



**Cairns & District Junior Eisteddfod
Association**

Established 1955
ABN 44 092 150 990

CAIRNS EISTEDDFOD

**Literary Schedule
2026**

Awards Ceremony: Wednesday 17 June 2026

www.cairnseisteddfod.org

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT:

Mrs. Robin Smith

VICE PRESIDENTS:

Mrs. Lizanne Smith / Mr. Peppi Bertei

SECRETARY:

Mrs. Vicki Sanderson

ASST. SECRETARY:

Miss. Miss. Madeline Doolan

TREASURER:

Mrs. Rebecca Stokes

TROPHY CONVENER:

Mrs. Tracy Elder

LITERARY CONVENER:

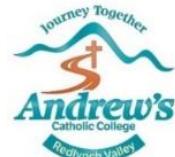
Ms. Virginia Birt

Patron - The Mayor of Cairns

Major Sponsors

The Cairns & District Junior Eisteddfod gratefully acknowledges the following organisations and individuals for their generous contribution to prizes and general support of events.

IF YOU OR YOUR COMPANY WOULD LIKE TO BE A MAJOR SPONSOR, PLEASE CONTACT AIMEE FOLEY – 0447570510
marketing@cairnseisteddfod.org



GENERAL INFORMATION

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES: 1 April 2026

ENTER via COMPS-ONLINE: <https://comps-online.com.au>

CLOSING DATE FOR MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSIONS: FRIDAY 1ST May 2026.

MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSIONS via the Jotform website for manuscript upload.

- Comps-online will send a notification email that your entry has been received.
 - Please contact Literary Coordinator if you do not receive a receipt.
 - Entries **NOT** submitted via Comps-online will **NOT** be accepted.
 - Late entries will **NOT** be accepted.
 - A link to Jotform will be emailed to you following the close of entries.
 - Manuscripts **must** be submitted in PDF format with the completed coversheet provided via a the Jotform website for manuscript upload.
 - Please do not include photos/images.

AWARDS CEREMONY: 4pm Wednesday 17th June 2026 at CDJE Hall, Greenslopes Street, Edge Hill.

LITERARY PRESENTATION ENTRY:

Entry to the Literary Presentation on Wednesday 17th June 2026 is \$2.00

Awardees will be notified by email by Wednesday 10th June 2026 and invited to attend the literary presentation event.

CONTACT: Virginia Birt (Literary Coordinator)

EMAIL: literary@cairnseisteddfod.org **PHONE:** 0431947231

COMPETITOR'S ELIGIBILITY: As per school Grade grade.

VENUE: CDJE Hall

ADJUDICATOR: Junior – TBA

Senior – TBA

ENTRY FEES: LITERARY \$9.00 PER ENTRY

DONATIONS

If anyone wishes to make a cash donation or sponsor a trophy for the Eisteddfod, would they please contact Tracy Elder 0414910429 or trophies@cairnseisteddfod.org

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer workers are always needed. We welcome your support! Please contact:

Email: secretary@cairnseisteddfod.org

LITERARY AWARDS

LITERARY ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD SENIOR – Q.C.W.A. Smithfield Branch Shield

Donated by: Q.C.W.A. Smithfield Branch

LITERARY ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD JUNIOR

Donated by: Cairns and District Junior Eisteddfod

LITERARY MOST PROMISING AWARD SENIOR – The K.S. Anderson Shield

Donated by: Cairns and District Junior Eisteddfod

LITERARY MOST PROMISING AWARD JUNIOR

Donated by: Cairns and District Junior Eisteddfod

RULES & CONDITIONS

LITERARY 2026

AGE

The age limit for Cairns Eisteddfod is 5 Grades to 18 Grades inclusive.

AMATEUR STATUS

The Eisteddfod is open to amateurs only. An amateur shall be defined as a person whose principal source of income is not derived from the exercise of their talents in the particular section or sections for which they have entered.

SECTIONS

The Committee reserves the right to combine or divide any sections. If sections are divided, competitors must perform in the division allocated.

