

2025 Ron Rathbone Local History Competition High School Category Guidelines



Aim

The aim of the Ron Rathbone Local History Competition is to encourage students to learn about the history of the Bayside Council area and to develop their own research and writing skills.

To foster this knowledge and interest, students are invited to submit a work about Bayside's local history that covers all or part of the suburbs of Arncliffe, Banksia, Banksmeadow, Bardwell Park, Bardwell Valley, Bexley, Bexley North, Botany, Brighton-Le-Sands, Carlton, Daceyville, Dolls Point, Eastgardens, Eastlakes, Hillsdale, Kingsgrove, Kogarah, Kyeemagh, Mascot, Monterey, Pagewood, Ramsgate, Rockdale, Rosebery, Sandringham, Sans Souci, Turrella and Wolli Creek.

Prize

The Prize Pool for the High School Category is \$2,000

The entries will be judged on individual merit. The judges have the discretion to divide the prize money equally between entrants whose works they consider of equal merit.

The judges reserve the right to award no prize if they deem there are no entries of sufficiently high quality.

The judges' decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

Essay Topics

Students are invited to submit an essay based on one of two options:

Option One

An essay answering the question: **"Explore some of the different ways women contributed to Australia's war efforts during World War I and/or World War II, in the military and/or in volunteer organisations."**

Please relate the question to the Bayside LGA. Personal connections and stories are welcome to build on the essay.

or

Option Two

An essay on a subject or topic chosen by the student that explores an aspect of Bayside's local history. Suitable topics include Bayside residents, places, organisations, or events of historical significance in the Bayside Council area.

NOTE:

- It must be in written form; however, it may include images either as appendices or within the text accompanied by short explanatory captions
- Word count 1,000-3,000 words (this does not include captions, footnotes or bibliography)
- Should contain material from a range of perspectives, including the student's own views
- Should use **at least three** sources that are referenced in footnotes and/or a bibliography

Bayside Council

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- Should be in a 12-point font and attempt to follow the provided referencing guidelines (available here www.bayside.nsw.gov.au/ronrathbone).
- Entries must be typed in English.

Conditions of Entry

1. The High School Category is open to any NSW student enrolled in Years 7 to 12.
2. Students must complete and sign an entry form and lodge it together with their entry. Entries may be submitted online at www.bayside.nsw.gov.au/ronrathbone or emailed in soft copy in Word or PDF format. Soft copy entries may also be submitted on a USB.
3. Students may work together to submit a joint entry.
4. At the conclusion of the competition, entries may be placed in the Local History Collection of Bayside Library Service and, if appropriate, may be placed on Bayside Council's online platforms.
5. All entries will be acknowledged upon receipt. It is the responsibility of the entrant to ensure that his or her entry is properly submitted and received.

Judging

Entries will be judged by a judging panel, selected by Council, according to the criteria outlined below.

Judging Criteria

1. Does the work relate entirely or substantially to the Bayside Council area?
2. How much research has been undertaken and what source material has been used?

The judges will look highly on entries that draw on a number of different sources. Many general local history books and photographs are available through Bayside Library Service: <https://library.bayside.nsw.gov.au>

Students are also particularly encouraged to consider searching the National Library's Trove website where numerous early newspaper articles, maps and photographs can be found: www.trove.nla.gov.au

3. Is the work entirely the student's own work?

Students are encouraged to use and quote from different sources; however, any quotes used should be placed in quotation marks and the source of the quote given in a footnote. Aside from quotations, the work should be in the student's own words and not copied from a book or website.

4. Does the work acknowledge what sources have been used?

The judges expect that students will include footnotes and/or a bibliography to show where they found the information on which their work is based.

5. The overall quality of the work.

The judges will grammar and spelling, the use of images and appropriate captioning, adherence to entry requirements regarding length, and expression.

Closing date

All entries must be received by **5pm, Thursday 17 July 2025**.

Enquiries

For enquiries or further information, please contact a member of the Local History Team by emailing local_history@bayside.nsw.gov.au