardholders
- Tertiary student cardholders
- Australian Government cardholders (e.g. unemployed, healthcare cards)
- Australian Government Department of Veterans Affairs cardholders
- Where an entry is for two or more authors, all must be cardholders to be eligible for a payment exemption. Proof of your status as a cardholder must be uploaded with the online application or photocopied and included with your entry sent to the Library.
- Entrants and authors acknowledge and agree that they participate in the Prize at their own cost and that the State Library of NSW will not be liable for any loss, damage, cost or expense of any kind suffered or incurred by entrants or authors in connection with the Prize.
- Credit card payment online is preferred as part of the entry process. If you would like to pay via direct debit please contact the Awards team at [awards@sl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:awards@sl.nsw.gov.au)

## Judging Process

The Prize will be judged by an independent judging committee whose decision will be final. The Library and the judges will have absolute discretion as to the manner in which the Prize is administered. Without limitation, at the absolute discretion of the Library:

- judges may admit or reject certain submitted works;
- judges may admit works after the deadline in exceptional circumstances;
- if the works entered are not considered to be of sufficient merit, the judges may determine that the Prize is not awarded and/or that no works be shortlisted;
- subject to the preceding point, a shortlist of no more than six books in each category, from the authors of which the winners will be chosen, will be released approximately four weeks before the anticipated date of the announcement;
- unsuccessful nominees will not be personally advised of the results and no correspondence or discussion will be entered into concerning the decision; and
- only one work will be selected as the winner of each Prize. The dates for the shortlist and winner announcements are still to be confirmed and will be published on the State Library of NSW website.

## Shortlisted and winning author's conditions

- The State Library of NSW encourages winning and shortlisted authors of the Russell Prize for Humour Writing to be available to undertake a small number of activities to promote the Prize up to and including the next time the Prize is presented. Activities may include media interviews (face to face or via electronic means), photographs or personal appearances at functions promoting these Prizes, author events at the State Library, and, where possible, events across the NSW Public Library Network.
- All intellectual property in the submitted work remains vested in the author(s). The author(s) grant(s) to the Library of NSW a royalty free, perpetual and irrevocable licence to use any part of the submitted work for publications and promotions relating to the Prizes, any future awards and the State Library of NSW generally. This licence shall continue notwithstanding the conclusion of the Prize process and/or any author's decision to withdraw from the Prize process.
- In relation to the author(s) Work:
  - the author(s) will be attributed as the author of the Work when the Library of New South Wales considers it reasonable and appropriate;
  - the Library of New South Wales need not advise the author(s) of any intended use of the Work;

- the author(s) have the right to give consent on behalf of its employees, consultants or any other collaborators, illustrators, copywriters, or any other person associated with the authorship and production of the Work; and
- where requested, the author(s) must provide the Library of New South Wales with copies of all relevant consents in a form required by the Library of New South Wales.
- The State Library of NSW, in its absolute discretion, reserves the right to conduct criminal record checks in respect of authors whose works are submitted for consideration in respect of the Prize.
- Prize recipients must not engage (and must not have engaged) in behaviour that would be seen to bring the Prize into disrepute.
- The State Library of NSW, in its absolute discretion, may withdraw the offer of prize money or demand the return of prize money already paid if it is discovered that any of the information provided in the application is false. Upon receipt of such a demand, a prize winner must immediately return the prize money to the State Library of NSW.
- If an author, or authors, should die between recommendation and presentation of the Prize, the prize money may, in the absolute discretion of the State Library of NSW, 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.

## Privacy Notice

Personal information collected by the State Library of NSW is treated in accordance with the State Library of NSW Privacy Management Plan and is governed by the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 and related regulations. Information provided on the application form will only be used for purposes related to the Prize, which may include advertising or promoting the Russell Prize for Humour Writing and presentation events. Unless expressly requested, images of individuals present at award presentation events may be used for promotional purposes. Nominations for an award must only be submitted with the author's consent and knowledge of the Privacy Notice. Please email [privacy@sl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:privacy@sl.nsw.gov.au) or visit [www.sl.nsw.gov.au/privacy/privacy-management-plan](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/privacy/privacy-management-plan) for further information.

## Right to Information

Under some circumstances, information pertaining to entries 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.

## Entry checklist

Before lodging your submission, please ensure that you have done the following:

1. Read and ensure that you understand and agree to these Guidelines and the Privacy Notice
2. Complete the online entry form at <https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/russell-prize-humour-writing>
3. Send 4 copies of each book entered to the State Library of NSW by 5pm Friday 3 February 2023.

### Postal address

The Russell Prize for Humour Writing 2023  
Main Prize OR Young People Award  
State Library of NSW  
1 Shakespeare Place  
Sydney NSW 2000

### Courier address/hand delivery

The Russell Prize for Humour Writing 2023  
Main Prize OR Young People Award  
State Library of NSW  
Loading Dock, Hospital Road  
Sydney NSW 2000

## Enquiries

Please direct enquiries or requests for further information to:

Senior Project Officer, Awards, State Library of NSW

Email: [awards@sl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:awards@sl.nsw.gov.au)

Telephone: (02) 9273 1767 or (02) 9273 1582