

Whyalla writing competition begins

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By Fai CHIVELL

The 2009 Whyalla Short Story and Poetry Competition began on Friday, July 3 and once again offers writers and poets who reside in South Australia the opportunity to show their talent.

The Whyalla Writers' Group launched this successful competition in 2004 and each year it has grown in strength with more than 80 entries being submitted last year.

"The competition is open to writers and poets in both the adult and young adult categories, and if previous years are any indication it will again be a difficult job for the judges to decide the winners," Whyalla Writers' Group president Marie Vonow said.

This year the theme is 'Rogues and Rascals' and can be interpreted as a metaphor, analogy, reality, fiction or poetic reference.

"We expect the writing to be extremely varied as this year's theme presents a wonderful opportunity for both serious and humourous work," Ms Vonow said.

"We also hope entrants will get creative with titles for their stories and poems.

"It is thanks to our sponsors that we can offer cash prizes to the winners, and their continued support assists us in producing a publication of the winning entries.

"Along with the winners we also include all the entrants from Whyalla in the book, which helps to encourage Whyalla writers and poets to continue their writing.

"All writers and poets like to see their work in print and this is an added bonus for the competition. Not many competitions offer this," Ms Vonow said.

The major sponsor for the competition is the Rotary Club of Whyalla who, as part of their sponsorship, publish the entry form on their website, as well as up-to-date information about the writers' group's activities such as writing workshops and meeting dates.

The website can be accessed at whyalla.rotaryaust.org (then go to Whyalla Writers' Group).

Hood Sweeney is also a major sponsor for the second year in a row and the Whyalla City Council has also sponsored the competition since its inception.

Entry forms are available from both public libraries, Whyalla Visitors' Centre and Angus & Robinson.

The competition closes on September 25 and winners will be notified on October 12.