



Furphy Literary Award



Schools Kit





About the Furphy Literary Awards

THE FURPHY STORY

Everyone can write at least one good story. That was the belief of J. F. Archibald, the editor and founder of the famous nineteenth-century weekly, *The Bulletin*.

It was this encouragement that led Joseph Furphy, working in his brother's foundry at Shepparton, to write his novel, *Such is Life*, using the pseudonym of 'Tom Collins'.

The book, full of stories derived from Joseph's experience in the Riverina and told in a voice uniquely his own, is now acknowledged to be a classic of Australian literature.

The Furphy Literary Award was established in 1992 to promote and extend the tradition of storytelling, both factual and fictional, that is so much part of Australian life.

In 2024 the literary awards will include an open short story award, youth short story award, junior short story award, youth poetry award and junior poetry award.

The Furphy Literary Award includes award winning judges, generous prizes and most importantly the platform and opportunity for all writers to use their talents to compete at the highest standard.

The Furphy Literary Award, both national and regional is made possible thanks to the generous support and contribution provided by the sponsors and the many people that have contributed to the Joseph Furphy Literary Awards.

THE JUNIOR AND YOUTH AWARD

In 2024 the Furphy Foundation will continue to hold a junior and youth competition as part of the awards.

The junior and youth competition will be split into four categories.

Junior Short Story, for writers 12 and under to submit an entry on any theme 2000 words or less.

Junior Poetry, for writers 12 and under to submit a poem of 20 lines or less on any theme.

Youth Short Story, for writers aged 13-17 years to submit an entry on any theme 2000 words or less.

Youth Poetry, for writers aged 13-17 years to submit a poem 30 lines or less on any theme.

Each category will have a first place prize of \$300, followed by second \$100 and third \$50.

Entries can be submitted from **Friday 1 March until 11.59pm Friday 31 May 2024**

A selection panel of judges will select a list of finalists to attend an awards ceremony in July to announce the winners.

For terms and conditions [click here](#), or visit **www.furphyliteraryaward.com.au/junioryouth**



Selecting Process

Entrants will submit their story via the online submission portal at www.furphyliteraryaward.com.au/junioryouth and will be given a unique ID for their submission so their work will remain anonymous during the judging process.

A reviewing panel will select a short list of stories to be passed on to the judges.

The shortlisted stories will be reviewed by all judges who will select the winners of each category based on the recommendations.

The finalists will be notified and invited to attend an awards ceremony.

Registrations and Applications

Stories can be submitted from **Friday 1 March until 11.59pm Friday 31 May 2024**

An entrant can commence their submission process and save their work as a draft before final submission.

If an entrant's work is saved as a draft and not submitted by the closing date it will not be eligible.

Once a story is submitted edits and amendments cannot be made.

Entrants must be within the age requirements at the time of submission, Junior & Youth entrants must be current Australian residents and live or attend a school within the Goulburn Valley - specifically within Greater Shepparton City Council, Moira, Strathbogie, Mitchell, Murrindindi or Campaspe Shires.

To register and submit an entry visit www.furphyliteraryaward.com.au/junioryouth



Media Consent

The Furphy Foundation, Greater Shepparton City Council, Latrobe University and GV Libraries would like to inform schools that the awards are expected to be covered by local media outlets.

Please make Council aware if any schools are contacted by the media before accepting or denying interviews or photographs.

Photo/recording forms will be released prior to the day of the award ceremony. These forms request Greater Shepparton City Council permission to use photographs, audio or video recordings of the finalists for the Furphy Literary Awards.

Further Information

For more information regarding the competition visit
www.furphyliteraryaward.com.au/junioryouth

For general enquiries around the Junior and Youth competition contact the Project Coordinator

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICER – COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Phone: (03) 5832 9528

Mobile: 0429 508 721

Email: youth@shepparton.vic.gov.au

Greater Shepparton City Council

For media and marketing material related enquiries contact the Marketing Officer

COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

Communications@shepparton.vic.gov.au

Greater Shepparton City Council

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The Judges



JUNIOR SHORT STORY

- *Suellen Drysdale*

Suellen Drysdale spent a large part of her childhood daydreaming and reading books. As an adult she still loves to daydream but now shares her unruly imagination through writing.

She has published two children's adventure fantasy novels, *The Hybrid and the Lost Tails of Mermirran* and its sequel, *The Hybrid and the Emeralds of Elisar* - both receiving finalist awards in The Next Generation Indie Book awards in the USA.

