

# Ballarat Writers

## Competitions Report 2023



In 2023, Ballarat Writers ran two competitions—the Pamela Miller competition and the Southern Cross Short Story Competition. We also had two competition coordinators. Rebecca Fletcher kicked off the year and ran the Pamela Miller, then passed the baton on to me for the Southern Cross. There were a couple of hiccups with my management—Graeme Simsion’s workshop ideally would have occurred earlier in the year to allow participants to use his teachings for their entries and an outdated auto-reply on the TryBooking page directed people to submit their entries to the wrong address, but we got there in the end.

The Pamela Miller competition is a prose-based flash fiction competition open to members of Ballarat Writers. Entries were capped at 450 words and had to address the theme ‘Smile’. There were 6 entries, which were read anonymously by the committee members. The winning entry was ‘The Artist’ by Nicole Kelly.

For the 2023 Southern Cross Short Story Competition, our theme was ‘Tracks of Desire’ capped at 3,000 words. There were 96 entries, which our team of four prereaders narrowed down to 21 for Graeme Simsion to judge. The winners of the competition were:

Winner: Maxwell Han: A Boy in a Raincoat and a Boy in a Bus Stop

First runner-up: Janeen Samuel: Branch Lines

Second runner-up: Nakita Kitson: Digging

Highly commended: “Over Your Souls” by Rebecca Higgin and “Summer’s Desire” by Shelley Dark.

Graeme’s report and the winning entry can be read on our website.

Laura Wilson