



KOALA ART AND WRITING COMPETITION

2025



Competition Summary

Key Dates 2025	
Friday 5 September	All entries must be registered online
Monday 8 - Friday 12 September	All artworks must be delivered during office hours to MidCoast Council's Customer Service and Administration Centre, Yalawanyi Ganya, 2 Biripi Way, Taree South 2430
Monday 15 September	Alternatively, artworks can be dropped off directly to Forster Gallery, 34 Lake Street, Forster 2428
Friday 26 September	Forster Gallery Opening function day ¹ – register to attend with Forster Gallery Free entry for those exhibiting artwork Entry is \$5 for everyone else
Friday 19 September – Sunday 19 October	Exhibition dates

Topic

The topic for the competition is Koala Safe Spaces. All entries must focus on this topic.

Here are some ideas to get you thinking:

- Koalas facing an uncertain future
- Our connections with koalas
- What do koalas mean to you?
- Experiences we have with koalas
- How koalas make us feel
- What stories should we tell about koalas on their behalf?

Participants are to produce or present items that are original. The item is an opportunity for you to suggest innovative ways to raise awareness, influence policies, change behaviour and protect koala habitat.

¹ contact Forster Gallery for confirmation and details

Competition details

The competition is split into three categories:

- primary aged students
- secondary aged students
- open category 18 years +

Within each age category there are two subcategories, Visual Art, and Writing.

Participation is free with prizes allocated for each subcategory, 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

You can only enter one (1) competition category per person but can submit one (1) entry for both the Visual Art and Writing subcategory. All entrants must complete an online registration form available on MidCoast Council's website www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/koala-competition

A select number of artworks will be chosen to be exhibited. You can accept or decline to have your artwork displayed. Artworks must have a sale price to be exhibited at Forster Gallery. On the entry form, please note down the sale price which you would be willing to part with the artwork for, or indicate you are opting out of displaying your work at Forster Gallery.

By participating in the events, participants give permission for the following:

- By participating in the events, participants give permission for their entries to be placed on the Forster Gallery and/or MidCoast Council websites and/or social media (including YouTube).
- This permission extends to authorising MidCoast Council and Forster Gallery using any photos or videos on their website/s or social media for promotional purposes before, during and after the events.
- By providing the permissions above, the participant understands they will not obtain any remuneration from either Forster Gallery or MidCoast Council.

If you have any questions about the competition, please contact MidCoast Council Koala Safe Spaces Team koalasafespaces@midcoast.nsw.gov.au

Purpose of this booklet

The 2025 Koala Art and Writing Competition creates opportunities for participants to express their ideas of a better world for koalas. Participants are invited to prepare and deliver punchy, quirky, creative, and pointed submissions. They should seek to influence the thoughts, emotions, and actions of the audience.

This information package is designed to help participants prepare quality entries for the competition. It provides:

- Information on MidCoast Council's Koala Safe Spaces Program
- Competition categories and judging criteria
- Registration
- Hanging requirements
- Resources

All participants are encouraged to research widely and build evidence-based and powerful messages.

Please read carefully the information about each competition category and registration requirements.

Koalas and the Koala Safe Spaces Program

The MidCoast LGA has:

- a large variety of Koala feed trees
- 10 Areas of Regional Koala Significance as outlined by the NSW Koala Strategy
- some of the highest density koala populations in the country.

The NSW Government adopted the new Koala Strategy which aims to double the koala population by 2050 and has committed over \$193 million in funding to meet this goal.

MidCoast Council entered the four-year MidCoast Regional Koala Partnership to provide more habitat for koalas, support local community action, improve koala safety and health, and build our knowledge to improve koala conservation through the Koala Safe Spaces program.

The Safe Spaces Program has been designed to try and create 'safe spaces' for koalas and here's how we are going to help:

- Conservation of priority koala habitat including corridors
- Creation of new koala habitat and corridors
- Restoration and linkage of koala habitats and corridors
- Elimination, reduction, or management of priority threats to koalas
- Community empowerment, education, and engagement
- Partnering with landholders to protect and restore koala habitat on private land
- Research to fill applied knowledge gaps, including – population dynamics, disease, genetic fitness and threat severity and management
- Vehicle strike mitigation.

