

Australian Fairy Tale Society

Member Exclusive eZine: Submission Guidelines



What sort of submissions are we looking for?

We publish ...

- Short stories (e.g. flash fiction, personal anecdotes, fables, fairy tales)
- Visual art (e.g. illustrations, paintings, photography, mixed media)
- Essays (e.g. expository, persuasive, analytical)
- Fairy Tale Ring reports
- Interviews with 'fairy tale folk' and member profiles
- One-act plays
- Poetry
- News of events (e.g. festivals, exhibitions, concerts, conferences, seminars)
- News of releases (e.g. albums, books)
- Fairy tale related recipes
- Fairy tale inspired patterns (e.g. quilting, knitting, needlepoint) reviews (e.g. books, theater, events)
- Riddles (make us smile!)
- Cartoons (e.g. single panel, strip, or graphic novel layout; satirical, humorous, illustrative)
- Lyrics and music (including links to playable sound files); any medium we can reflect in e-print!

Indeed, pretty much any mode carrying a fairy tale theme!

We do not accept submissions or publish any work produced fully or in part by generative Artificial Intelligence in any stage of development.

Are there any word limits?

Yes, there are. We have strict guidelines to ensure that we can publish one short story, essay or play, and up to two pieces of flash fiction, poems, ballads or songs per issue.

- 1,100 words: Short stories, essays and plays
- 700 words: Fairy Tale Ring reports, summaries and anecdotes
- 600 words: Flash fiction, poetry, ballads and songs
- 50–150 words: Letters to the Editor
- 500 words: Everything else

With each submission, we request:

- A short introduction by the author: 70 words
- A one-sentence bio

Does my piece have to be brand new or can I re-use an old one?

The eZine was created to support the creativity of our members, particularly with regard to our Fairy Tale Ring conversations, whether in person, virtual, or other contexts.

We will be giving preference to newly created work that comes out of our prompts or rings, but are happy to consider older/refreshed works too, if thematically relevant.

How often will the eZine be published?

There will be one eZine a year, or as advised.

Who will be reading my stories or viewing my art?

This Ezine is exclusively for registered AFTS members! (Just for you!)

Who are we all? The Australian Fairy Tale Society is an intercultural, intergenerational, interdisciplinary group. We appeal to your imagination and sense of Wonder.

Many of our stories employ techniques of linearity and plain language that are familiar and accessible to a broad membership, yet we also welcome writing that is nuanced and cerebral.

Our society includes students and teachers – primary to tertiary – as well as librarians, performers (including musicians and oral storytellers), visual artists, composers and writers from emerging to widely published, award-winning authors and/or academics.

Our ethos is one of inclusiveness and curiosity.

Which genres and visual styles can I use?

The simple answer is any style you wish. For a general guide, think rated M.

We welcome a range of genres from re-spun fairy tales to original fabulist/ magic-realist/ surrealist tales, or realist stories with an allegorical basis in fairy-tale schema, from mainstream to experimental.

Fairy tales are a living art form and can't always be classified.

We ask that our contributors draw upon traditional fairy-tale techniques such as abstraction, flatness, everyday magic, polarity, shape shifting, riddles, intuitive logic, numerical magic and word play, such as repetition, alliteration or rhyme.

With regard to written work, we will consider any literary form or genre but please note that horror must not be gratuitous with regard to violence, nor should any erotica or sexually referenced work be explicit.

Sci-fi should not be 'hard sci-fi' with a high proportion of technological specifics. Visual artists are asked to follow the same guidelines.

Do my stories or pictures have to be didactic or include a moral?

Not at all.

We welcome attempts to capture your personal experience and expressions regarding fairy tales with diverse approaches, perspectives and tones, from tragicomedy to gravitas.

Examples of stories that use fairy-tale techniques in new ways:

- The Death of Glinda, the Good Witch' by Dr Rebecca-Anne Do Rozario in Aurealis #77, Australian Fantasy & Science Fiction, <http://aurealis.com.au/>
- 'Selkie' by Tegan Webb in Rough Magick, [http://www.francescaliablock.com/blog/entry/rough-](http://www.francescaliablock.com/blog/entry/rough-magick)
- magick
- 'Flight of the Forty Crows', Fairy Tale Review: The Emerald Issue, <https://fairytalereview.com/emerald/>

Also consider the classics, such as Angela Carter's The Bloody Chamber and the Windling/Datlow fairy tale anthologies.

