



West of the Moon: More Australian Fairy Tales for the 21st Century

Public Submission Guidelines for Authors

In late 2021, the Australian Fairy Tale Society released its first anthology, *South of the Sun* – funny and sweet, dark and delightful, this illustrated collection of enchanting bedtime stories, strictly for grown-ups, saw incredible success. Featuring stories from emerging talent and leading award-winning Australian writers including Carmel Bird, Sophie Masson, Cate Kennedy and Eugen Bacon, along with artwork by foremost illustrators such as Lorena Carrington and Kathleen Jennings, *South of the Sun* has sold nearly every copy printed.

Now we're ready for the next volume, *West of the Moon*.

The second AFTS anthology, *West of the Moon*, will feature contemporary fairy tale literature written for adult readers, stories that engage with Australian culture and heritage. Old or new, slippery or subversive, this collection hopes to delight, enchant, mystify and intrigue.

We invite you to submit an original Australian fairy tale, for either an adult or young adult audience, that is Rated G and that has not been previously published or submitted elsewhere.

We are seeking a tale that is immersed, blended or woven into an Australian context.

This could be a retelling or adaptation of a traditional tale; a brand new story told in an experimental style; an obscure, forgotten or oft misunderstood legend that needs rescuing.

We will not consider

- Works that have been partially or wholly generated by AI software
- Works that are unethical in their treatment of Indigenous culture and heritage, or any other storytelling tradition
- Any company names or product placement
- Any pieces involving gratuitous violence, racism, sexism, homophobia or bigotry.

Word count guidelines

- Short stories up to 3,000 words, or flash fiction up to 1,000 words
- Poetry up to 50 lines.

Payment, payable upon publication

- Short stories: AUD \$0.06 per word
- Poetry: AUD \$30.00 flat rate
- Payment will be made upon publication.

We buy non-exclusive rights to include work in the print and digital anthology. All other rights remain with you. Your piece must not be published elsewhere for twelve months after the release of the anthology.

All submissions must be made via our [Anthology webpage](#).

Please include a 50-100 word author bio.

Queries: ausfairytalesociety@gmail.com

Entries will be accepted from June 14 until September 30, 2025, and each will attract a \$10 entry fee.

Entry fee \$10

Each short story, poem or flash fiction constitutes a separate entry, and must be accompanied by a \$10 entry fee, payable via bank transfer, upon submission. A limited number of entry fee bursaries are available to those in need, who supply a brief statement of request and reason/s.

Please email us to confirm your choice.

BSB 064-173
Account nr 10830978
Account name AFTS West of the Moon Anthology

Submission format

- Author bio of 50-100 words
- As the selection panel will blind-read each entry, please ensure the TITLE is in the heading of your entry document, but do NOT include your name. Entry and name are linked on our database.
- MS Word: .doc or .docx only
- Poems or lyrics should be formatted as you wish them published
- Standard Manuscript Format with Times New Roman 12 point and all paragraphs, except the first, indented
- Double spaced
- 2cm left and right margins
- Pages numbered top right
- Single quotation marks for inverted commas/dialogue
- No embedded pics or graphics
- Use Australian English (British, not American)

Intellectual Property Rights

Copyright in each submission remains with the author of the entry. If an entry is accepted for the Anthology, the Author will be asked to sign a contract stipulating Terms and Conditions for inclusion in *West of the Moon*.

Authors grant the Promoters, jointly and severally, a non-exclusive, royalty-free, perpetual right to use, publish, reproduce and reprint the Work (in whole or in part) on a worldwide basis through all media (including print, digital, radio and social media). Without limiting the above, each entrant acknowledges and agrees that this includes:

The authors of the accepted works agree not to publish, in any format, their written work for 12 months after the initial publication of the Anthology.

The AFTS Anthology Sub-Committee reserves the right to edit entries in respect of publication.

By submitting an entry to the Anthology, each entrant also consents to the AFTS Anthology Sub-Committee using their name, likeness, image and/or voice in the event their piece is selected for the Anthology (including photograph, film and/or recording of the same) in any media for an unlimited period without remuneration for the purpose of promoting the *West of the Moon* Anthology and the Australian Fairy Tale Society.

Queries are welcome to ausfairytalesanthology@gmail.com

West of the Moon Anthology Sub-Committee

Chair: Melanie Hill

Editorial Lead: Laura Fulton

Supported by: Devahuti Chaliha, Kim Fairminer, Shirley Way