

STATE CULTURAL COMPETITION RULES AND GUIDELINES

**Please note: all competition entries are to be sent to the State Cultural Committee Secretary at her home address, which is provided in the directory.*

Short Story: Senior

- This competition is open to members only.
- The short story topic and rules for each annual competition appear in the Cultural Report of the December issue of *'The Country Woman'* each year.
- Short story to be up to 1,000 words only.
- Member's name, branch and group details should be placed on a separate sheet of paper and attached to the entry. On this separate sheet the following words should also appear: "I do/I do not give my permission for my short story to be published in *'The Country Woman'* journal and/or read out at State Conference".
- **Only one entry per person.** If more than one entry is submitted, ALL will be disqualified and returned.
- The closing date for the State Competition is **5 November** each year.
- The judge's decision is final.
- Branches and Groups are encouraged to conduct a branch/group competition using the same or a different topic and rules as published in the journal and branch manual.

Short Story: Junior

- The junior short story topic and rules for each annual competition appear in the Cultural Report of the December issue of *'The Country Woman'* each year.
- There are two age categories: 8-12 years and 13-18 years. Competition open to all juniors, not just junior members or relatives of members.
- Junior short story to be up to 500 words only.
- The child's name, age, branch and group details should be on a separate sheet of paper. Name etc should not appear on the writing.
- **Only one entry per child.** If a child submits more than one entry, ALL will be disqualified and returned.
- The closing date for the State Competition is **5 November** each year.
- The judge's decision is final.

Poem: seniors only

- Maximum of 24 lines. Must be original.
- This competition is open to members only.
- The senior poem and rules for each annual competition appear in the Cultural Report of the December issue of *'The Country Woman'* each year.
- Member's name, branch and group details should be placed on a separate sheet of paper and attached to the entry. On this separate sheet the following words should also appear: "I do/do not give my permission for my poem to be published in *'The Country Woman'* journal and/or read out at State Conference".
- **Only one entry per person.** If more than one entry is submitted, ALL will be disqualified and returned.
- The closing date for the State Competition is **5 November** each year.
- The judge's decision is final.
- Branches and Groups are encouraged to conduct a branch/group competition using the same topic and rules as published in the journal and in branch manuals.

Bush Ballad

A simple song or poem especially one telling a story (Macquarie Dictionary)

Maximum of 24 lines. Must be original.

- This competition is open to members only.
- The topic and rules for each annual competition appear in the Cultural Report of the December issue of *'The Country Woman'* each year.
- Member's name, branch and group details should be placed on a separate sheet of paper and attached to the entry. On this separate sheet the following words should also appear: "I do/do not give my permission for my Bush Ballad to be published in *'The Country Woman'* journal and/or read out at State Conference".
- **Only one entry per person.** If more than one entry is submitted, ALL will be disqualified and returned.
- The closing date for the State Competition is **5 November** each year.
- The judge's decision is final.
- Branches and Groups are encouraged to conduct a branch/group competition using the same topic and rules as published in the journal and in branch manuals.

Junior Posters

- The poster topic and rules for each annual competition appear in the Cultural Report of the December issue of *'The Country Woman'* each year.
- Poster size 50 x 63 cm (the size of a sheet of cardboard) **or** Cardboard no smaller than A3 size.
- Age categories: 8 years and under, 9-12 years and 13-18 years.
- Competition is open to all children not just to relatives of members or junior members.
- Name, branch, group, age of child and name of school must be clearly written on the back of the poster.
- **Only one entry per child.**
- Closing date: **5 February** each year.
- The judge's decision is final.

Junior Posters – Digital Presentation

- The digital poster topic will be the same as the paper poster topic. The topic and rules for each annual competition to appear in the Cultural Report of the December issue of *'The Country Woman'*.
- Age categories: 8 years and under, 9-12 years and 13-18 years.
- Competition is open to all children not just to relatives of members or junior members.
- Presentation to be on a USB memory stick, with a separate file giving the name, branch, group, age of child and name of school. Also include this information clearly written on a piece of paper.
- A child may enter both paper and digital sections.
- Closing date: **5 February** each year.
- The judge's decision is final.

Cultural Record Book

The cultural book is a record of the cultural activities of the branch and its members. The following criteria should be helpful when compiling your Cultural Record Book. Please keep in mind it is not a photo album, so be discreet with photographs, even cutting around them to make them more interesting.

The book could include essays, short stories, poems, reviews of films/books/musicals/plays, which members or the branch have seen or read, special branch days, reports on guest speakers, cultural days, etc.

Any overlap with international work should only involve the 'culture' of the country of study.

Book to be used: **GNS PROJECT BOOK 201** is not as available as previously. Project, Art or Sketch book maybe used instead.
12 leaves = 24 pages. This is the number of pages judged.

