



A grandfriend's garden*

Short story competition
for year six students

**It is free to
enter!**

Deadline
10 July
2026

This competition is part of the Australian Garden History Society's 46th annual conference, taking place in Orange from 24 to 27 September 2026.

We invite year 6 students living in Orange, Millthorpe, Molong and surrounding areas to submit a short story of no more than 500 words about a real or imaginary garden of an older person (grandparent, great aunt or uncle, neighbour, family friend) in their life, a grandfriend.

* You can change the story's title to suit the person with whom you enjoy gardens and gardening.

Winners will be announced in September 2026.

First prize

A plant for the winner's school with a plaque, plus \$200 for the writer and AGHS membership for their chosen gardening inspiration.

Runners up

Three runners up will receive a \$75 nursery voucher and one year's AGHS digital membership for the grandfriend.

The Australian Garden History Society will publish the four winning stories, with the writer invited to submit an illustration/photograph to accompany the story.

About AGHS

The Australian Garden History Society was founded in 1980. It brings together people who care about parks, gardens and landscapes that are part of Australia's history. AGHS wants to help people learn about the history of old and important gardens and landscapes and how to care for them. This means looking at how gardens and gardening relate to people, history, literature, art and science.

The Australian Garden History Society acknowledges Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia.

We pay respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and to Elders past, present and emerging.



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More details on the next page

How to enter

Please send your short story to Francesca Beddie, editor, Australian Garden History, email editor@gardenhistorysociety.org.au by close of business 10 July 2026.

Email subject line: Orange short story competition

Include in the body of the email:

- Short story title
- Entrant's name
- Parent/carer contact details
- School name

Competition rules

Stories must:

- Address the topic
- Be no more than 500 words (title is not included in the number)
- Be written by an individual and not a group
- Be your own idea
- Be typed in Times New Roman 12 font, 1.5 spaced

Stories must not:

- Give any personal details of the writer, including their name
- Be created, written or developed by AI
- Contain unsuitable material, such as bad language and offensive content

Judging

The short story will be assessed as follows:

- Originality 50%
- Language 25%
- Enjoyment 25%

Late entries will not be considered and the judges' decision is final.

Have a question?

Feel free to contact
Francesca Beddie:
editor@gardenhistorysociety.org.au

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