

2026 National Short Story Competition

Northland Branch NZSA (PEN Inc.)



Sponsored by Vince Cocurullo Ltd and Prose Publishing.



PRIZES:

First Place \$1000

Second place \$150

Third Place \$100

Winners' stories published online by NZME and on the NZSA Northland Branch website.

Judges: Sherryl Clark and Coo Harkens

RULES:

Open to NZ residents 17 years and over.

Stories must be original, not previously published in print or online. No AI content.

Stories must not have been previously placed (winning or commended) in another competition. Stories must not be entered into other competitions until after 31 October.

Entry fee: \$10 per story, **limit of 3 entries per person** (GST incl.).

Word limit: 1500 words.

Theme: Open.

Email entries only.

Include your name, address, story title and phone number ONLY ON THE ENTRY FORM.

Attach your story SEPARATELY as an rtf or docx file (no pdfs).

Do not include your name or contact details in your story - entries will be judged anonymously.

Standard manuscript presentation conventions apply (1.5 spacing, 12pt font, indented paragraphs)

Judges' decisions are final - no correspondence will be entered into.

Email your entries to nzsanorthlandevents@gmail.com by 30 September 2026.

Entry fees: to be paid into the branch account, either through internet banking or at any ANZ branch.

N Z Society of Authors Northland Branch ANZ 06 0493 0251640 00

Code: SSComp Reference: Your initials & last name

Opening date: 4 July 2026.

Closing date: 30 September 2026. Winners announced mid-November 2026.

ENTRY FORM: 2026 Open Short Story Competition

Name:

Email: Phone Number:

Postal Address:

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Story title	No. of words

Please email this form, screenshot or bank confirmation of your payment and your entries to: nzsanorthlandevents@gmail.com by 11.59pm, 30 September 2026.

CHECKLIST:

- File names and stories do not contain author name, initials or pseudonym.
- The file is .rtf or .docx only.
- Word count is accurate and doesn't exceed 1500.
- You have paid the fee.
- You have emailed us and attached the entry form, your story and proof of payment (screenshot or bank confirmation).