

Conservation Blackout Poetry: Submission Guide

Info

Recently, Papers Past have worked with Forest & Bird to digitise all back issues of their magazine between 1924 and 2004. These are [available for free here](#). Blackout Poetry Aotearoa is encouraging participants to reflect on nature and conservation across the century, and up until now, by creating a blackout poem from an article in these back issues.

What is blackout poetry?

Blackout poetry is a type of artistic recycling that turns an existing text into a new poem by drawing over most words, leaving only a few. It is also sometimes known as ‘erasure poetry’.

It is a great way to stimulate creativity, give poetry a go, and give new life to old texts! It can also be a means to resist, reimagine, or honour a text. It belongs in the tradition of ‘found art’, which emphasises that art exists all around us, only waiting to be discovered.



You can view [blackout examples and instructions here](#)

Theme

To be considered for the prizes, please make sure your poem speaks to the themes: NATURE and/or CONSERVATION.

Length

We encourage you to keep your blackout poem to a single page. The articles are digitised as individual pages ([see image below](#)), making this easiest, and there will likely be enough words on a one page. However, if you feel inspired to use multiple pages, that’s fine. Just bear in mind that all submissions must be via email, and thus have a file size limit. It is okay to include images

Prizes

Over 18 category

- One first place winner will receive:
 - A year’s subscription to Forest & Bird
 - Exhibition of their work at the Wordcore Wayfinders National Poetry Day showcase on 22nd August at Te Puna Creative Hub in Henderson, Auckland
 - Publication of their piece in an upcoming issue of Forest & Bird Magazine
- One second place winner will receive:
 - A year’s subscription to Forest & Bird

& Blackout Poetry Aotearoa

- Exhibition of their work at the Wordcore Wayfinders National Poetry Day showcase on 22nd August at Te Puna Creative Hub in Henderson, Auckland

Under 18 category

- One first place winner will receive:
 - A year's subscription to Forest & Bird Youth OR Kiwi Conservation Club (age dependent)
 - Exhibition of their work at the Wordcore Wayfinders National Poetry Day showcase on 22nd August at Te Puna Creative Hub in Henderson, Auckland
 - Publication of their piece in an upcoming issue of Forest & Bird Magazine
- One second place winner will receive:
 - A year's subscription to Forest & Bird Youth OR Kiwi Conservation Club (age dependent)
 - Exhibition of their work at the Wordcore Wayfinders National Poetry Day showcase on 22nd August at Te Puna Creative Hub in Henderson, Auckland

Submissions

Please submit all entries via email to blackoutpoetryaotearoa@gmail.com, between the dates of 1st July and 5th August. Also direct any questions to this email address.

Please include:

- Your name and contact details
- Whether you are entering the under 18 or over 18 category
- The title of your piece
- The piece itself, attached or linked to the email

Choosing which Forest & Bird issue to use

To help you decide which issue to choose, we are suggesting that you choose the issue closest in date to your birth. The magazines were, for the most part, published four times a year, on the 1st of the given month. Thus, we're asking you to select the 1st of the month closest to the date of your birth. *E.g. if I were born in April 1984, I would select the issue from 1st May 1984.*

If you were born after 2004, do the same, but select a different year that ends with the same digit as your actual birth year. *E.g. if I were born in December 2005, I might select the issue from November 1975.*

This is by no means an exact science! We will not be checking! If you feel strongly about an issue or article from a different year, by all means use that. We're just keen for you to get creative, and sometimes limits prevent overwhelm. Plus, an important element of any blackout poem is serendipity... with a decent sprinkling of randomness!

Ideas for how to black out a digital file

- Download your page (either as a PDF or JPG)
 - Edit the PDF using a PDF editor if you have one e.g. a black highlight or a redaction tool
 - Open the JPG file in a photo editing app and draw over the text

- This can be done on a computer, tablet, or even phone
 - Email it to blackoutpoetryaotearoa@gmail.com
- Print the page
 - Black it out with pen, pencil, marker, paint etc.
 - Scan the finished piece to yourself (can usually be done at a library for free!), make sure it is readable
 - OR Take a photo with a good camera or smartphone camera, make sure it is readable
 - Email it to blackoutpoetryaotearoa@gmail.com

E.g. of a digitised issue:

1 September 1927

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Cover Page



Unnumbered Page

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