

Ron Rathbone Local History Competition – Open Category Guidelines



Aim

The aim of the Ron Rathbone Local History Competition is to encourage original research into the history of the Bayside Council area, to deepen and broaden our knowledge of the history of the Bayside area, and to ensure that the results of such research are archived and made available for future researchers.

Option One

Entrants may submit a work on Bayside Council's history, regarding any aspect of its past, suburbs or people. Research may be submitted on any topic that is related to any part of the Bayside Council area. Bayside covers the suburbs of Arncliffe, Banksia, Banksmeadow, Bardwell Park, Bardwell Valley, Bexley, Bexley North, Botany, Brighton-Le-Sands, Carlton, Daceyville, Dolls Point, Eastgardens, Eastlakes, Hillside, Kingsgrove, Kogarah, Kyeemagh, Mascot, Monterey, Pagewood, Ramsgate, Rockdale, Rosebery, Sandringham, Sans Souci, Turrella and Wolli Creek.

Option Two

Entrants may submit a work on Bayside Council's history regarding the contribution of Women in Service through the World Wars, both within military organisations and/or volunteer work, as it relates to the Bayside LGA.

Prize

The 2025 Ron Rathbone Local History Competition has a prize pool of \$7,000. The winner of the 2025 Ron Rathbone Local History Competition will receive \$5,000. Additional prize money for Highly Commended entries will be awarded at the judge's discretion.

The entries will be judged anonymously on individual merit. The judges have the discretion to divide the prize money between entrants whose works are considered to be 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.

Conditions of Entry

1. Do not include your name on/in the work submitted.
2. Entrants must complete and sign an official entry form and lodge it together with their entry. Entries may be submitted online or via email. A soft copy entry must be in Word or PDF format.
3. 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.
4. Entries must be typed in English and follow the provided reference and formatting guidelines to the best of their abilities (available here www.bayside.nsw.gov.au/ronrathbone)
5. Only individuals, not organisations or societies, may enter; however, entries with joint authors are permitted. Please do not submit work on behalf of someone else.
6. Entrants may submit **one** piece of research. Joint authors are allowed to submit individual works.
7. Copyright of any research work and writing submitted remains with the author of the work at all times.

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8. 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.
9. Where possible entrants should seek permission to use images in their work.
10. Employees and/or contractors of Bayside Council are not eligible to enter.

Judging

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

Judging Criteria

1. How closely the work relates to the history of the Bayside Council Local Government area.

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2. How much original historical research and consultation of primary and secondary sources the work involves.

Entrants must submit an original piece of research. No papers previously published in journals or submitted to the competition are accepted.

3. How much new information, or how many new historical connections or interpretations, the work provides.

4. How strongly the work adheres to its chosen topic or theme.

It is suggested that works submitted have a clearly stated aim or objective, or that entrants include in their introduction an outline of their chosen topic or research subject.

5. How well the sources used are documented in footnotes and/or in a bibliography.

6. The professional quality and the style of the work and the writing itself (presentation, pagination, spelling, grammar, layout, etc.). Use of provided guide.

It is expected that an entry will be a significant piece of work that makes a genuine contribution to our knowledge of the history of the Bayside Council area, or that offers a new interpretation of existing historical knowledge. Suggested length of 5,000-10,000 words.

Closing date

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

Enquiries

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