

The Lawsonian

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE HENRY LAWSON MEMORIAL & LITERARY SOCIETY INC.

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2016-17 LITERARY COMPETITION \$3,375 PRIZEMONEY

by Noel Tennison

A recent generous donation acknowledged in the September edition of this magazine has allowed the Society's management committee to launch a new Henry Lawson National Literary Award competition.

An entry form and a list of conditions are inserted herein with entries opening on 1 December 2016 and closing on 30 April 2017. Entry forms and details will also become available on our website.

Some traditionalist heads may jerk at the inclusion of a Free Verse category but, as a free thinker, I doubt that Henry will be turning over in his grave.

List of Categories and Prizes

Poetry - Traditional Rhyming Verse (60 lines)

1st \$1,000 2nd \$250 3rd \$100

Poetry - Free Verse (60 lines)

1st \$500 2nd \$125 3rd \$50

Short Story- (maximum 1000 words)

1st \$1,000 2nd \$250 3rd \$100

Members are invited to copy entry forms and distribute them to libraries, radio stations, local newspapers, writing groups bookshops and kindred literary associates and organisations.

Some of our members enter a variety of competitions because they know that they can write well enough to be considered. Others are not so confident but what they have to say can still be valuable to the reader.

I will, of course, publish winning entries, but I will also publish the writings of others that I consider worthwhile in terms of content irrespective of style.



Henry Lawson.
drawing by Lionel Lindsay
Courtesy National Portrait Gallery

A few references from the past may help to spark and inspire members.

A poem is not a puzzle that the dutiful reader is obliged to solve. What distinguishes poets from fashion models and advertising salesmen is their ability to render the gravity, the grace, and the beauty of the ordinary world, thereby lending courage to strangers.

Garrison Keilor

Poetry is a spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings: it takes its origin from emotion remembered in tranquility.

William Wordsworth

Poetry makes you know that you are not alone in the world, that your bliss and your suffering are forever shared and forever all your own.

Dylan Thomas