

Mayor's Short Story Writing Awards – Terms and Conditions

1. Only people residing within Mornington Peninsula Shire are eligible to enter.
2. Mornington Peninsula Shire Staff are not eligible to enter.
3. Children of Mornington Peninsula Shire staff are eligible to enter.
4. Entry is free.
5. All entries are to be original and unpublished work composed by the entrant and must not exceed the word limit.
6. Entries must be submitted online via the Mayor's Short Story Writing Awards page.
7. Entries are only permitted in Word documents (.doc or .docx)
8. Maximum of 1 entry per person – only 1 entry form must be completed for your short story submission.
9. To maintain anonymity for judging purposes, the author's name should not appear on any part of the entry. The author's name and details must be confined to the entry form only.
10. Stories must be submitted in Times New Roman black font, 12pt size, 1.5 spacing, with no images.
11. Entries must be submitted by 11:59pm on Tuesday 30 June 2026. Late entries will not be accepted.
12. Entries are for short stories of creative fiction only. This competition is for a short story fiction piece (not memoir, essays or poetry). Word limits are 8-12 years up to 500 words; 13-17 years up to 1000 words limit; 18 + years up to 2000 words limit. Entries over the word limit will be deemed invalid.
13. Entries that are generated by computer or created by artificial intelligence (included but not limited to chatbots such as ChatGPT or similar applications), will be considered invalid.

14. Entries that are considered to be of an offensive, harassing, hate speech, defamatory or discriminatory nature will be rejected and considered invalid. General vulgar language is permitted.
15. The judges' decision is final, and discussion will not be entered into. Feedback will not be given on entries. Successful winners will be notified via email or telephone.
16. The Mayor's Short Story Writing Awards will be judged by a panel of industry professionals. The entries will be judged anonymously based on established criteria. The judges' decision is final.
17. There will be one winner only per category and, if judges deem additional entries sufficiently meritorious, honourably mentioned work/s in each category.
18. Prize recipients will have their short stories published on the Mornington Peninsula Shire website and potentially in other Shire publications and local media.