Watch MidCoast's Regional Koala Partnership: www.youtube.com/watch?v=8j5W2weZqZA

Competition categories and judging criteria

The competition is split into 3 categories:

- primary aged students
- secondary aged students
- open category (18 years+)

Participation is free. #ShopMidCoast Gift Cards will be used as prizes for each subcategory (visual art or writing) in each category 1st, 2nd and 3rd. See the Terms and Conditions to see the exact Gift Card value for each category and place.

Subcategory 1: Writing

This medium requires you to write either a poem, short story or persuasive text.

All forms have a word limit of 500 words.

The following criteria will be used to judge your writing submission. You should use them in your preparation.

Criteria

- On topic. Remember to ensure your writing refers to koalas and safe spaces. *Think:* Does the piece move the mind or imagination of the reader and prompt a response about koalas and their habitat?
- Remain within the limit of 500 words. Correct spelling, grammar and sentence structure.

Subcategory 2: Visual art

Visual art is defined as work being created by hand for decorative or aesthetic rather than for practical purposes. Mediums may include painting, drawing, hand printing, collage, ceramics, glass, fibre and sculpture, but NOT photography or items that are digitally printed.

Artworks need to be related to the competition topic.

Your artwork will be judged against the below criteria. You should use them in your preparation.

Criteria:

- Visually engaging
- Imaginative qualities evident
- Theme confidently investigated and on topic
- Technically accomplished
- Skilful interpretation via a selected medium

Registration

All entries must be registered online by Friday 5 September. The form can be found on MidCoast Council's website www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/koala-competition

All artworks must be delivered between Monday 8 and Friday 12 September 2025 between 8:30am and 4:30pm to MidCoast Council's Customer Service and Administration Centre, Yalawanyi Ganya, 2 Biripi Way, Taree South 2430.

Alternatively, artworks can be dropped off directly to Forster Gallery on Monday 15 September 2025.

The competition terms and conditions can be found at the end of this document.

Forster Gallery Hanging requirements

Visual art submissions must be in line with Forster Gallery hanging requirements. Failure to do so may result in the work being excluded from display in the Gallery. Please use the label template provided at the end of this document when delivering your work to Midcoast Council or Forster Gallery.

All wall-hung work

- Adhere a label to the rear of your work, identifying the title, the artist, the medium and the price.
- Using the labels provided, fill out a second label for the front of the work NEATLY printed in black felt pen.
- Attach this label to the lower right corner using removable masking tape, ensuring that ALL the information is VISIBLE, and the tape is INVISIBLE.

Oil paintings, acrylics & other works on board or canvas, framed and unframed

- Ensure your artwork is dry **BEFORE** delivery.
- Screw large 'D' rings into the frame, measuring $\frac{1}{4}$ of the way down BOTH sides of the frame.
- Use nylon cord or wire only and ensure it is firmly stretched across and firmly twisted after passing through the 'D' rings. A loose wire will cause your painting to flop forward when hung and the wire will be visible above the frame.
- Stick felt pads on the four corners of the rear of the frame. This prevents the frame from marking the gallery's wall or your customer's wall when hanging.
- If the gallery hooks do not fit into your 'D' rings then you must slide a metal curtain ring into your small 'D' rings.
- NEVER use eye screws or cup hooks as a fixing method.
- NEVER use cotton or hemp string instead of wire, it stretches and is not secure.
- NEVER use staples to attach the cord to the frame, it cannot be attached to the gallery hooks.

Pastels, watercolours and works framed behind glass

- Attach 'D' rings and wires to the frame as described above.
- Ensure the glass is clean and all fingerprints are removed.
- Ensure the frame is clean and dust free, especially along the top edge.