SUBMISSIONS:

Manuscripts must be submitted in PDF format, with the completed coversheet provided, via a link to the Jotform website for manuscript upload.

Mailed/mailed copies will no longer be accepted.

- **The closing date for manuscripts to be received is Friday 1 May 2026.**

MANUSCRIPTS:

Manuscripts must be word processed and saved in PDF format.

- Word count **MUST** be provided on the Jotform website-provided cover sheet.
- Font should be **Times New Roman** with **1.5 spacing and 14 pt. font size**.
- The competitor's name **MUST NOT** appear within the manuscript – **ONLY** on the Jotform cover sheet.
- Competitors **CANNOT** have entered the item in previous Eisteddfods

Manuscripts **MUST** be the original and unaided work of the competitor.

- Use of AI as a tool or prompt for writing is **NOT** permitted.

ADJUDICATOR FEEDBACK:

Due to the time required to prepare detailed reports for literary submissions the committee has agreed that brief comments on individual work will only be provided upon written (emailed) request by entrants.

- Requests will only be actioned if submitted within the two weeks following the award presentation ceremony.

WORD/TIME LIMITS:

Word limits and time limits apply for some sections – please read details carefully.

- Limits will be strictly enforced, with adjudication only up to the stated limits.

SECTION DESCRIPTIONS/CRITERIA:

CREATIVE WRITING

An original story, or description, that includes the topic in the title and/or in the text.

POETRY WRITING

Can be any poetry style you have studied.

- For example, you can write a haiku, acrostic, diamante, free verse/prose poem, ballad, narrative or epic poem, a rhyming poem or any other form you are familiar with that suits the topic.

LETTER WRITING

Set out in traditional letter style.

- Please **DO NOT** include your own name in the letter.

JOURNALISTIC REPORT WRITING

Must be a report in the style of a media article (for school paper, blog, newspaper or magazine etc.).

Word limits apply and the **title page** should include:

- the topic as given
- the article heading
- word count
- presumed media format
- target audience.

Your report should demonstrate your research into the topic and can be either a news or information report, or an opinion piece based on your research.

- Separate referencing is not required – your research should demonstrate your research and should state sources, as appropriate, in the text.

SCRIPT WRITING

Your story should be written in the style of either a stage or screen script and should include character information and staging/filming directions.

- You can find examples of stage and film script formats on-line.

SPEECH WRITING

Your speech should be your original work that addresses the topic in your own style, demonstrating your knowledge/ understanding of your topic, and your point of view.

- You should practice aloud to ensure it fits the time limit given.

NOTE: Organisers reserve the right to combine Grade level groups in any sections if insufficient entries are received for set Grade level groups.

SECTIONS

CREATIVE WRITING

Manuscripts should be NARRATIVE or DESCRIPTIVE writing, with supplied topic wording to be included either in the TITLE, and/or in the text.

Selected entries from these sections may be invited to read their entry immediately after adjudication results are announced. Potential readers will be notified a week before the award ceremonies.

L1: CREATIVE WRITING – Grades 1 and 2

Entry Fee \$9.00

Maximum 500 words

- 'The very strange...' or
- 'SHHHHH...'

L2: CREATIVE WRITING – Grades 3 and 4

Entry Fee \$9.00

Maximum 750 words

- 'And then it fell...' or
- 'The wish...'

L3: CREATIVE WRITING – Grade 5

Entry Fee \$9.00

Maximum 750 words

- 'It happened like...or
- 'The end..."

L4: CREATIVE WRITING – Grade 6

Entry Fee \$9.00

Maximum 1000 words

- 'I wanted to...' or
- 'The photograph...'

L5: CREATIVE WRITING – Grades 7 - 9

Entry Fee \$9.00

Maximum 1000 words

- Topic of your choice

L6: CREATIVE WRITING – Grades 10 - 12

Entry Fee \$9.00

Maximum 1000 words

- Topic of your choice

SECTIONS

ORIGINAL POEM

Poems can be in any format, and the given topic should be reflected in the theme of the poem and can be also used as the poem's title.

NB: Items written for the ORIGINAL POEM SECTIONS may be performed in the Speech and Drama Original Poem Section of the Eisteddfod. The competitor must submit a separate entry for each section.