Do I need to be previously published or be a recognised artist?

Not at all!

We know our AFTS members are a very talented group who work passionately to create works of excellence and so we welcome submissions from anyone. We do expect a basic standard of quality that reflects our society and members, but we also aim to encourage those artists who are just starting to bloom.

(Just please make sure your text is proofread, your images are in focus, etc.)

Meet the editorial team!

Chief Editor is [Melanie Hill](#) – author, poet, and member of the Institute of Professional Editors.

Editor [Patsy Poppenbeek](#) – writes mostly fantasy. She is an editor of ‘South of the Sun.’

Editor [Kim Fairminer](#) – astrologer, who enjoys writing horoscopes, reformed corporate editor.

Our Chief Graphic Designer is [Spike Deane](#) – glass artist extraordinaire, whose design work we’ve witnessed in all Issues to date, and for our 2020 Conference.

Our dedicated team and contributors come from disciplines as varied as fairy tale research, fiction and non-fiction writing, oral storytelling, game design, and the visual arts.

Where and how do I submit?

We accept submissions by email only to austfairytaleszine@gmail.com

In the subject line, please be sure to write:

- AFTS Ezine Submission
- Your (publishing) name
- The eZine issued it’s intended for.

Reminder:

- Include a 70-word introduction, and a one-line bio, inclusive of a single website or blog link.
- Include copyright details of any images, illustrations, or quotations.

Note:

We will not be publishing photos, except in Fairy Tale Ring reports or occasionally for Interviews.

When do I submit by?

We require all pieces for consideration to be sent by the due date published in our submission notices.

These notices can be found:

- On the AFTS website: <https://australianfairytalesociety.wordpress.com/>

On our social media pages:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/austfairytales>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ausfairytalesoc>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/australianfairytalesociety/>

Acceptable file formats

Written submissions

- Basic Word Doc format or Rich Text document (italics or bold for emphasis, rhyme or other stylistic reason is perfectly fine)
- Font size 12
- A basic web font (Times New Roman, Arial or Courier)
- No indentations (please use a blank line return to indicate a new paragraph),
- Single-spaced (not typical double-spacing of the industry print standard).
- No PDFs please and no inserted media.
- If media is a part of your written work, please give full copyright information, attach it to your email, and indicate where in your text you’d like these included.

Visual Submissions

For visual photography or illustration, images should be at least 300 dpi, and sent as separate attachments, not embedded in text.

- If the layout is vital to your work, whether written or visual, we'll accept a reference image showing your intent.
- Please label it as such, keeping text and media as separate attachments.
- Please include copyright information.

How will you credit me?

We will use whatever name you prefer to be published by, along with a one sentence bio.

We can include a single link to a website or blog.

Bios and links are listed in Endnotes.

What about copyright? Can I publish my work elsewhere?

Of course! You are the creator. We are celebrating you!

- We do, however, request **non-exclusive use** of the work throughout all formats and languages, as well as the right to quote passages of submitted work for promotional purposes.
- We also request **non-exclusive anthology rights** for our Fairy Tale Collection in online and/or offline repositories, as they develop.

Sending a submission implies you agree with these terms.

- It is also understood that creators will not be compensated for accepted submissions
- Members reserve the right to publish, or adapt, any submitted material in other contexts.

What's the fine print? (There's always fine print, isn't there?)

We do have some reasonable caveats/disclaimers.

The editors (or AFTS Committee members in our absence) **reserve the right to refuse material** that we deem derogatory, profane, defamatory, sexually explicit (think rated M), gratuitously violent, culturally insensitive, or otherwise inappropriate, or for practical reasons such as limited space.

We also reserve the **right to decline visual material** that does not meet graphic standards of proficiency.

Material may be deferred for a later edition, for considerations of space, timing or cohesion.

For basic proofreading, we proceed without consultation, but for more substantial editing we will consult the writer if the latter is contactable within a reasonable timeframe.

Because the Australian Fairy Tale Society is a non-profit association, **no editors or contributors are paid, or receive compensation in any other form.**

Whilst every care is given to present works of lasting international quality, we do not purport to rival established journals that are created by paid professionals whose time is not vying with other vocational pursuits.

This is one of several services we offer exclusively to members for a modest annual fee.

Other benefits for paying members include conference discounts and access to regular reading lists and artistic networking.

We approach our roles with humility, respect, curiosity, goodwill, passion and delight.

Enchanted regards,
Melanie Hill, Spike Deane and the editorial team.