Small paintings and miniatures

- Attach 'D' rings and wires to the frame as described above BUT locate the 'D' ring at least 3.5 cm from the top of the frame so that the gallery hooks are not visible above the frame.

- Ensure the glass is clean and all fingerprints are removed.
- Ensure the frame is clean and dust free, especially along the top edge.

Sculpture and 3-dimensional works

- Adhere a label to the rear or base of your work, identifying the title, the artist, the medium and the price, making sure this label is NOT VISIBLE.
- Using the labels provided, fill out a second label for the front of the work NEATLY printed in black felt pen.
- DO NOT adhere this to your work but place it at the front of the display stand adjacent to the piece.
- Ensure your piece is clean, dust-free and all fingerprints are removed.

Resources

Appendix 1: Artwork labels

Title:

Artist:

Medium: Price:

Title:

Artist:

Medium: Price:

Title:

Artist:

Medium: Price:

Title:

Artist:

Medium: Price:

'Koala (Art and Writing)' Competition Terms and Conditions

Promoter: Mid-Coast Council
2 Biripi Way
Taree NSW 2430

1. Information on how to enter and prizes form part of these Terms and Conditions.
2. Participation in the 'Koala Art and Writing' Competition ('**Competition**') is deemed acceptance of these Terms and Conditions.
3. In these Terms and Conditions:
 - a) a 'Second Prize' means one (1) #shopmidcoast gift card valued at the below amount, according to Category, to be redeemed at any Participating Store:
 - Open Category
 - Art: \$200.00 (including GST); and/or
 - Writing: \$50.00 (including GST).
 - Secondary-Aged Students Category
 - Art: \$50.00 (including GST); and/or
 - Writing: \$50.00 (including GST).
 - Primary-Aged Student Category
 - Art: \$30.00 (including GST); and/or
 - Writing: \$30.00 (including GST).
 - b) a 'Third Prize' means one (1) #shopmidcoast gift card valued at the below amount, according to Category, to be redeemed at any Participating Store:
 - Open Category
 - Art: \$100.00 (including GST); and/or
 - Writing: \$30.00 (including GST).
 - Secondary-Aged Students Category
 - Art: \$25.00 (including GST); and/or
 - Writing: \$25.00 (including GST).
 - Primary-Aged Student Category
 - Art: \$20.00 (including GST); and/or
 - Writing: \$20.00 (including GST).
 - c) a 'Grand Prize' means one (1) #shopmidcoast gift card valued at the below amount, according to Category, to be redeemed at any Participating Store:
 - Open Category
 - Art: \$300.00 (including GST); and/or
 - Writing: \$100.00 (including GST).
 - Secondary-Aged Students Category
 - Art: \$100.00 (including GST); and/or
 - Writing: \$100.00 (including GST).
 - Primary-Aged Student Category
 - Art: \$50.00 (including GST); and/or
 - Writing: \$50.00 (including GST).
 - d) a 'Prize' means either a Second Prize, Third Prize or the Grand Prize in either Art or Writing in any Category;
 - e) 'Category' means either the Open Category, Secondary-Aged Students Category or Primary Aged Students Category
 - f) 'Sub-Category' means either Art or Writing within a Category.
 - g) 'Open Category' means an individual who is 18 years of age or more;
 - h) 'Secondary-Aged Students Category' means an individual who is attending years 7 – 12 within a secondary school within the Mid-Coast Local Government Area;