The **Project, Art or Sketch book** are available from most stationery supplies. **GNS PROJECT BOOK** can still be used if available.

The contents (numeric order) should be in the front, however not necessarily inside the front cover. The index (alphabetical order) should be at the back, again not necessarily inside the back cover.

The book must include the Branch and Group name. These details should appear on the **inside** front or back of the book and **not on the front cover**

Judging Points	1. Content	30 points
	2. Member participation *	30 points
	3. Spelling	15 points
	4. Neatness	10 points
	5. Presentation	10 points
	6. Lists of Contents (at front) or Index (at back)	5 points
	Total	100 points

* Member participation will be judged on the number of members who contribute to the content and who participate in cultural activities at Branch and Group level, keeping in mind that it is quite permissible for one member to compile the book.

- Computer work and hand written work will be judged equally.
- The judge's decision is final.

The Group Cultural Officer should ensure that all branch cultural books are completed on or before Group Cultural Day each year. Judging of all the branch books should then take place and an announcement made at Group Conference as to the best branch cultural book. The winning book should then be sent for judging ready for State Conference to the State Cultural Committee Secretary, no later than **15 November** each year.

Cultural Record Digital Presentation

- A Power Point display of 25 slides
- Recording the cultural activities of the Branch
- The first slide should identify the Branch and the Group
- One entry per Group
- To be submitted on a USB memory stick no later than **15 November** to the State Cultural Committee Secretary
- A Group may submit both a paper Cultural Book and a digital presentation.

Value of cultural record book (prepared by a former cultural judge)

As a result of reading these Cultural Record Books, I have come to believe that they have much value for branch members.

1. It is a wonderful record of what branch has done during the year. All members should read it and perhaps it could find a place in the branch archives.
2. Good as a promotion tool: could be shown to prospective members, displayed at branch functions.
3. One of the reasons given for joining CWA was that it gives people a chance to use talents otherwise not used since leaving school or retiring, etc., e.g. singing, acting... The Cultural Record Book includes many talents e.g. photography, sketching (help to fill spaces), painting, writing articles, poems, summaries, compiling a book.
4. It is a chance for a not so mobile member to be involved in a pleasant activity.

Advice to member who compiles book:

- Start planning early in the year
- Organise helpers (make use of members' talents).

Read guidelines in the December journal before doing anything!!!

Photography

Senior: Sections A and B.

- This competition is open to members only.
- The topic and rules for each annual competition appear in the Cultural Report of the December issue of *'The Country Woman'* each year.
- Member's name, branch, group and section entered must be clearly printed on the back of the photograph.
- **Only one entry per person.**
- Size of the photograph: 10cm x 15cm (maximum extra allowance of 2mm only permissible for height or width). No mounted photographs permitted.
- No photograph to be more than five (5) years old.
- Digital photographs will only be accepted in the digital photography section appearing in the December issue of *'The Country Woman'* each year provided they are the regulation size, being 10 cm x 15 cm and printed only on photographic paper (not ordinary paper). Digital photographs must be guillotined to the regular size.
- The closing date for the State Competition is **5 November** each year. Entries should be posted to the State Cultural Committee Secretary.
- The judge's decision is final.
- Branches and Groups are encouraged to conduct a branch/group competition using the same topic or other topics and rules as published in the journal and in the branch manual.

Junior:

- The topic and rules for each annual competition appear in the Cultural Report of the December issue of *'The Country Woman'* each year.
- Three age categories: 8 years and under, 9-12 years and 13-18 years.
- Name, branch, group and age of child must be clearly printed on the back of the photograph. Competition is open to junior members and members' relations only.
- **Only one entry per child.**
- Digital photographs will only be accepted in the digital photography section appearing in the December issue of *'The Country Woman'* each year provided they are the regulation size, being 10 cm x 15 cm and printed only on photographic paper (not ordinary paper).
- Size of the photograph: 10cm x 15cm (maximum extra allowance of 2mm only permissible for height or width).
- No photograph to be more than five (5) years old.
- The closing date for the State Competition is **5 November** each year. Entries to be sent to the State Cultural Committee Secretary.
- The judge's decision is final.

Scott & Broad Art Competition Rules

Section 1: Open – Oil 1A Watercolour 1B or Acrylic 1C

Section 2: Novice - Oil, Watercolour or Acrylic. This section is open only to members who have never won a prize, including a highly commended.

Section 3: Any other painting medium, e.g. lime and wash, pen and ink, pastel, charcoal, chalk, metal point or crayon. No stitching or thread work or fabric.

Section 4: Miniature. Any medium. Size limit is 15 x 20 cm including the frame.

Section 5. Open section for junior members (up to 18 years of age). This section is also available to male or female relatives of a member. The entries are to be clearly marked with name and age of the entrant and the name and branch of the relative.