Suellen also published a children's picture book, *Forgetful Gran's Muddle Rhymes* aimed at both younger and ancient readers.

Residing in the quiet outskirts of Shepparton, Suellen remains an active member of the Goulburn Valley Writers Group and has judged the Junior Section of the Joseph Furphy Literary Prize for the past 14 years.



YOUTH SHORT STORY

- *John Lewis*

John Lewis is a Welsh-born writer and journalist who has worked with words and readers for more than 35 years.

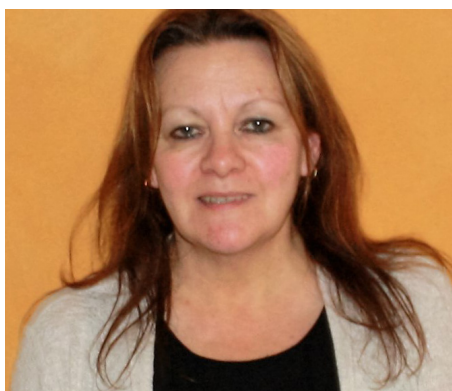
He has a BA in Humanities specialising in English and European Literature, Art History and History. During the 1980s he worked in Fleet St, London for Britain's Press Association as a picture caption writer and picture desk operator.

For the past 28 years he has worked as a sub-editor, reporter, features writer and Chief of Staff at The Shepparton News. He has also written a weekly column since 1993.

In 2001 he published an illustrated book – *Some Shiny Days* – based on his columns about childhood and fatherhood. This was also turned into a musical play and performed with Shepparton Theatre Arts Group actors and musicians over two seasons at WestSide Performing Arts Centre in Mooroopna.

He is a two-time winner of the Joseph Furphy Commemorative Poetry Award.

John has two children and three grandchildren and lives in Shepparton with his wife Fiona and dog Finn. He enjoys playing guitar and writing the occasional poem on his backyard verandah.



YOUTH SHORT STORY

- Pauline Roberts

Pauline has been an avid reader of “everything & anything” for as long as she can remember. Pauline is also a writer and in 2015 was the Winner of the Kingston Artz Blitz - Creative Writing Prize.

During her career, both as a teacher and a librarian, she has had the delight of being able to share her love and enthusiasm for “getting lost in a book” with several thousand children over the years. No job could be more pleasurable and rewarding than inspiring the next generation of bookworms.

As a judge for the Joseph Furphy Commemorative Literary Prize, she has found it a pleasure to read the incredibly original stories entered in the Youth Section of the Awards over the last few years. The students’ thoughts & aspirations for the future are evident in their writing and discovering these aspirations and dreams is always rewarding. On the other hand, selecting just one winner can be a challenge, but one that she enjoys.

YOUTH POETRY

- Robyn Black

Robyn Black is an Australian poet and short fiction writer. She is president of the Goulburn Valley Writers Group Inc., Shepparton, Vice President of the Fellowship of Australian Writers (Victoria) and Writers Victoria Ambassador for the Goulburn Valley region.

A poet and short story writer, she is the twice winner and subsequent judge of the Joseph Furphy Open Poetry prize. Former editor of *tamba* magazine she has been short-listed in the 2016 Victoria University Short Story Prize and in several Alan Marshall Short Story Awards.

Black has been published in various magazines and anthologies including the Montreal International Poetry Prize (2011) Longlist Anthology.

TRU DOWLING

- Junior Poetry

Tru S. Dowling is a Bendigo mother, poet, performer, freelance writer and editor. She has taught fiction writing, poetry, story-telling and non-fiction at Victoria University, Bendigo Tafe and privately for over 16 years. Pre-occupations include hospitality roles, volunteer counselor, and singer-songwriter for folk band The Wagtales.

Her poems have been awarded, read or published in Australia, Ireland, the UK and USA. Tru has appeared at various writers’ festivals as emcee, presenter, guest writer and judge, and exhibited her work alongside artists and musicians. Community projects, social justice, nature, the dialogical and relational inspire her writing.

Memoirs of a Consenting Victim (Mark Time Books, 2011) is Tru’s first poetry collection; her latest book is *Butcher Baker His-Story Maker* (Birdfish Books, 2020), a verse novella meditating on family and place across three generations of life in Castlemaine. She is currently working on a poetry manuscript entitled *Canopy*.



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