 - i) 'Primary-Aged Student Category' means an individual who is attending years K – 6 within a primary school in the Mid-Coast Local Government Area.
 - j) 'Eligibility Criteria' means an Entrant who fulfills the criteria in clause 6 for their relevant Category;
 - k) 'Entrant' means an individual who has submitted at least one (1) entry, but no more than (2) entries, into the Competition in accordance with these Terms and Conditions and is therefore participating in the Competition within one of the Categories;
 - l) 'GST' means goods and services tax payable pursuant to the *A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999* (Cth);
 - m) 'Judges' means two (2) employees of the Promotor and one (1) local professional in the applicable Sub-Category;
 - n) 'Participating Store' means a store in the Mid-Coast Council Local Government Area which appears on the Participating Stores List;
 - o) 'Participating Stores List' means the #shopmidcoast list of participating stores published on the Why Leave Town Promotions website at <https://www.whyleavetown.com/midcoast>, as amended from time to time; and
 - p) 'Promotor' means Mid-Coast Council (ABN 44 961 208 161).
4. Entry into the Competition is free and open to all ages, provided that the Entrant is compliant with the relevant Category and Sub-Category eligibility criteria.
5. All Entrants under 18 years old must have parent/guardian consent to enter the Competition. The parent/guardian of the Entrant must read and consent to these Terms and Conditions.
6. The Competition is based on skill not chance. The winning entries being determined by Judges' choice with a Prize awarded to an Entrant who has fulfilled the following Eligibility Criteria as applicable to the Category:
 - a) the Entrant can submit up to two (2) entries into the competition but, the entries must be within different Sub-Categories e.g. 1 entry into the Open Category (Art) and 1 entry into Open Category (Writing);
 - b) the entry is an original (not copied or plagiarised) that has not been displayed within the Mid-Coast Local Government Area previously, or concurrently with this Competition;
 - c) An entry into the Sub-Category of Art is in accordance with the Great Lakes Art Society definition of 'visual art' being *"a work being created by hand for decorative or aesthetic rather than for practical purposes. Mediums may include painting, drawing, hand printing, collage, ceramics, glass, fibre and sculpture but not photography or items digitally printed."*
 - d) An entry into the Sub-Category of 'Writing' is to be an original short-story, essay, poem or manuscript free from plagiarism and is limited to a 500-word count.
 - e) The Entrant has submitted an entry on the topic of 'Koalas' which may, for example, make a statement, express a personal relationship, acknowledge issues, or highlight possible solutions.
7. The Competition opens Monday 10th March 2025 at 7:00AM (AEDT) and ends Friday 5th September 2025 at 11:59PM (AEST) ('**Promotional Period**').
8. A total of, one (1) Second Prize, one (1) Third Prize and one (1) Grand Prize will be awarded to winning Entrants following the end of the Promotional Period,

