

2024 Daisy Utemorrah Award Guidelines



The Daisy Utemorrah Award is presented to an Indigenous writer for an outstanding unpublished manuscript of junior or YA fiction. The Award is open to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples currently living in Australia. The winner of the award receives \$15,000 and a publishing contract with Magabala Books.

The Daisy Utemorrah Award is generously supported by the Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund and the State Government of Western Australia and proudly presented within the WA Premier's Book Awards.

Eligibility

All entries for the Daisy Utemorrah Award must meet the following criteria:

Applicants must be:

- An Aboriginal person and/or Torres Strait Islander person;
 - entries must include a copy of a Confirmation of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage/or a Letter of Confirmation with a common seal from an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander incorporated community organisation **OR** a statutory declaration confirming Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage signed by an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander incorporated community organisation. *Please contact Magabala Books if you have any questions about this requirement.*
- Living in Australia;
- Over 18 years of age or provide consent from a parent or guardian to enter;
- Not have previously won the Daisy Utemorrah Award;
- Co-authored manuscripts are eligible, but authors must comply with Magabala's [publishing eligibility criteria](#).

The submitted manuscript must be:

- An original work;
- Manuscripts must be within the category of **Junior** or **Young Adult fiction**, that is: fictional works specifically aimed at readers aged between 8-18:
 - The categories of Junior and YA fiction define a target audience. Junior fiction is sometimes referred to as 'middle grade' fiction and is writing for mid-upper primary children or 'tweens'. Young Adult fiction is writing for teenagers. Junior and YA fiction can cover many genres and can include historical fiction, chick lit, graphic novels, crime, poetry and fantasy. What distinguishes junior and YA fiction from adult fiction is that the main characters are usually children or teens dealing with teen issues.
 - *If you are unsure about whether your manuscript is junior or YA fiction please contact Magabala Books or see our [junior fiction](#) and [YA titles](#) for examples.*
- Unpublished – this means that the manuscript cannot have been previously published, or self-published, with an ISBN in print or electronic form (publication of up to 10 per cent of the manuscript will be accepted);
- The manuscript must not be currently entered in other writing competitions, or under submission to a publisher, or subject to contractual negotiations;
- Entries of full-length draft submissions are recommended. We will also accept chapter samples and works in progress;
- Eligible manuscripts may be in English, Aboriginal English, an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language, or a combination of these, including a bilingual text.

Award information

- There is no entry fee for these awards.
- Any hard copy manuscripts submitted for judging will not be returned.
- The copyright of any material submitted remains with the author.
- The Prize includes \$15,000 and a publishing contract with Magabala Books.
- Please note the following important information:
 - Magabala Books will offer publishing rights to the winning author for the work to be published in the following year. If the author accepts the offer, Magabala Books will have exclusive worldwide publishing rights to the winning manuscript subject to mutually agreed terms and conditions.

- Magabala Books will develop and publish the winning manuscript subject to normal publishing terms and conditions. It is recommended that the winning author/s seek their own legal or professional advice prior to entering into any publishing agreement.
- If your manuscript is shortlisted, you grant Magabala Books the first right of refusal to offer to publish the work for an exclusive period of 12 weeks after the shortlist announcement. Your shortlisted manuscript must not be submitted elsewhere during this 12-week period. 'First right of refusal' does not guarantee an offer of publication will be made.

How to format your manuscript

Please prepare your manuscript using the below format:

- Include a cover page that details:
 - the manuscript's title
 - the author's name
 - the author's biography (max. 250 words)
 - a synopsis or summary of the manuscript (max. 250 words)
 - any other information relevant to the manuscript (max. 200 words)
- Type or word process your manuscript text suitable for A4 size paper
- Use a plain font such as Times New Roman or Arial, 12-point font size
- Pages must be numbered
- If submitting illustrations, please do not send originals
- Any physical documents and materials submitted for judging will not be returned
- Please retain a copy of your submission and manuscript.

Can I enter if my manuscript isn't finished yet?

Yes. However, for your best chance of success in the award, the manuscript you enter – whether it's finished or unfinished – should be as polished as it can be, so it's strongly recommended that you self-edit and proofread your work before you submit.

Submitting your manuscript

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES

5pm (WST) **Monday 25th March 2024**

Complete the entry form and email with your manuscript as a Word document or PDF attachment to Magabala Books at: [**projects@magabala.com**](mailto:projects@magabala.com)

Your email subject line should read: Daisy Utemorrah Award entry.
A copy of your Confirmation of Identity must also be attached to the email.

If you are unable to submit your work by email, please complete the entry form and post or hand-deliver a printed copy of your complete manuscript and a copy of your Confirmation of Identity to:

Daisy Utemorrah Award
Magabala Books
PO Box 668
1 Bagot Street
Broome WA 6725

Please contact: Shaquoiah Dingo at [**projects@magabala.com**](mailto:projects@magabala.com) or call Magabala Books on 08 9192 1991 with any queries or to discuss your application.

2024 Daisy Utemorrah Award Entry Form

Applicant Details

Title: _____ Full name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Do you identify as an Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person? Yes ☐ No ☐

Please attach the following:

- ☐ A Confirmation of Identity form as per the Conditions of Entry
- ☐ A cover page - including author's details, manuscript title, synopsis and any other relevant information to the manuscript
- ☐ Manuscript

Previous Publication

Have you been published previously? Yes ☐ No ☐

Please provide details of publication/s:

How did you find out about the Daisy Utemorrah Award?

Manuscript Details

Title of manuscript: _____

Manuscript range: ☐ Junior fiction ☐ Young Adult fiction

Magabala Books Daisy Utemorrah Award is my own original work and does not infringe on any right(s) of other people. I identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander as per the Conditions of Entry and have provided the appropriate confirmation of identity. The text provided has not been published previously and is not currently on offer to any other publishers or awards. I have read and understood the Submission Guidelines and Terms and Conditions and understand that applications/submissions that do not meet the Conditions of Entry may be deemed ineligible.

Print Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____