Rules

- This competition is open to members only, with the exception of Section 5.
- In Sections 1, 2, 3 and 5 the paintings are not to exceed 80 cm x 100 cm, including the frame. The judges decision is final. **Entries are limited to two (2) per member in each section.** No previous prize winning entry will be eligible for a prize ever, and **Paintings must not be more than five (5) years old.**
- Your name, branch and section should be clearly marked on the paintings, as well as the bags or boxes.
- **Clearly state which section painting is to go in if not clearly marked it will not be judged.**
- Entries limited to two per member in any one section.
- No previous prize winning entry will be eligible for a prize, and paintings must be no more than five (5) years old.
- No stitching or thread work or fabric will be permitted in any section.
- Delivery of art work on the Saturday before State Conference commences. Alternatively art work can be posted to the person appointed in the journal to receive such artwork by post or courier. Times, date and address of Conference venue and address of person appointed to collect the Art will be advised in the Journal.
- It is necessary to complete entry coupons, one to be attached to the back of each piece of artwork and the other (or others) to be forwarded to the State Cultural Committee Secretary. These coupons are published in the journal each year and include an option for selling artwork. Please note that the Committee receives 20% of the sale amount of items nominated for sale.
- Entry coupons must be sent to the State Cultural Committee Secretary no later than **15 February each year.**
- Entries will only be insured whilst held for exhibition, but not during transit. The Committee wishes to advise that at all times all care will be taken, but no responsibility given.
- Painting(s) to be wrapped in bubble plastic and placed in a calico or material bag. (Good strong boxes well sealed are permitted).
- It will help when packing if you would put the number of paintings you entered on the bag or box as well.
- Those paintings that arrive not ready to hang (with no strong string on the back) will not be displayed or hung.
- The Judge's decision is final.
- Arrangements for collecting paintings at the close of conference must be made by the artist. All paintings must be signed for. If a representative is to collect a painting or paintings, please give her your written permission. The committee will not be responsible for any unclaimed paintings or paintings taken without written authorisation from the artist.
- The address where artwork is to be sent is referred to in the journal for each year's competition.
- If an entry form is sent for cataloguing and you decide not to enter the painting, or to change the name of the painting, please notify the State Cultural Committee Secretary.
- Artwork is judged on the Sunday afternoon prior to State Conference to enable the committee to attend the Church Service and opening ceremony at State Conference and to allow time to prepare prize winners' cheques and highly commended cards.
- For each painting sold, the State Cultural Committee receives 20% of the sale price.

Scott & Broad China Painting

Section 1: Best piece of china painting – fruit, flowers or monotone

Section 2: Best decorated piece – lustre, enamel or raised paste

Section 3: Portrait, or animal(s) or bird(s)

Section 4: Penwork

Section 5: Scenes

Section 6: Miniatures

Section 7: Novice – a piece by a member who has not exhibited before

Rules:

- This competition is open to members only.
- Each piece must be packed individually and clearly marked.
- Ceramics will not be accepted.
- No china painting to be covered with glass.
- **One piece per member per section.**
- All care will be taken but no responsibility.
- Mark your pieces "For Sale" if applicable as the Committee receives requests to purchase items. **Please note that the Committee receives 20% of the sale amount.**
- No prize-winning entry will be eligible for a prize in any successive year.
- **Pieces must not be more than five (5) years old.**
- Entry coupons must be received by the State Cultural Committee **Secretary no later than 15 February each year.**
- If an entry form is sent for cataloguing and you decide not to enter the china painting or change the name of the item, please notify the State Cultural Committee Secretary.
- Each piece must be delivered to the cultural exhibition area during the two days prior to State Conference and no later than 5 pm on the second day prior to conference.
- Judging takes place early on Monday morning of the first day of conference.
- The judge's decision is final.
- Each piece can be collected at lunch time or as soon as possible thereafter on the last day of State Conference. All china painting being collected must be signed for.
- If a representative is to collect china painting, please give her your written permission.
- The committee will not be responsible for any unclaimed items or items taken without the artist's authorisation.

Short Story Writing

What is a short story? 'Short Story' is a seemingly obvious term for fictional writing that is shorter than a novel.

The short story as a specific genre and as we know it today in women's magazines, in collected anthologies, and from the radio, was developed in the 19th century. It should be a work of entertainment.

Short stories have been described as a 'slice of life'. They generally focus on a single situation, building to a climax, then quickly ending.

Many modern stories contain no plot or little or no action. The old convention of having a beginning, a middle, and an ending tends to be disregarded. But it is important for beginners to try to construct a story in what we now consider the traditional method. Once this is mastered then the writer can learn to develop his or her own method and literary style.

