



2019 SYDNEY CONFERENCE

HNSA FIRST PAGE PITCH CONTEST RULES

General

Opening date: **18 March 2019**

Closing date for receipt of entries: **Midnight 20 September 2019 AEST**

Format and Period: Historical novels set no later than 1965. Time-slip, historical thrillers/detective, historical romance, fantasy, alternate and steam-punk historical fiction are admissible.

Word count: First 500 words of an unpublished manuscript

Synopsis Word count: 50 words

Pitch Word count: 15 word pitch summarising the essence of your book to 'hook' the judges

Theme: Open

Eligibility

Contest judges, sponsors and principal conference organisers of the Sydney Historical Novel Society Australasia Conference 2019 (HNSA 2019) are excluded from the contest.

The contest is open to aspiring or emerging authors who have not had a novel published or accepted for publication by a publisher.

Entries must be entirely the work of the entrant and must not at any time have been published, self-published, broadcast, or published online on any website or forum (save for a closed forum), or have won or been placed in any other contest.

Only entrants who have purchased a weekend conference or day ticket to HNSA 2019 are eligible to enter the contest.

Submission

Email entries to contact@hnsa.org.au by **Midnight 20 September 2019 AEST**

All entries must be submitted with a cover sheet containing the following:

- *Entrant's name*
- *Email address*
- *Receipt numbers for your HNSA 2019 conference and contest entry fee*

- *Title of story*
- *The statement 'I agree to the conditions of entry set out in the HNSA First Pages Pitch Contest Rules.'*

Entries not accompanied by a cover sheet with valid conference and contest ticket numbers will not be considered.

Please ensure you provide your excerpt, synopsis and pitch in a Word 2007 document or later versions (docx file) with the filename being made up of the manuscript title alone.

Please do not put your name on the submission or within the filename.

Each entrant may submit only one entry consisting of a pitch, synopsis and excerpt.

Fees

The entry fee is \$15.

Only entrants who have purchased an HNSA 2019 weekend conference or day ticket are eligible to enter the contest.

All payments must be cleared by 20 September, 2019.

Entry fee is non-refundable.

Entry format

Entries must be in English, typed in a Word 2007 document or later version (.docx file), A4 format, one side only.

Each entry must be contained within a separate Word document; and

Entries must be double-line spaced and include a word count at the top of the first page.

Submissions must not contain a name, address or other identifying marks apart from the entrant's HNSA 2019 conference and contest ticket numbers on the cover sheet.

Entries will not be returned, so please keep a copy.

No corrections can be made after receipt.

Receipt of entry

An email confirmation will be sent to the address from which the submission was made. No other correspondence will be entered into.

HNSA reserves the right to refund your money and allocate your place to the next person in the waiting list if the submission deadline is not met.

Copyright

Worldwide copyright in each entry will remain with the author.

Judging

The judges are Clare Hallifax (Scholastic Australia), Margaret Connolly (Margaret Connolly & Associates) and Michelle Lovi (Odyssey Books).

The Judges' decision shall be final and no debate or correspondence will be entered into. The Judge will not comment on individual entries other than feedback provided during the First Pages Pitch Contest session on Saturday 26 October 2019 (Contest session).

Judging will be fair and unbiased and made without reference to the entrant's identity.

Work must be presented professionally, formatted according to the contest rules and spell-checked.

Entrants agree to their submissions being read aloud by a narrator at the Contest session and critiqued by the judges in front of the conference audience.

The identity of the entrants will remain anonymous at all times with the exception of the announcement of the name of the contest winner.

Winning the contest does not place an obligation on the judges to further consider the manuscript.

Prizes

The winner will be awarded:

- A prize of \$200
- A free membership of the Australian Society of Authors <https://www.asauthors.org/>

Prize winner and prize giving

Entry constitutes acceptance of all the rules. Failure to comply with the entry requirements will result in disqualification.