

Merri-bek Libraries

Short Story Competition

Calling all Merri-bek writers!

The Merri-bek Libraries Short Story Competition is now open.



Archival pigment print, David Wadelton, Brunswick, 2018

The 2026 theme is **Present Tense**, inspired by the Summer Show exhibition at the Counihan Gallery, Brunswick as they celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Noel Counihan Commemorative Art Award.

Unleash your imagination and craft a story about the present, past or future.

The competition invites local writers to consider what has shaped the present moment and what defines the here and now for you.

Open to
all ages!

Prizes

Up to 8 years old

Winner: \$100 book voucher

Achievement: \$50 book voucher

9 - 12 years old

Winner: \$100 book voucher

Achievement: \$50 book voucher

13 - 17 years old

Winner: \$150 book voucher

Achievement: \$50 book voucher

Adult

Winner: \$150 book voucher

Achievement: \$100 book voucher

Submit your story

Via email

libraryevents@merri-bek.vic.gov.au

In person at your local Merri-bek Library

- Brunswick Library - Corner Sydney Road and Dawson Street, Brunswick
- Campbell Turnbull Library - 220 Melville Road, Brunswick West
- Coburg Library - Corner Victoria and Louisa Streets, Coburg
- Fawkner Library - 77 Jukes Road, Fawkner
- Glenroy Library - 50 Wheatsheaf Road, Glenroy

By Post

Merri-bek Libraries Short Story Competition

c/o Coburg Library, PO Box 113, Coburg VIC 3058

Entry form

Include this form with your entry, and please use BLOCK letters

Name _____

Title of entry

Email address _____

Phone: _____ Library card number 2000301 _____

Please select category:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Up to 8 years old | ☐ 9 to 12 years old |
| ☐ 13 to 17 years old | ☐ Adult |

Which Library would you like to collect your certificate of participation from?

All information supplied is true and correct. I understand the conditions of entry and declare the entry is an original work.

Signed _____
(entrant)

Signed _____
(parent / guardian if entrant under 18 years)

For more information email libraryevents@merri-bek.vic.gov.au

Entries must be submitted by Sunday 11 October 2026

Privacy statement

Merri-bek City Council is committed to protecting your privacy in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic) and the Health Records Act 2001 (Vic). The personal information requested on this form is being collected by Merri-bek City Council for the Merri-bek Libraries Short Story Competition and may also be used to update your personal information otherwise held by Council (for example, contact details including email address, phone number. It will not be disclosed to any other external party without your consent, unless required or authorised by law. If the personal information is not provided you will not be entered into the Short Story Competition. You can gain access to your personal information you have provided to Merri-bek City Council and if you wish to alter it, please contact Council's Privacy Officer via telephone on 9240 1111 or e-mail at Privacyofficer@merri-bek.vic.gov.au

Conditions of entry

- Entry is free and must be submitted by Sunday 11 October.
- Each entry must be accompanied by a completed entry form.
- Written pieces to be a maximum of 500 words.
 - The preference for written entries is that they be typed.
- Recorded pieces to be a maximum of 3 minutes.
- Illustrated stories and recorded stories (with or without visuals) are accepted.
- Written entries **must not** include the entrant's name
- Recorded entries must include the name of the sound file on the entry form. The content and file name **must not** include the entrant's name.
- Only one entry per person.
- Story content must be suitable for a general audience.
- Each entry must be original work, created without the use of generative AI. The judges reserve the right to use AI detection software and/or consult experts at any stage of the process if deemed necessary.
- The competition is open to anyone, except staff of Merri-bek Libraries.
- Merri-bek Libraries reserves the right to retain, duplicate, display and publish any entry via online platforms. Only first names will be used.
- Winners will be announced on Sunday 5 December, and will be published on Merri-bek Libraries' Social pages and website.
- The judges' decision will be final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

Speak with us in your language

Per maggiori informazioni nella tua lingua, chiama il numero **9280 1911**

Για να μάθετε περισσότερα στη γλώσσα σας, καλέστε το **9280 1912**

तपाईंको भाषामा थप जान्नेको लागि, 9280 1910 मा कल गर्नुहोस्

اپنی زبان میں مزید جاننے کے لیے پر کال کریں۔ **9280 1917**

لمعرفة المزيد بلغتك، اتصل بالرقم **9280 1913**

Kendi dilinizde daha fazla bilgi edinmek için **9280 1914** 'ü arayın

如需了解更多您语言版本的信息, 请致电 **9280 0750**

Para saber más en tu idioma llama al **9280 1916**

Để tìm hiểu thêm bằng ngôn ngữ của bạn, hãy gọi **9280 1915**

अपनी भाषा में अधिक जानने के लिए, **9280 1918** पर कॉल करें

To speak with us in a language not listed here, call **9280 1919** and for more information visit merri-bek.vic.gov.au/your-language