



## PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS - LET'S GET WRITING!

Have you ever lifted a stone on the river? Have you watched a bird dive into the water? Have you read books about river birds? Do you know what a 'braided' river is?

There is so much happening on the Ashley Rakahuri River! The Ashley-Rakahuri Rivercare Group (ARRG) is a group of volunteers working to protect and restore the river's ecosystems. This year ARRG invites you to write an essay or poem for their annual Young Writers' Competition.

### Competition details:

**Theme:** *The Ashley-Rakahuri River is a taonga in our community. All life on the river is connected. How can we help the river thrive for future generations to enjoy?*

**Eligibility:** Open to primary school pupils in the Waimakariri District up to 13 years old

**Section One:** Essays from students aged 10 to 13

**Section Two:** Essays from students aged 9 and under

**Section Three:** Poems from students aged 10 to 13

**Section Four:** Poems from students aged 9 and under

**Word count:** Maximum 800 words essay or poem. No minimum word count.

**Dates:** Entries open 16 March and close midnight 01 May 2026. Any entries submitted before or after these dates will not be considered.

**Entries:** Must include the following:

- Name
- Age
- Contact details (phone or email)
- Signed permissions from an adult
- Signed declaration that it's your own work
- Signed declaration that AI was not used to generate any or all of the work
- Be submitted as a Word document (\*.docx) attached to an email to: [secretaryarrg@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryarrg@gmail.com)

### Additional terms and conditions:

1. Author's own original work; use of editing software such as Microsoft Word (editing only, not co-pilot) or Grammarly is okay, but use of AI is not
2. May include up to 3 images, drawings, or figures
3. Information must be factual; not fictional
4. Judging will be by a team of three people
5. All entrants will be notified of results by email
6. By entering you agree that the Ashley Rakahuri Rivercare Group has the right to publish, reproduce and copy the entries
7. The winners' work will be on the group's official website and may be in other publications

**Great Prizes:**

**Overall Supreme winner:** two nights accommodation for a family of four in the Piwakwaka Suite at Ashley-Rakahuri Gorge Holiday Park, plus a two-night stay in the Viking Barrell pod for 1-2 adults, kindly donated by the owners, Jean-Pierre Derveaux and Michelle Tamaki.

The Supreme winner also receives the book *Up The River: Explore and Discover New Zealand's Rivers, Lakes and Wetlands*, by Gillian Candler and Ned Barraud.

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**Winner of Section One:** Essays from students aged 10 to 13 receives: *Wildlife: An Animal History of Aotearoa*, by Philippa Werry.

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**Winner of Section Two:** Essays from students aged 9 and under receives: *Backyard Birds* by Ned Barraud.

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**Winner of Section Three:** Poems from students aged 10 to 13 receives: *Up The River: Explore and Discover New Zealand's Rivers, Lakes and Wetlands*, by Gillian Candler and Ned Barraud.

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**Winner of Section Four:** Poems from students aged 9 and under receives: *Words about Birds* by G.F. Fuller.

