

# PORT MACQUARIE & DISTRICTS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

## OPEN WRITING COMPETITION 2026

### TERMS & CONDITIONS

**Short Story:** to 2500 words

The competition opens on **1<sup>st</sup> July 2026** and closes at midnight on **31<sup>st</sup> August 2026**.

Winners will be notified via email and the prizes announced on **19<sup>th</sup> September 2026** at the State Conference Dinner, Panthers Port Macquarie, 1 Bay Street, Port Macquarie. The results will be published on our website.

All entries must be paid for and accompanied by a completed entry form.

**Entry submission:** by email to [comp.pmdfhs@hotmail.com](mailto:comp.pmdfhs@hotmail.com)

with subject heading: **2026 Competition**

**Entry fee:** \$10 PER ENTRY. Payment by direct debit - details on the entry form

1. Theme – Place & Belonging: The significance of a particular place—town, property, or region—and its connection to your family identity.
2. Entries must be original, unpublished either in print or online, nor have received an award in another competition, and not be under consideration elsewhere from the time of entry in this competition until the official announcement of winners. Any work that has appeared in the public arena, including self-publishing and social media, is considered published.
3. Entries must be the author's own work and not written with the assistance of AI, e.g. ChatGPT or similar.
4. Open to all Australian residents over the age of 18.
5. A limit of 3 entries is permitted per entrant.
6. Entries that infringe on the intellectual property rights of any third party, contain any objectionable content, or are potentially insulting, inflammatory or defamatory will be ineligible for judging. Entrants will be notified, but entry fees will not be returned.
7. Entries must include searchable references at the end of the document.
8. Entries can include up to 3 images relating to the stories placed throughout the document.
9. Receipt of entries will be acknowledged by email.
10. The decisions of the judging panel are final, and no correspondence will be entered into concerning award decisions.
11. Only winners will be notified by email.
12. Submissions exceeding the word or line count limit will be disqualified.
13. PMDFHS reserve the right to publish winning entries on our website and/or an e-book. Entrants retain the copyright of any works submitted. The winning entries will be published in the November 2026 issue of *Footsteps*.
14. Title and Page number must appear on each page.
15. By submitting an entry into this competition, you agree to the terms and conditions. The author's name must **NOT** be visible on the document or in the document file name.
16. Document to be formatted as follows:
  - Document size A4 saved as Microsoft Word .DOC or .DOCX
  - Font: Times New Roman 12 point
  - Line spacing: single-spaced
  - Paragraphs: 5 mm indent first line.



**Port Macquarie & Districts  
Family History Society Inc.**