Helen Anne Bell Poetry Bequest Award 2023

The Discipline of English at the University of Sydney is pleased to announce the opening of the 2023 Helen Anne Bell Poetry Bequest Award. This is the fifth biennial award made under the Helen Anne Bell Poetry Bequest.

The 2023 award offers a cash prize of $40,000 and publication with Vagabond Press for a collection of poems between 50 to 80 pages by an Australian female poet over the age of 18. The manuscript submitted must be “about Australian culture,” broadly defined. The bequest will pay for the publication and launch of the Vagabond Press book. Only one entry is accepted per applicant.

The Helen Anne Bell Poetry Bequest Award will be judged by 3 Australian female Poets of note.

Conditions of Entry

- This award is for an original, previously unpublished collection of poems between 50 to 80 pages, “about Australian culture”, broadly defined
- Applicants must be Australian females over the age of 18. They are not required to provide any statement of gender identity beyond self-identification.*
- Only ONE entry per writer will be accepted
- Entry is FREE
- Individual poems can have been previously published or won prizes, but the manuscript, as a whole, should be unpublished
- Entries may be under consideration for publication elsewhere, but if an offer to publish the manuscript is accepted elsewhere, the applicant should immediately withdraw from the award
- The writer must present the entry under their own name and NOT under a pseudonym
- The entry must be typed (12 point)
- Applicants may reapply for a subsequent award, provided they have not previously won the award
The panel of judges appointed by the university will short-list applications and select a winner, provided they are of the opinion that the work is of sufficient merit to warrant the award being made. The decision of the judges is final, and no further correspondence will be entered into.

The winner must agree to give a public reading of the works at University of Sydney.

Applications open on **Monday 25 September 2023** and should be submitted via **Submittable**: [https://usydsace.submittable.com/submit](https://usydsace.submittable.com/submit)

**CLOSING DATE: Monday 18 December 2023** at 11.59PM AEST. The winning entry will be announced in the second week of March 2024.

- Late entries will not be considered
- Entries will not be accepted by post, email, or fax

*For any further enquiries please email info@helenannebell.org (with Helen Anne Bell in the subject line)*

*We are mindful of and regret the limitations of the language used to outline the eligibility criteria. However, as the Helen Anne Bell Poetry Award is funded by a bequest, which stipulates the award is open to female poets, we have limited scope to move away from this language in implementing the award.*