



The 2023 BR4R Seeking Asylum Poetry Prize

Finding Freedom

Proudly supported by the journal *Social Alternatives*

Closing date: Sunday 20th August 2023

The BR4R 2023 Seeking Asylum Poetry Prize is now open

Ballina Region for Refugees (BR4R) invites you to submit up to three poems to this year's Seeking Asylum Poetry Prize.

The BR4R Seeking Asylum Poetry Prize celebrates the positive contributions that refugees make to our communities. It acknowledges the circumstances that forced them to flee their homelands and request refuge in Australia.

This year's Seeking Asylum Poetry Prize theme is '*Finding Freedom*'.

We welcome poems, from anyone in the community, that consider the experiences, aspirations and hopes of refugees and asylums seeking a home in which they can build new, meaningful and safe lives. Poems from refugees and asylum seekers themselves are especially welcome.

The 2023 BR4R Seeking Asylum Poetry Prize celebrates the theme of what it means to be free. The Refugee Council of Australia tells us that to live without the fear of war, to have your basic human rights upheld, to live in equality and without the fear of persecution are just some of the examples of what freedom can entail.

Every day millions of people across the world embark on dangerous journeys for the sole purpose of finding safety and freedom. From Australia to nations across the globe, settling into a new environment after experiencing the perils of a refugee's journey can also provide the opportunity to live, to love and to dream. Freedom should not be an ask, it should be a way of life.

In 2023, BR4R encourages poets to explore the theme of the journey of finding freedom, whether it be through a new home, a new career, finding love or friendships. Let us use poetry to celebrate the compassion and resilience of refugees seeking freedom in our community that enriches all of our community.

You are invited to send in up to three poems of up to 50 lines each.

Entry is free and is open to anyone living in Australia.

BR4R especially welcomes poems from refugees and those seeking asylum in Australia.

The poems will be judged by **Reneé Pettitt-Schipp**. Reneé has worked with asylum seekers in detention on Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands inspired her first collection of poetry, *The Sky Runs Right Through Us*. This collection was shortlisted for Dorothy Hewett manuscript prize and the CHASS Australia prize, as well as winning both the Greg Crombie 'Work of the Year' in the Humanities Research Awards and the WA Premier's Literary Award for an Emerging Writer. Reneé's non-fiction work about returning to the islands in 2016, *The Archipelago of Us*, will be released by Fremantle Press in 2023.

Cash prizes will be awarded to first, second, and third place winners. The first-place prize is \$300, the second-place prize is \$150, and the third-place prize is \$50. There is also a prize of \$150 for a poem from a refugee or asylum seeker, and a prize of \$50 for a poem from someone under 18 years old.

Winning entries and selected runners-up will be published on the BR4R web site and in *Social Alternatives*, a print journal that analyses, critiques and reviews social issues and problems, and seeks to generate insight, knowledge, and understanding of our world. The journal is committed to social justice and stimulating social alternatives to current conditions. You can find more about the journal at <http://socialalternatives.com/home>.

Information and the entry form are available at <https://br4r.org.au/poetry-comp/>.

The BR4R Seeking Asylum Poetry Prize is run in memory of member Louise Griffith.