The following word count categories can be used as a guideline:

- Short story – under 7,500 words
- Novelette – 7,500 to 17,500 words
- Novella – 17,500 to 40,000 words
- Novel – over 40,000 words.

However, if writing for a specific purpose the number of words required will be stated, e.g. the CWA Cultural Competition requires the story to be no longer than 1,000 words.

Points to consider when writing a short story

Decide:-

- **What your subject is** – for a competition a title or a suggested topic will be given, otherwise the choice is yours.
 - **What your purpose is** – e.g. do you want to amuse, inform, explain, describe, stimulate, provoke, reflect or remember.
 - **Who your audience is** – think about who will be reading your writing. Will the work be read by only you, or a small circle of friends, or by the general public? The proposed audience can influence the range and suitability of the subject. Maintaining a sense of the audience at every stage in the writing process, even to the extent of imagining a typical member of that audience sitting across from you as you write, will make your writing clear and effective.
1. **PLAN YOUR STORY** – in other words what happens and in what sequence. A story needs an outline, either on paper or in your head, so that you know where you are going and where you are taking the reader. This provides the basic framework for the story.

A traditional short story uses a series of scenes to describe something happening to somebody. For instance a main character, with a problem to solve, is introduced. He or she must decide various courses of action. These choices are related to a central personality trait of the main character, but they are influenced by factors both within and beyond its compass. Finally the main character comes to a decision. If the story has been successful in creating suspense, readers will be concerned about the outcome, asking themselves whether the main character has made the right choice.

2. Consider the **CHARACTERS** and their function in the story. Usually there are only one or two main characters, the others being subsidiary. Ask yourself whether each character is necessary or an indulgence. Are you using ten characters because you are basing this story on an actual incident in which ten people were involved? Readers cannot be expected to get to know ten characters or how they are related in only 1,000 or even 2,000 words. Can you tell it with three characters? Or even two? You should also only reveal certain aspects of character: since this is not a novel, we don't need to know the characters in depth.
3. The **SETTING** is the next factor to think about. It creates the background to the story, whether in terms of time or of place, e.g. a story set in the early goldrush days would need a very different descriptive treatment from the one set in a modern city centre, or writing which evokes the vast distances of the outback will be very different from the writing needed to convey the atmosphere in a lifeboat adrift at sea.
4. The **OPENING**
Don't forget that your short story really begins with the title, which often gives a clue to what the story is about. This is your first opportunity to catch the attention of your reader. Sometimes titles have an additional meaning that becomes clear only after the story has been read.

The opening sentences of your story must convince your reader to continue reading. An effective way to create interest is to raise questions in the mind of your reader. Human beings are curious by nature and if you refer to something interesting in the plot or about your character without giving the full explanation immediately, you will be encouraging the reader to continue in order to find the answers you have created.

Readers don't have to know everything from the start; it is better for them to be caught up in the flow of the story and learn important information as is necessary.

Details and background are only provided if they are needed to develop important aspects of the plot or characters. There is no space in a short story to develop plots of soap opera proportions, with multiple characters, complex interrelationships and in-depth examinations of contemporary issues. Rather it requires an economic use of words and suggestions.

The short story should deal essentially with '**a moment of crisis**', which can mean a moment of **change** or **realisation**.

5. The **CLIMAX** and **ANTICLIMAX**
While it is important to hook the reader early, it is just as important to know where to stop. Successful short stories must build to a **climax**, make its point, then a swift cutting off like a surgeon with a knife.

Novels may have many climaxes, but short stories seek to create a single impression, relating one incident which, if told well, will leave the reader pondering it long after the story is over.

Once the crisis is over the writer brings the story to a quick conclusion. The **anticlimax** is the solution or outcome of the climax. The writer ties up any 'loose ends' in the story, leaving the reader with perhaps a feeling of relief or despair or amusement or surprise at what has happened.

As a general rule, if there is a moral, the story itself should make it plain. The writer should avoid an obvious restatement of the moral at the end that implies that the reader is too silly to work out the message for himself/herself. We enjoy a story more when we are given the freedom to attach our own final meaning to it.

Additional Points to Note

- The use of dialogue makes for a more interesting story
- Correct punctuation is important
- Correct spelling is most important
- Avoid using too many adjectives
- Avoid long narratives
- Choose whether to write in the past or present tense
- Edit, revise and polish your story.

SUMMARY

- Plan your writing and take care.
- You owe it to your reader to be interesting and readable.
- Your reader should not have to puzzle over your meaning, be confused by ambiguities caused by careless punctuation, or run out of breath because your sentences are too long and have no punctuation.
- Avoid handing in a piece of work that does not do you justice.
- Draft, write and re-write until you are happy with the result.
- Even if the initial results are not up to your expectations, the best way to improve – and therefore enjoy writing – is to practise, practise, practise!