Selected entries from these sections may be invited to read their entry immediately after adjudication results are announced. Potential readers will be notified a week before the award ceremonies.

L7: ORIGINAL POEM – Grades 1 and 2

Entry Fee \$9.00

- 'Me' or
- 'Bugs'

L8: ORIGINAL POEM – Grades 3 and 4

Entry Fee \$9.00

- 'Friends' or
- 'Ice'

L9: ORIGINAL POEM – Grade 5

Entry Fee \$9.00

- 'Sight' or
- 'The climb'

L10: ORIGINAL POEM – Grade 6

Entry Fee \$9.00

- 'The Dark' or
- 'Creatures'

L11: ORIGINAL POEM – Grades 7 - 9

Entry Fee \$9.00

- 'Ocean' or
- 'Happiness'

L12: ORIGINAL POEM – Grades 10 - 12

Entry Fee \$9.00

- 'Fight' or
- 'Rooms'

SECTIONS

LETTER WRITING

Letters to be set out in formal letter style. Please refer to rules and conditions section.

L13: LETTER WRITING – Grades 1 - 3

Entry Fee \$9.00

- A letter to your best friend.
- A letter to your teacher or school principal about an idea you have to create or improve something, or fix a problem.

L14: LETTER WRITING – Grades 4 - 6

Entry Fee \$9.00

- A letter to a business or organisation asking for information to help with a school project.
- A letter to a friend or relative you haven't been in contact with for a long time.

L15: LETTER WRITING – Grades 7 - 9

Entry Fee \$9.00

- A letter to your neighbours/community asking for support for an issue.
- A letter to a friend expressing support for them.

L16: LETTER WRITING – Grades 10 - 12

Entry Fee \$9.00

- A letter to your local newspaper about a local issue you feel strongly about.
- A letter to a refugee student/family welcoming them to your school/community.

REPORT WRITING

Please refer to rules and conditions for the specific criteria for report writing sections.

L17: REPORT WRITING/WRITING FOR A PURPOSE – Grades 1 - 6

Entry Fee \$9.00

Maximum 500 words

- Interview an interesting family member or friend and write an article about them, or
- Report on a recent event or activity you attended, or
- Review a favourite book or film.

L18: REPORT WRITING/WRITING FOR A PURPOSE – Grades 7 - 9

Entry Fee \$9.00

Maximum 800 words

- Review a favourite book or film, or
- Write a report about a controversial or interesting local issue. or
- Interview an interesting family member or friend and write an article about them.

SECTIONS

L19: REPORT WRITING/WRITING FOR A PURPOSE – Grades 10 - 12

Entry Fee \$9.00

Maximum 1000 words

- Choose an issue or topic that interests/is important to you and share your research, new knowledge and understanding with others in the form of a persuasive article/report, or
- Review a favourite book or film, or
- Interview an interesting family member or friend and write an article about them.

SCRIPT WRITING

The script is for a one act play or short film/video. Staging and filming directions must be included. The given topic should be reflected in the theme of the story and/or as a line of dialogue in the script. It can also be used as the title.

L20: SCRIPT WRITING – Grades 1 - 6

Entry Fee \$9.00

Maximum 1500 words

- ‘The mess’ or
- ‘Spaced out...’

L21: SCRIPT WRITING – Grades 7 - 12

Entry Fee \$9.00

Maximum 3000 words

- ‘The scare’ or
- ‘Flicker’

SPEECH WRITING

Speeches must be prepared, practiced and timed for length.

Selected entries from these sections may be invited to read their entry immediately after adjudication results are announced. Potential readers will be notified a week before the award ceremonies.

L22: SPEECH WRITING – Grades 1 - 6

Entry Fee \$9.00

Maximum 3 minutes

- Present a convincing argument to persuade or educate your audience about an issue you are passionate about.

L23: SPEECH WRITING – Grades 7 - 12

Entry Fee \$9.00

Maximum 5 minutes

- Present a convincing argument to persuade or educate your audience about an issue you are passionate about.