as specified in clause 14 of these Terms and Conditions. The maximum total prize pool of the Competition is \$1,330.00AUD broken down into each category is as follows:

- Open Category – \$780.00AUD (including GST).
 - Secondary-Aged Students Category - \$350.00AUD (including GST).
 - Primary-Aged Students Category - \$200.00AUD (including GST).
9. Entries into the Competition must be received within the Promotional Period and no later than 11:59:59 PM (AEST) on Friday 5th September 2025.
 10. To enter the Competition and qualify as an Entrant, a person must, during the Promotional Period:
 - a) complete the entry form via the Promoter's website;
 - b) Identify which Category and Sub-Category the entry is to be submitted into;
 - c) complete all required fields included in the registration process (including providing full name and contact details);
 - d) (as applicable) submit a photo of the completed Art to be submitted in its final form;
 - e) (as applicable) ensure the Art or Writing has been hung in accordance with the Forster Gallery hanging requirements; and
 - f) meet the Eligibility Criteria.
 11. Art is to be submitted to the Promotor, at their nominated address, by the Entrant between 8:30am and 4:30pm between the dates of 8 September 2025 and 12 September 2025 (dates are inclusive).
 12. By entering into the Competition you acknowledge and agree that you are:
 - a) issuing an irrevocable worldwide license to the Promotor to reproduce, publish and communicate your Art or Writing to the public (including any adaptation or excerpt) for use in the Promotor's media and marketing campaigns or such other purpose as the Promotor sees fit without remuneration to the Entrant;
 - b) Authorising the Promotor to acknowledge the Entrant in any instances where the entry (including any adaptation or excerpt) is used as the creator of the Art or Writing and
 - c) Indemnifying and releasing the Promotor from or against any liability arising from the Promotor reproducing, publishing and communicating your Art or Writing to the public (including any adaptation or excerpt).
 13. Each entry that complies with the Eligibility Criteria specified in clause 6 of these Terms and Conditions generates one (1) entry into the Competition. Only one (1) entry is allowed per person per Sub-Category within the Promotional Period. A winning Entrant cannot win more than one (1) Prize within the Sub-Category during the Promotional Period, and each entry submitted by an Entrant will go into the draw to win the Grand Prize of that Sub-Category.
 14. Following the closure of the Promotional Period, a Prize will be awarded for each Sub-Category to an eligible winning Entrant unanimously selected by the Judges, at their sole discretion. A winning Entrant of a Prize will be contacted by the Promoter and notified of their win on Friday 26th September 2025. Each winning Entrant will be notified of their Prize via email and/or phone.
 15. A winning Entrant must notify the Promotor of the acceptance of their Prize by no later than 5:00pm (AEST) on Monday 27th October 2024 ('Prize Collection Expiry Date'). Should a winning Entrant fail to claim their Prize by the Prize Collection Expiry Date, the Promoter may, in its sole discretion, deem the Prize forfeited and the winning Entrant will have no entitlement to claim any Prize (nor any other compensation in lieu of any Prize).
 16. By accepting a Prize, a winning Entrant agrees to either:
 - a) be interviewed, photographed and/or filmed at a time and date nominated by the Promoter; or
 - b) supply photographs and comments, as required by the Promoter,
 to be used by the Promoter or their agents for a story or feature on the Competition to be developed and pitched to the media or featured on the Promoter's website or their social media pages (or any other form of media the Promoter deems suitable) without any further remuneration or reference to the winning Entrant. The rights to such story or feature (including but not limited to creative control of the story or feature) will remain with the Promoter at all times.
 17. An Entrant must not tamper with any entry or interfere with the conduct of the Competition.
 18. Employees of the Promoter (and their immediate families) are ineligible to enter the Competition.
 19. The Promoter reserves the right, at any time (including following the judging to select the winning Entrants), to:
 - a) verify the validity of entries (including requesting proof of an Entrant's age and/or place of employment); and
 - b) disqualify any Entrant who fails to comply with any provision of these Terms and Conditions or who tampers or interferes with the entry process.
 20. Errors and omissions in any entry will be accepted in the Promoter's sole discretion. Failure by the Promoter to enforce any of its rights under these Terms and Conditions at any time does not constitute a waiver of those rights.
 21. A winning Entrant must not engage in any illegal or unsafe behaviour whilst participating in the Competition or in connection with their acceptance of a Prize. To the maximum extent permitted by law, the Promoter excludes any legal liability or responsibility for legal or otherwise incidents or activities engaged in by a winning Entrant during and after the Entrant's participation in the Competition and their receipt of a Prize.
 22. A Prize must be taken as offered, is not reloadable and expires three (3) years from the date of activation as per the terms and conditions of Why Leave Town Promotions which can be accessed at: <https://www.whyleavetown.com/terms-conditions>. A Prize, or any unused portion of a Prize, is not transferable or exchangeable and cannot be redeemed as cash. A Prize is not valid in conjunction with any other offer. A Prize is valued in Australian dollars. The Promoter accepts no responsibility for any variation in the value of a Prize. Winning Entrants are advised that tax implications may arise from their Prize and they should seek independent financial advice prior to accepting a Prize.
 23. By accepting a Prize a winning Entrant acknowledges that they may incur additional costs associated with redeeming the Prize, which will be their entire responsibility.
 24. Each Prize is valued inclusive of GST and the Promoter takes no responsibility for any variations in Prize values. The components of the Prize may alter for reasons beyond the Promoter's control.

25. In the event that a Prize, or any part of a Prize, is or becomes unavailable, for whatever reason, the Promoter reserves the right to substitute the Prize or the relevant part of the Prize in its sole discretion with an alternative Prize or part of the Prize to the same and equal recommended retail value and/or specification. Without limiting the foregoing, Entrants who receive a Prize in accordance with these Terms and Conditions agree that if a Participating Store is removed from the Participating Stores List, for whatever reason, at any time during or after the Promotional Period, the Prize must be used at any other Participating Store then listed on the Participating Stores List.
26. The Promoter is neither responsible nor liable for any late, lost or misdirected mail (including but not limited to a Prize) or any Prize damaged in transit during its delivery.
27. Any cost associated with entering the Competition or accessing any website referred to in these Terms and Conditions is the Entrant's responsibility.
28. Nothing in these Terms and Conditions limits, excludes or modifies or purports to limit, exclude or modify the statutory consumer guarantees as provided under the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cth), nor any other implied warranties under consumer protection laws in the State of New South Wales, Australia.
29. To the maximum extent permitted by law, the Promoter (including its respective officers, employees and agents) is not responsible for and excludes any and all liability (howsoever arising) to any person, including for any personal injury, loss or damage of any kind (including loss of opportunity), whether direct, indirect, special or consequential, arising out of or in connection with the Competition, including:
 - a) any technical difficulties or equipment malfunction (whether or not under the Promoter's control);
 - b) any theft, unauthorised access or third party interference;
 - c) any entry or Prize claim that is indecipherable, late, lost, altered, damaged or misdirected;
 - d) any variation in Prize value to that stated in these Terms and Conditions;
 - e) any tax liability incurred by any winning Entrant;
 - f) any act or omission of any Entrant; and/or
 - g) the use of any Prize,
 and each Entrant unconditionally and irrevocably releases the Promoter from any such liability, including if a Prize is not honoured by a Participating Store.
30. By entering into this Competition, the Entrant is releasing the Promoter from any indemnifying the Promoter against any liability arising from the use or participation in this Competition and each entrant is deemed to release the Promoter from and indemnify the Promoter against any liability, loss, cost, damage, claim, demand proceeding or litigation of any kind relating to the use of participation in the Competition or receiving any Prize.
31. Subject to law, if the Competition is interfered with in any way, or in the event of any unforeseen circumstance (including any circumstance beyond the reasonable control of the Promoter), war, terrorism, state of emergency, pandemic or disaster (including but not limited to natural disaster), the Promoter reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to cancel, terminate, modify or suspend the Competition.
32. The Promoter is bound by the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* (NSW). The Promoter collects personal information ('PI') in order to conduct the Competition and may, for this purpose, disclose such PI to third parties, including but not limited to agents, contractors, service providers, Participating Stores and, as required, to Australian law enforcement or regulatory authorities. Entry into the Competition is conditional on an Entrant providing this PI (and, where applicable, a parent/guardian consenting to the provision by the Entrant of this PI). The Promoter will also use and handle PI as set out in its privacy management plan, which can be accessed at: <https://www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/Council/Privacy>. In addition to any use that may be outlined in the privacy management plan of the Promoter, the Promoter may also, for an indefinite period, unless otherwise advised, use the PI for promotional, marketing, publicity, research and profiling purposes, including sending electronic messages or telephoning Entrants. Entrants should direct any request to opt-out, access, update or correct their PI to the Promoter and/or make complaints regarding the treatment of their PI in accordance with Promoter's privacy management plan.
33. If a Prize is forfeited by a winning Entrant pursuant to these Terms and Conditions, the Promoter may, in its sole discretion, elect to conduct another draw on a date of its choosing and award the Prize to another winning Entrant.
34. If a dispute arises in relation to these Terms and Conditions, the relevant parties to the dispute must act in good faith to negotiate a resolution to the dispute before commencing any legal proceedings.
35. The Competition is void where prohibited or restricted by any applicable law.
36. The Competition, including these Terms and Conditions, is governed by the laws of the State of New South Wales, Australia. Any legal proceedings arising out of or in connection with the Competition and/or these Terms and Conditions must be brought in a court of competent jurisdiction in the State of New South Wales, reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to cancel, terminate, modify or suspend the Competition.